

## **From Governors or Mayors or County Executive**

**[DATE]**

Dear Secretary Pompeo and Secretary:

As [Governor or Mayor or County Executive] I write to heartily support refugee resettlement in [State; City, State; County, State].

We welcome having refugees come to our communities. We have found them to be resilient, courageous, hard-working, family-oriented people who are thankful for the opportunity to build new lives in America. They often help revitalize neighborhoods and communities and contribute to our local economy and culture. Welcoming refugees is part of our heritage as a nation, and we are proud to be part of it.

**[Add success stories from refugees in your community: draw from your own experience; find state information [here](#) & [here](#); draw from [multiple studies](#) that demonstrate that refugees are economic [contributors](#) and job creators.]**

We realize that they are people, many of them women and children, forced to flee their home countries due to persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or social group membership. We know that resettlement is a humanitarian protection tool developed by the United States and other countries as a last resort for refugees who cannot return to their home country and cannot rebuild their lives in the country to which they first fled.

As one of 27 resettlement countries, the United States has the strictest refugee vetting in the world. Refugee applicants undergo extensive in person interviews, multiple background checks, biometric screenings, and medical checks. Interviews are conducted by specially trained officers from the Department of Homeland Security, and interagency checks involve the Departments of Homeland Security, State, Defense, and Justice (including the FBI), and the multi-agency National Counter Terrorism Center.

The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) is a prime example of a positive public-private partnership between the federal government, the state and local governments, local non-profit organizations, and volunteers, and faith-based communities that provide refugees with the tools of self-reliance: housing, community orientation, English-language classes, and job placement. Every day, community members in our area are volunteering with resettlement offices to help refugees integrate and thrive.

For these reasons and more, we welcome refugees to our area, thank you for our partnership together to welcome them, and urge that we have a robust refugee resettlement program.

Sincerely,

**[SIGNATURE AND CONTACT INFORMATION]**