



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

December 16, 2019

Secretary Michael R. Pompeo
United States Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

In response to President Trump's "Executive Order on Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement" issued on September 26, 2019, I am writing to affirm the State of Maine's support for refugee resettlement in our state.

For more than forty years, and under the leadership of seven Democratic, Republican and Independent governors, Maine has participated in the federal refugee resettlement program. Over the course of those decades we have welcomed nearly 10,000 people from more than 30 countries – people who have resettled in Maine with the hope of finding peace, safety and work for themselves and their families.

Maine has a workforce shortage, projected to grow worse over the next decade, creating serious challenges for businesses seeking to hire qualified workers in every industry and in every sector of our economy. Our state welcomes refugees who have skills, education and ability, a proven work ethic and tremendous drive. It is the right thing to do, and it is critical to the strength of our economy and our future success as a state.

For the reasons I list above, the State of Maine fully consents to resettle refugees through the United States Refugee Admissions Program.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor

cc: Carol T. O'Connell, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, U.S. Department of State
Catholic Charities Maine Refugee and Immigration Services



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