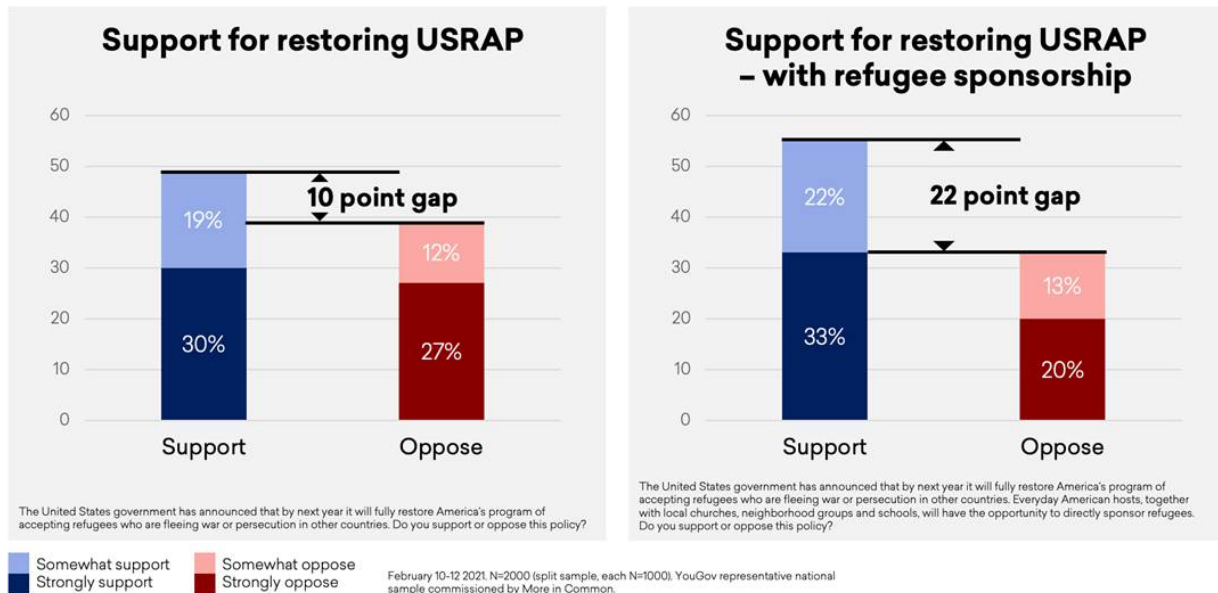**Research release – February 17, 2021**

Strong public support for rebuilding America's refugee program
New policy that gives Americans the chance to be directly involved has a 22-point margin of support

Key findings

February 10-12 2021. N=2000 (split sample, each N=1000). YouGov representative national sample commissioned by More in Common.

Restoring America's refugee program is supported by a margin of 49-39% of Americans, a 10-point margin, according to a national YouGov poll commissioned by nonprofit More in Common.

But support for rebuilding the refugee program more than doubles to a 22-point margin (55-33%) when linked to the opportunity of direct involvement through sponsoring refugees, a central plank in the new Administration's plan to rebuild the US Refugee Admissions Policy.

The policy giving Americans a direct stake in welcoming refugees, whether individually or through groups such as local churches, neighborhood groups and schools, was announced by President Biden and Secretary Blinken on February 4.

A striking finding is that the opportunity for Americans to get more involved in welcoming refugees makes the policy both *more popular* among liberals, and *less unpopular* among conservatives – something that is rare in a time of deep polarization. For example, while opposition to rebuilding the refugee program is high among Americans who identify as 'very conservative' (78%), the sponsorship policy reduces opposition to 72%. One in five Americans who voted for President Trump in the 2020 election support the new Administration's policy.

In addition:

- The new policy is supported a margin of three to one Americans under the age of 45 (65-19%), while more Americans over 65 oppose it (50-41%).

- Black Americans strongly support the rebuilding of the refugee program – especially when given the chance for direct involvement (with support rising from 53% to 67%).

- Religious Americans are more supportive of welcoming refugees when given the opportunity for sponsorship, with the largest effect among Catholics who support the policy by a 9-point margin (50-41%, compared to 43-45% when the sponsorship policy is not mentioned). Among Evangelicals, 42% support the policy, and 45% oppose.

- Support for rebuilding the refugee program is strongly related to a person's party identification and ideology. Among self-identified 'very liberal' Americans there is 93% support, falling to 57% among moderates and 24% among 'very conservative' Americans.

- Support varies substantially by educational attainment, but not by income. While those making $100K+ are about as likely to support the policy as those making less than $30,000 (60% versus 58%), post-graduates are much more likely than high school graduates to support it (76% versus 45%).

Details