

Congressman Tim Burchett
1102 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

June 20, 2020

Dear Rep. Burchett,

I am writing as your constituent from Chattanooga, TN to urge you to support legislation and policies that recognize and honor the courage and contributions of refugees in our nation and within our community.

This is the 40th Year Anniversary of the Refugee Act of 1980 which created the US Refugee Admissions program with a clear and broad initiative to resettle and welcome refugees. This is a time to remember and celebrate the incredible successes refugees have brought to this country, and to stand together to ensure this great law is not undermined but remains intact through the love and compassion of communities who care.

On World Refugee Day this June 20th we commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the bipartisan Refugee Act of 1980 and we celebrate refugee contributions to America over the last 40 years and during this present time of the COVID-19 public health crisis. As we work together as a nation to fight the COVID-19 public health crisis, we recognize that 161,000 refugee health care workers and 170,000 refugees working in the U.S. food supply chain, labor with thousands of other essential American workers to keep us healthy and fed.

Welcoming the persecuted is a **fundamental American value** and the backbone of our nation's history. Refugees have joined our communities as neighbors, business owners, public servants, and friends. They make our communities stronger and more vibrant, and **the people of Chattanooga stand ready with open arms to continue welcoming refugees.**

We ask that you support pro-refugee policies that reaffirm the commitment of our nation to promote the safety, health, education, and well-being of the millions of refugees and displaced persons uprooted by war, persecution, and violence in search of peace, hope, and freedom.

Sincerely,