



STATEMENT—Lutheran Social Services of the National capital Area Opposes the Anti-Immigrant and Anti-Refugee RAISE Act

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WASHINGTON, DC – For 100 years, LSS/NCA has walked with those in need. Today, we continue to stand by our immigrant and refugee neighbors who bring economic advantage and vibrant diversity to our communities by opposing the recently proposed RAISE Act.

The RAISE Act, if passed, would drastically cut the number of refugees the U.S. could protect each year; prevent new arrivals from collecting welfare and receiving the services they need to reach self-sufficiency; limit foreign nationals from obtaining green cards causing families to be permanently separated; and move our immigration system to a solely merit-based system which would eliminate hope and opportunity for millions of hard-working immigrants patiently waiting to legally begin a new life in the United States.

“In this broken and dangerous world, families and children need refuge from war, poverty and persecution,” said Christine Connell, CEO of LSS/NCA. “Many of our own families began their journey as immigrants, seeking the opportunity that the United States presented for freedom and prosperity. Today’s immigrants and refugees are no less deserving than those that came before us.”

With our local and national partners, LSS/NCA agrees that our immigration system is in desperate need of reform. However, this legislation disregards the many contributions immigrants and refugees bring to the Washington Metro DC Area and across our great nation every day. With over 65 million displaced persons worldwide, our country must continue to bring hope, love, and compassion to a world that desperately needs it.

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Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA) has devoted a century to SERVING BOLDLY, offering hope and mobilizing communities to serve the most vulnerable among us. LSS/NCA is a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization that serves more than 2,000 families and children in crisis throughout the Greater Metro-DC region through Children’s Services and Refugee & Immigrant Services. LSS/NCA does not discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, age, race, creed, gender, or sexual orientation.