

ROB SCHOFIELD: Trump administration officials are considering dramatically reducing refugee admissions in the United States during the upcoming fiscal year to a figure between 3,000 and 10,000, or perhaps even as low as zero. This proposal is antithetical to American values and should be rejected. For decades, our country has taken in hundreds of thousands of refugees from across the globe who are desperate to escape repression and physical danger in their homelands; and while the program has never been perfect, and frequently susceptible to political whims, it has remained a cornerstone of our nation's commitment to international law. What's more, refugees have added immeasurably to our nation's strength. The bottom line: at a time millions around the world are fleeing political and religious persecution, our country has the physical and economic room to accommodate large numbers of refugees every year. To deny aid to such people is not a decision based on boosting our economy or public wellbeing in any way. It is a decision based in bigotry and spite, and political calculations of the worst kind. We can, and must, do better. For NC Policy Watch, I'm Rob Schofield.