



## PROCESSES FOR FAMILY-BASED PETITIONS AND LAUTENBERG PETITIONS MUST BE EXPEDITED

### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

As of today, 2 million people have been forced to flee Ukraine because of Russia's invasion. Ukrainians are fighting back as hard as they can but meanwhile children, the elderly and those unable to fight need a safe place to go. Many, many of those that are fleeing have family members in the United States. These family members were declared to be refugees after Russia annexed Crimea and were resettled here. Now they want to bring their endangered relatives here. Currently, however, the only way to do that is through family-based petitions or petitions filed pursuant to the Lautenberg Amendment. But these petitions take years to complete, and Ukrainians need safety now.

### CALL/LETTER SCRIPT

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live at \_\_\_\_\_ and I vote. I am calling to demand that you expedite the family petition and Lautenberg Amendment processes so that fleeing Ukrainians can be helped now. Humanitarian legal processes meant to help those who are endangered that take years and years to resolve are not responsive to humanitarian needs and are inconsistent with the intentions behind our refugee and asylum laws. The United States' on-going failure to stream-line and appropriately staff processing centers is resulting in the daily loss of human lives. It also fails to recognize the growing urgent need that the United States has for newcomers given our population decline, mortality increases and economic policies which are destroying our middle class. Newcomers will stop the staffing crisis that we are currently experiencing, revitalize our declining communities and reinvigorate the middle class.

**Note:** For this script, it would be more effective if you were able to add any kind of personal story—either about your own or your family's immigration experience if there

was humanitarian need, or about a loved one, a colleague, a neighbor or a friend. If you have no personal immigration stories you can add information about why you think it is important to make sure that there is a remedy for all that is accessible and immediate. [Contact your legislators](#) and the [President](#) directly and ask them to expedite family-based petition processing and Lautenberg petition processing now.