



## What is the GRACE Act?

- H.R. 2237: the GRACE Act would protect and restore the U.S. resettlement program by setting a minimum refugee admissions goal to 125,000 and increasing congressional oversight over the administration's operations of the resettlement program.
- Sponsored by Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) reintroduced the Guaranteed Refugee Admissions Ceiling Enhancement (GRACE) Act on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

## Why is the GRACE Act important?

- We are experiencing the worst refugee crisis in history. UNHCR estimates there are reportedly over 79.5 million forcibly displaced people, over 26 million of which are refugees and half of whom are children.
- Resettlement is a refugee's last option for safety.
- To be considered, a refugee must receive a refugee status determination from UNHCR and prove persecution based on race, nationality, religion, political opinion, or social group membership.
- Fewer than 1% of the world's refugees are ever resettled. If a refugee is selected for resettlement in the United States, they undergo the most extensive security screening and vetting processes of any traveler to come to the United States. This includes extensive health screening.
- Refugee resettlement is a strong bipartisan tradition that reflects American values. Presidents of both parties have ensured that America leads in times of crisis. Successive presidents have used refugee admissions to support those who seek religious and political liberty and reject oppression antithetical to American values.
- Resettlement is critical to U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives. Responding to refugee crises promotes regional stability, strengthens U.S. national security, encourages other countries to take in refugees and provide humanitarian support.

- Helping refugees who have fled their homes and who cannot rebuild their lives in the region is a moral imperative and the right thing to do. We can and should protect refugees and others fleeing violence and persecution.
- In the past years, the U.S refugee resettlement program was nearly dismantled and refugee arrivals reached a historic low (see graph).
- The GRACE Act will finally provide stability to refugees who become referred for resettlement and to agencies throughout the United States who provide vital services to the refugees who now live in the United States.

