



Ned Lamont
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 2030

RE: Consent for Refugee Resettlement Pursuant to Executive Order 13888

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

I write to affirm that the State of Connecticut will participate in the Department of State's Reception and Placement Program, and I hereby provide consent to refugee resettlement in Connecticut pursuant to the terms of Executive Order 13888, signed by President Trump on September 26, 2019.

Furthermore, I encourage every municipality in Connecticut to join me in providing such consent and in reaffirming Connecticut's longstanding commitment to welcoming refugees as valued members of our democratic society.

It is a bedrock principle of the United States of America that we welcome to our shores those fleeing tyranny, persecution and violence. As you well know, prior to being admitted to the United States, a refugee must undergo a rigorous vetting process. And we know from our own experience here in Connecticut that refugees enrich the communities that offer them shelter – socially, culturally, and economically. In addition, many people are resettled in our country as part of the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program, because they have put their lives and safety, and that of their families, at risk to help ensure the success and safety of our military service members in Afghanistan and Iraq. Connecticut is proud to do its part to honor our country's commitment to them. The policy of the Trump Administration over several years to cut dramatically the number of refugees allowed to resettle in the United States is antithetical to our heritage and our values.

As a state, we work closely with our local resettlement agencies and many faith-based organizations to ensure the safe, smooth and successful integration of each refugee into our communities. We have the

capacity, the will and the desire to continue welcoming those fleeing persecution and violence to our state. For these reasons and more, Connecticut will continue to welcome refugees and SIV recipients.

Sincerely,



Ned Lamont
Governor

Cc: Connecticut Congressional Delegation
The Honorable Carol T. O'Connell, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, U.S. Department of State
Jonathan Hayes, Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Community Services, Connecticut Department of Social Services
Catholic Charities Migration, Refugee and Immigration Services, Hartford, CT
Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants, Bridgeport, CT
Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services, New Haven, CT