



Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.

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Empowering refugees and immigrants since 1983

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ECDC Responds to Historically Low Presidential Report to Congress of 45,000 Refugees

Arlington, VA— Following the Presidential Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2018 that would cap the refugee admissions ceiling at 45,000, Dr. Tsehaye Teferra, President of the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc., released the following statement:

“ECDC is deeply saddened today for the tens of thousands of refugees who will remain in harm’s way due to this historically low ceiling. The average admissions level, since the inception of the refugee admissions program in 1980, has been 95,000. This record low cap will cost human lives.

“It is imperative that we recognize the character and contributions of the vulnerable people whom we would be turning away. A recent study completed by New American Economy found that refugees contribute meaningfully to our economy as earners and taxpayers. Refugees have an entrepreneurship rate that outshines even that of other immigrants. Refugees show a particular willingness to make long-term investments in the country—they found companies, earn citizenship, and buy homes at notably high rates. Refugees are an asset to America.

“ECDC urges Congress and the Trump administration to return to America’s long history of bipartisan support for refugee resettlement. It is time to reassert America’s global leadership on the critical humanitarian, security, and economic issue of refugee resettlement.”

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ECDC is one of nine resettlement agencies working in partnership with the Department of State and the Office of Refugee Resettlement to provide initial placement and support services to refugees being resettled in the United States. ECDC promotes cultural, educational and socio-economic development programs to assist refugees and immigrants in becoming productive members of their new homeland.