

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 29, 2017

The Honorable Rex Tillerson
U.S. Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Jefferson Sessions
U.S. Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable John F. Kelly
U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Secretary Tillerson, Attorney General Sessions, and Secretary Kelly:

In light of the U.S. Supreme Court's June 26 interim ruling to allow a partial travel ban as the Court considers *Trump v. International Refugee Assistance Project* and *Trump v. Hawaii*, we urge you to ensure that ongoing implementation of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) continues without delay.

The Supreme Court has ruled that refugee admissions will continue in cases where refugees demonstrate a "bona fide relationship" with an American individual or entity. Since refugees who are applying through the USRAP are sponsored and provided direct resettlement services by one of nine private American nonprofit agencies contracted by the U.S. government, a bona fide relationship is established between the refugee applicant and the American nonprofit organization at the onset of their association.

This relationship is demonstrated through extensive documentation, formal assurances, and signed agreements and is built on years of formal processing, to include strict vetting procedures. Therefore, the continued admission of refugees to the U.S. is consistent with the Supreme Court's decision. We ask you to issue immediate guidance reflecting this determination and avoid any misunderstandings or additional litigation that may result from the recent ruling.

The USRAP provides a vital humanitarian resource for some of the world's most vulnerable populations at a time when the world is experiencing the largest refugee crisis in modern history. As a result of the vigorous processing procedures in place, it also presents a clear example of the bona fide relationship between American entities and refugees awaiting admission.

We thank you for your urgent attention and look forward to receiving your guidance on this matter.

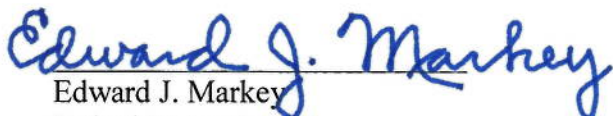
Sincerely,



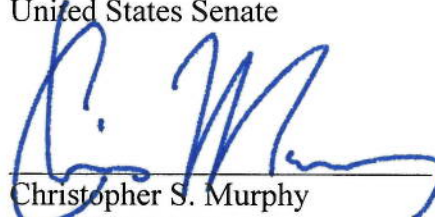
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate



Edward J. Markey
United States Senate



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senate



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate



Jack Reed
United States Senate



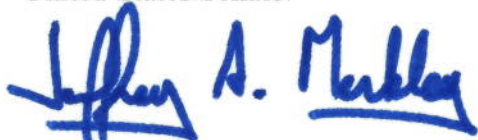
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senate



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senate



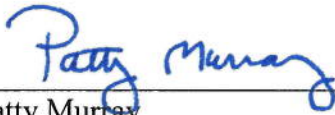
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senate



Cory A. Booker
United States Senate



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate



Patty Murray
United States Senate



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate



Bernard Sanders
United States Senate

CC: The Honorable James Mattis, Secretary, U.S. Department of Defense
The Honorable Thomas Price, M.D., Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
The Honorable Andrew McCabe, Acting Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
The Honorable Nicholas J. Rasmussen, Director, National Counterterrorism Center
The Honorable H.R. McMaster, Assistant to the President, National Security Advisor