

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 28, 2022

Dear The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
301 7th St, SW  
Washington, DC 20528

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

Dear President Biden, Secretary Mayorkas, and Secretary Blinken,

We write to express our concern that the Russian military invasion in Ukraine, an ongoing armed conflict, makes it impossible for Ukrainian nationals in the United States to return to the country. The Migration Policy Institute estimates that roughly 30,000 Ukrainians in the United States would be potential beneficiaries of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or Deferred Enforced Departure, as they do not have U.S. citizenship or permanent status.<sup>1</sup> We urge you to immediately designate for 18-months TPS and Special Student Relief (SSR) for Ukrainians, launch a public information campaign to notify those eligible of the available relief and any actions they must take, and provide at least a 180-day registration period in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

On February 23, 2022, shortly after Russia launched its invasion, President Biden stated that the war “will bring a catastrophic loss of life and human suffering.”<sup>2</sup> Senior Biden administration officials, briefing lawmakers on February 3, 2022, warned that a full invasion could result in potential deaths of 25,000 to 50,000 civilians, 5,000 to 25,000 members of the Ukrainian military, and 3,000 to 10,000 members of the Russian army.<sup>3</sup> Officials also estimate that the

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1 Julia Gelatt, Twitter Post, Migration Policy Institute, February 24, 2022, [https://twitter.com/J\\_Gelatt/status/1496964648188456964](https://twitter.com/J_Gelatt/status/1496964648188456964).

2 Statement by President Biden on Russia’s Unprovoked and Unjustified Attack on Ukraine, The White House (Feb. 23, 2022), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/02/23/statement-by-president-biden-on-russias-unprovoked-and-unjustified-attack-on-ukraine/>.

3 Helene Cooper and David E. Sanger, U.S. Warns of Grim Toll if Putin Pursues Full Invasion of Ukraine, New York Times (Feb. 5, 2022), <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/05/us/politics/russia-ukraine-invasion.html>.

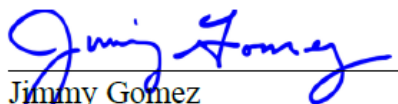
conflict could produce one million to five million refugees.<sup>4</sup> The UNHCR has stated, “the humanitarian consequences on civilian populations will be devastating.”<sup>5</sup>

The human costs of armed conflict are clear and will contribute to current humanitarian crises in the country. Almost 1.5 million internally displaced people live in Ukraine, mostly from the disputed Donbas region and the Crimean peninsula.<sup>6</sup> Last year, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimated that 3.4 million people living in Ukraine need humanitarian assistance.<sup>7</sup> The Ukraine Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) called for \$168 million to assist 1.9 million people in 2021.<sup>8</sup> However, in August 2021, the Ukraine HRP was only 27 percent funded, demonstrating a level of unmet need even before the current military invasion.<sup>9</sup>

Given the already unmet humanitarian need in the country and the effects of the armed conflict with Russia, the Ukrainian government is in no state to receive TPS and SSR eligible Ukrainians. Returning these Ukrainians to an at-war country would further destabilize the country by inundating them with a large number of deportees. Their return would also put these Ukrainian individuals in great personal danger. A widespread conflict and refugee crisis like that unfolding in Ukraine is exactly what the TPS and SSR designations were designed for. TPS and SSR for Ukrainians support U.S. foreign policy goals by alleviating pressure on the Ukrainian government during the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

We request that you designate TPS and SSR for 18-months for Ukraine, and launch a culturally competent public information campaign to notify the impacted community of the decision and any actions that they must take. We thank you for your attention and request urgent action on this matter.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

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<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> Statement on the situation in Ukraine attributed to UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, UNHCR (Feb. 24, 2022), <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/press/2022/2/621770524/statement-situation-ukraine-attributed-un-high-commissioner-refugees-filippo.html>

<sup>6</sup> Обліковано 1 473 650 внутрішньо переміщених осіб; Ukraine: Internally Displaced Persons, UNHCR, <https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/internally-displaced-persons>.

<sup>7</sup> Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021: Ukraine, OCHA (Feb. 2021), [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/hno\\_2021-eng\\_-\\_2021-02-09.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/hno_2021-eng_-_2021-02-09.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> Ukraine Humanitarian Funding Priorities (Aug. - Dec. 2021), OCHA (Aug. 18, 2021), <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-humanitarian-funding-priorities-august-december-2021-enuk>.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*



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Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



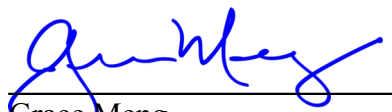
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Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



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Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



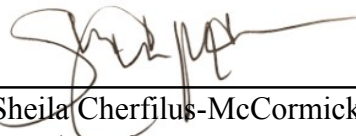
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Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



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Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Lori Trahan  
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Jamaal Bowman  
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Jimmy Panetta  
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Veronica Escobar  
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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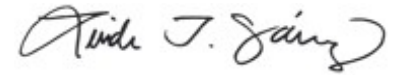
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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



