

Policy Asks

August Recess 2026

For 80 years, [Church World Service](#) (CWS) has worked toward our vision of a world in which all people have food, voice, and a safe place to call home. As a global humanitarian organization, CWS represents approximately 17 million people of faith across 16 faith-based organizations and denominations. Through refugee resettlement offices and affiliates, home study and post release services for children, case management and integration support for newcomers, global hunger relief programs, and disaster resilience and response, CWS equips people who have been uprooted from their homes and the communities that welcome them with the resources they need to thrive.

During the 2026 August recess, CWS urges Congress to:

1 Reverse H.R. 1 SNAP and Medicaid eligibility changes that cut newcomers off from crucial federal food assistance and Medicaid.

Refugees and other humanitarian arrivals who fled persecution are now categorically ineligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), unless they hold a green card. Meanwhile, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is not processing refugees' applications for green cards, leaving them without any path to obtain life-sustaining federal food assistance.

The same populations will soon be cut off from Medicaid (with exceptions for individuals in states that participate in the [CHIPRA 214](#) program, which covers lawfully present pregnant immigrants and children). Amid a nationwide affordability crisis marked by rising grocery prices, food insecurity is already rising for tens of thousands of people who previously counted on SNAP to access basic nutrition. The impending cuts to Medicaid will compound existing challenges, contributing to unmet health care needs while jeopardizing newcomers' ability to support themselves and their families. Congress must:

- Reverse the provisions in H.R. 1 that undermine SNAP, including the eligibility restrictions that have left refugees and other humanitarian entrants without access to life-sustaining federal food assistance. To address growing food security concerns, legislators should also:
 - Support Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) programs to continue to meet eligible newcomers' basic needs as SNAP and Medicaid cuts take effect: protect and restore Refugee Support Services (RSS) and expand Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA).
 - Fund food banks, school meals, and other programs to prevent communities from going hungry.
 - Support legislation to ensure accurate data collection to track the effects of SNAP cuts on household food security, including the specific impacts on refugee and immigrant populations.
- Reverse the provisions in H.R. 1 that undermine access to Medicaid, including restrictions on Medicaid eligibility for populations who fled persecution.
- Visit refugee resettlement sites to better understand the critical services that they provide and the impact of SNAP and Medicaid cuts on service provision.

2 Condemn DHS's escalating campaign of enforcement, detention, and deportation as well as its targeting of refugees for "re-vetting." Conduct rigorous oversight of the administration's enforcement actions.

- Rescind the combined \$210+ billion that Congress appropriated through the budget reconciliation process for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Oppose the allocation of any additional funding for immigration enforcement and detention.
- Call for enforceable guardrails on ICE and CBP's actions, including permanently ceasing the use of traffic stops, instating clear use of force standards, setting a maximum immigration detention bond, and codifying limitations on enforcement in sensitive locations like houses of worship, schools, hospitals and courthouses.
- Conduct oversight by visiting Customs and Border Protection (CBP) facilities, ICE detention centers (or administrative buildings where immigrants are being held), and Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) shelters. [Demand](#) the administration honor Members' of Congress [legal right](#) to make unannounced visits to federal immigration detention sites.
- Oppose any operation carrying out the unlawful, indiscriminate arrests, detention, and "re-vetting" of refugees across the United States. Conduct oversight of the administration's ongoing effort to inspect, "re-vet," and terminate the status of resettled refugees. Urge USCIS to resume processing refugees' applications for green cards.

3 Speak out in support of those who remain stranded overseas because of the Trump administration's refugee ban and urge the administration to support a Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions that responds to global needs.

- Urge the Trump administration to restore the refugee resettlement program to protect those who are most at risk, and abide by all court orders on the refugee ban. Hold the administration accountable for adequately [consulting with Congress](#) to establish a Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions that is responsive to global needs, taking into consideration humanitarian crises in Sudan, Syria, Venezuela, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and elsewhere.
- Call for the inclusion of refugee populations that Congress has designated as "of special humanitarian concern," such as [follow-to-join](#) family reunification cases, [Lautenberg](#) refugees in Iran fleeing religious persecution, and U.S.-affiliated [Iraqis](#).
- Condemn the near exclusive resettlement of white South Africans through the refugee program when so many others are in need. Lift up the [stories](#) of those who have been stranded in public and in any private engagements or consultations with State Department and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials.

4 Cosponsor and pass proposals to protect and support immigrants, refugees, and the communities that welcome them.

- **The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act** ([H.R. 1061](#) / [S. 455](#)). The bill would [limit](#) immigration enforcement at or near places where essential services, education, religious activities, and civic participation occur, such as houses of worship, medical settings, schools, and community service providers. (*Lead sponsors: Rep. Adriano Espaillat and Senator Richard Blumenthal*)
- **Measures to restore Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haiti** ([S. 4814](#)) and **Venezuela** ([Discharge Petition No. 18](#)). S. 4814 would require DHS to designate Haiti for TPS until early 2029, protecting 350,000 Haitians whose status is in limbo following a recent Supreme Court decision. Discharge Petition No. 18 would ensure the House votes on a [bill](#) that would codify a TPS designation for Venezuela. (*TPS for Haiti lead sponsor: Senator Edward Markey | TPS for Venezuela lead sponsor: Rep. Darren Soto*)

CWS also urges Members of Congress to support the GRACE Act ([H.R. 6870](#) / [S. 3535](#)), the Neighbors Not Enemies Act ([S. 193](#) / [H.R. 630](#)), The Fair Day in Court for Kids Act ([H.R. 9259](#) / [S. 1297](#)), the American Dream and Promise Act ([H.R. 1589](#)) and the Dream Act ([S.3348](#)).