



## **Refugee Related Legislation/Policies to Watch and Track!**

- In the Spring, Support ***Refugee Appropriations Funding*** for Office of Refugee Resettlement for the next year. FY2013 received funds to maintain services and assist higher Unaccompanied Minors.
  - President's FY 2014 budget recently released, with some increases. Will work to increase in Senate and maintain stable funding for refugees in House.
    - ***Strengthening Refugee Resettlement Act, H.R. 651***; Rep. Ellison (D-MN-5)  
Admits refugees as Legal Permanent Residents, Expands Resettlement & Processing and case management, provides for a domestic resettlement emergency fund.
    - ***Refugee Protection Act, S. 645 & H.R. 1375***; Sen. Leahy (D-VT) and Rep. Lofgren (D-CA-14)
- Eliminates 1 year filing deadline, protects refugee families, gives authority to designate groups for resettlement (as in "Lautenberg" Agreement)
- ***Domestic Refugee Resettlement Reform & Modernization Act, H.R. 1784***; Rep. Peters (D-MI-14) and Rep. Stivers (R-OH-15). Elevates ORR within the HHS structure, allows formula state funding to include projected arrivals, helps with data collection & assistance to secondary migrants.

### **Refugees in S-744**

- In its introduced form, removes the 1 year filing deadline for asylum, helps keep refugee families together, provides legal help to stateless people, would allow Administration to designate groups of humanitarian concern who are persecuted, increases U visas for victims of crimes who cooperate with police, provides waivers for immigrants over 60 for citizenship exam, continues to improve Iraqi/Afghan special immigrant visa application process.

POSITIVE SUPPORT+: In May7 amendments:

- provides work authorization for aliens eligible for status as VAWA self-petitioners or V/U visas while applications are pending,
- provides for basic humanitarian protections for children in immigration enforcement actions affecting their parents;
- clarifies battered women under VAWA are eligible for public housing assistance,
- adds "Little Dreamers Amendment" to allow children under age 18 at time they apply for legal residence and bought to US under age 16 to access the 5 year path to citizenship,
- removes religion as basis for denial in visa processing
- enhances protections for female detainees and children

POTENTIALLY DAMAGING TO VULNERABLE GROUPS: In May 7 amendments:

- prevents asylees from maintaining status if return
- requires add'l security screening
- strikes designation of certain refugees
- strikes protection for stateless people in the US
- strikes Office of Legal Access Programs
- delays asylum and student visa changes until review of intelligence/immigration failures in Boston Marathon terrorist attack is submitted to Congress