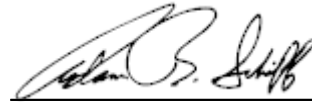
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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



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David Scott  
Member of Congress



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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress

*André Carson*

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André Carson  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



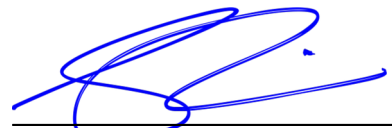
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J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



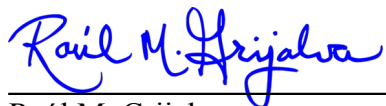
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



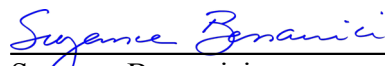
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Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



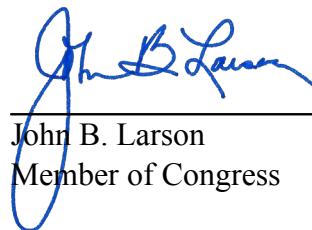
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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



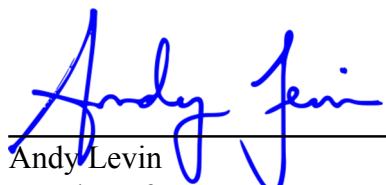
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Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



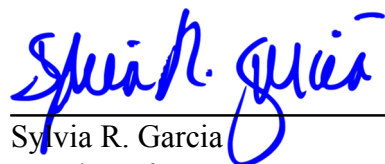
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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



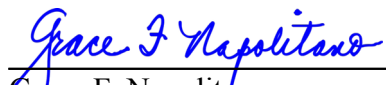
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Andy Levin  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



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Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



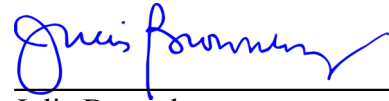
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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



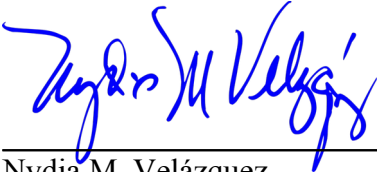
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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



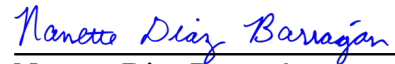
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Julia Brownley  
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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
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Rashida Tlaib  
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Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



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Mark DeSaulnier  
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Paul D. Tonko  
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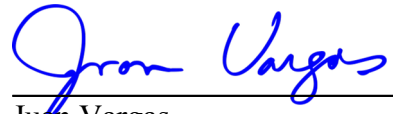
Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress





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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



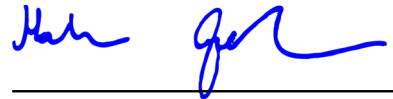
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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



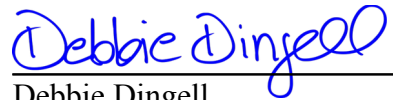
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Hakeem S. Jeffries  
Member of Congress



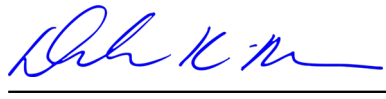
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David J. Trone  
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Deborah K. Ross  
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Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



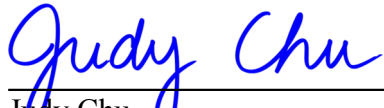
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Jerry McNerney



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Darren Soto  
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Judy Chu  
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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



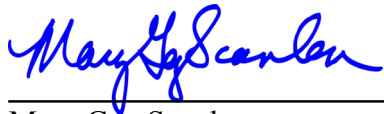
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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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John R. Curtis  
Member of Congress



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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



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Ayanna Pressley  
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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



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Karen Bass  
Member of Congress  
Chair, Subcommittee on  
Africa, Global Health, and  
Global Human Rights



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Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



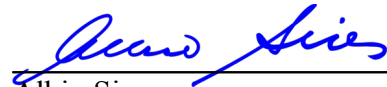
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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



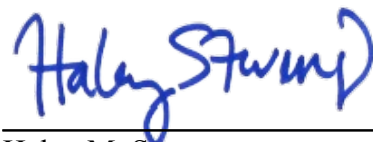
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Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress



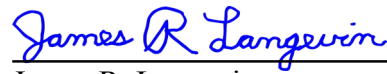
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Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



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James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



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Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress



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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress




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Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



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Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



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Marie Newman  
Member of Congress



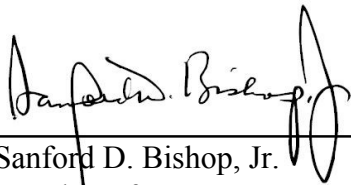
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A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress



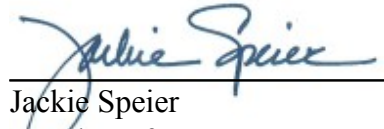
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Jared Huffman  
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Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



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Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



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Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Cori Bush  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress