

DAN B. FRANKEL, MEMBER  
23RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT  
2345 MURRAY AVENUE, SUITE 205  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15217  
(412) 422-1774  
FAX: (412) 420-2011

152 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 202023  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2023  
(717) 705-1875  
FAX: (717) 705-2034



House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES  
HEALTH - MAJORITY CHAIRMAN  
POLICY  
RULES  
JEWISH LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS - CO-CHAIR  
PA SAFE - CO-CHAIR

January 30, 2025

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

**RE: Immediate Action Needed to Resume Reception & Placement Services for Refugees and SIV Holders**

Dear Secretary Rubio,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent stop-work orders issued to national refugee resettlement agencies, including HIAS and its affiliates, which have forced the cessation of Reception & Placement (R&P) services for legally arrived refugees and Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders. These services, which are essential in ensuring stability for new arrivals, must be reinstated immediately.

As a Pennsylvania State Representative, I have seen firsthand the critical role that organizations like Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS) of Pittsburgh play in successfully integrating refugees into our communities. Since 1937, JFCS has helped new Americans establish stable lives, secure employment, and contribute meaningfully to the local economy. The suspension of R&P services not only places refugees and SIV holders at risk of homelessness and food insecurity but also shifts costs onto state and local governments. Without these federally supported programs, refugees may struggle to find housing, employment, and basic resources, forcing them to rely on overextended community services.

I urge you to take immediate action to:

- **Reverse course by excluding the R&P program from the definition of "foreign development assistance"** as used in the President's Executive Order on "Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid."
- **Revoke the stop-work orders** and allow the resumption of R&P services for all eligible populations, including refugees and SIV holders.
- **Grant a waiver under Section 3(d) of the Executive Order**, permitting the immediate resumption of R&P services.
- **Encourage the President to rescind the Executive Order on USRAP.**

These actions are not just about humanitarian responsibility—they are about upholding the commitments made to those who risked their lives to support U.S. efforts abroad and ensuring that our communities remain places of opportunity and refuge. I urge you to act swiftly to prevent further harm to these individuals and the communities that welcome them.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to your response

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan B. Frankel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" being the most prominent.

Dan B. Frankel

State Representative, 23<sup>rd</sup> District

CC: The Honorable John Fetterman, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable David McCormick, U.S. Senate