Critical Issues to Raise in Meetings with Members of Congress This August

Members of Congress will be in their state and district offices most of August and have will base their priorities on what they hear from constituents during this time. It’s critical that refugees, immigrants, faith groups, and supportive community members visit their Senators and Representatives and urge them to protect DACA, support refugee resettlement, and oppose funding for deportation, detention, and border militarization, and reject the RAISE Act.

1. Protect DACA and Support The DREAM Act
   Ten attorneys general have threatened to sue Trump if he doesn’t end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which protects 800,000 young people from deportation and provides work authorization, by September 5th. Congress needs to do everything in their power to defend DACA, including by supporting the bipartisan DREAM Act.
   ● Background information: [bit.ly/DACAatrisk](bit.ly/DACAatrisk)
   ● State specific DACA facts: [bit.ly/DACAAstatebystate](bit.ly/DACAAstatebystate)
   ● Get involved: [unitedwedream.org/defendDACA](unitedwedream.org/defendDACA)

2. Affirm the Importance of Refugee Resettlement
   Between now and the end of September, the administration must consult with Congress to determine how many refugees to resettle in Fiscal Year 2018. Congress needs to protect funding for refugee assistance abroad and resettlement in the U.S., and urge the Trump administration to resettle at least 75,000 refugees.
   ● State specific refugee facts: [rcusa.org/state-refugee-profiles/](rcusa.org/state-refugee-profiles/)
   ● Information on refugee security checks: [www.rcusa.org/resettlement-process/](www.rcusa.org/resettlement-process/)
   ● Call state & local officials: [reateras1.org/take-action-today](reateras1.org/take-action-today)

3. Cut Funding for Deportations, Detention and Border Militarization
   Trump has asked Congress for more than $4.5 billion to increase deportations, detention, and border militarization. Congress needs to hear that their constituents want them to reject these requests and instead reduce funding for deportations, detention and border militarization, which are destroying our communities.
   ● Additional budget resources: [www.interfaithimmigration.org/2017/06/05/june-resources-to-respond-to-an-unfaithful-budget/](www.interfaithimmigration.org/2017/06/05/june-resources-to-respond-to-an-unfaithful-budget/)
   ● Helpful guidance on why this funding must be cut: [Defundhatenow.org](Defundhatenow.org)

4. Reject the anti-family, anti-refugee, anti-immigrant RAISE Act
   Congress must reject this anti-family, anti-refugee, and anti-immigrant bill.
   ● Resources against the RAISE Act, including action alert: [www.interfaithimmigration.org/family](www.interfaithimmigration.org/family)

Also, Call your Senators & Representative EVERY DAY IN AUGUST
Find DC & local office numbers at [www.senate.gov](www.senate.gov) and [www.house.gov](www.house.gov)

Sample script: “I’m your constituent from [CITY/TOWN], and I ask the [Senator/Rep] to do everything in their power to keep the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program intact, reduce funding for detention, deportation, and border militarization, reject the RAISE Act, and urge the Administration to resettle at least 75,000 refugees next year.”

Resources

● Toolkit to plan your local congressional visit: [www.interfaithimmigration.org/neighbor](www.interfaithimmigration.org/neighbor)
● Members of Congress town hall meetings this August: [townhallproject.com](townhallproject.com)
● Learn more about your Members of Congress at [www.senate.gov](www.senate.gov) and [www.house.gov](www.house.gov)