

BILL PASCRELL, JR.  
9TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

2370 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5751  
(202) 225-5782 FAX

ROBERT A. ROE FEDERAL BUILDING  
200 FEDERAL PLAZA, SUITE 500  
PATERSON, NJ 07505  
(973) 523-5152  
(973) 523-0637 FAX

<http://pascrell.house.gov>  
[bill.pascrell@mail.house.gov](mailto:bill.pascrell@mail.house.gov)



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

January 16, 2014

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

I write today regarding the refugee crisis unfolding in the Middle East region as millions of Syrians continue to flee their war torn homeland. While I applaud your Administration's commitment to working with our international partners to provide aid to refugees, relatively few Syrian refugees have been able to successfully resettle in the United States. I urge you to do everything in your power to streamline the process for resettlement to ensure that additional Syrian refugees are able to join their families here in America.

According to the United Nations, an estimated 6.5 million Syrians have been forcibly displaced from their homes within Syria, and over 2.3 million additional Syrians have fled the country as refugees. This represents nearly half of Syria's total population of about 22 million. Many have lost their families or their homes.

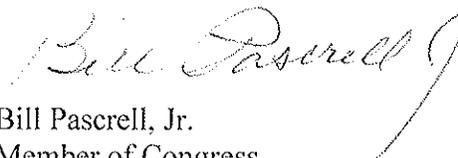
I commend your administration's commitment toward the resettlement of these refugees in third party countries, as well as development and infrastructure assistance intended to reduce the strain on nations hosting large numbers of refugees such as Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. Although the United States is the largest donor of humanitarian aid to those impacted by the Syrian conflict, we must do more to help get people out of harm's way by opening our doors. I understand that less than 100 Syrian refugees have been resettled in the United States over the past three years. By contrast, the human rights organization Human Rights First has called for the US to set a goal of resettling as many as 15,000 Syrian refugees per year.

Resettlement in the United States would provide Syrian refugees with the chance for a better life. They would also enjoy the support of an active and engaged Syrian-American community, including in my hometown of Paterson, New Jersey, where Syrian-Americans have been an important part of our city's cultural identity for over a century. Many in this community have family members still struggling to escape the violence in Syria.

I urge your administration to direct available resources to increasing the number of Syrian refugees accepted for resettlement here in the United States and expediting the approval process.

I believe that the robust Syrian-American and Arab-American communities in my district and across the country can serve as a lifeline for those forced to flee the violence in Syria. Thank you for your consideration of this important request and I look forward to the favor of your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Pascrell, Jr.". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress