

VAAPIC CAUCUS

Virginia Asian American & Pacific Islander Caucus

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RICHMOND, Va. — Following President Joe Biden’s announcement that the United States plans to resettle as many as 100,000 Ukrainian refugees fleeing from Russian invasion, Virginia Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus (VAAPIC) Chair Delegate Mark Keam released the following statement:

“VAAPIC has consistently advocated for the needs of refugees who seek their new homes in Virginia. Last year, at the request of our Caucus, then-Governor Ralph Northam included \$8 million in his budget to help assist refugees from Afghanistan secure services from the Commonwealth’s government.

As we anticipate the arrival of Ukrainian refugees to Virginia, we urge Governor Glenn Youngkin and our legislative colleagues to keep this critical fund in the final budget to support vulnerable Ukrainians and others seeking refuge in the Commonwealth.”

According to [the United Nations](#), over 3.5 million refugees have fled Ukraine already, and many more are expected to do so as Russia continues to threaten their country. The United States is expected to welcome 100,000 Ukrainian refugees, similar to how we settled [74,000 Afghans](#), including [over 4,000 Afghans](#) who arrived in Virginia since August 2021.

On March 23, Governor Youngkin called the General Assembly into a special session beginning on April 4 to finish its work on the biennial budget. VAAPIC renews our call for the budget to include funding for refugees.

On March 9, VAAPIC sent a letter to the House of Delegates and State Senate budget conferees requesting adoption of the Caucus’ budget requests, including [Item 340](#) which would invest \$8 million to connect refugees and other limited English proficient Virginians to vital services such as case management, health care, employment and workforce development, housing, and food security. This funding is critically needed as the refugee resettlement system was [not properly maintained during the Trump administration](#).

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The Virginia Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus (VAAPIC) is a legislative organization recognized by the General Assembly to serve as a collaborative voice for Virginia’s Asian American and Pacific Islander communities by identifying public issues of interest and to develop formal positions, facilitate discussions, and advocate for policy outcomes. Follow us @VAAPICaucus