



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133
(617) 725-4000

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

December 13, 2019

Re: Executive Order 13888, Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Resettlement

Dear: Secretary Pompeo,

As Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I consent to initial refugee resettlement within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under Executive Order 13888. Massachusetts is committed to continuing to serve as a source of hope and opportunity, welcoming those seeking refuge with open arms and ensuring that newcomers feel safe, valued and supported as they settle into a new country and integrate into new communities.

The United States has a proud and noble tradition of serving as a country of refuge for those most vulnerable in the world. The Commonwealth welcomed 516 refugees last year, from 30 countries, and has welcomed 14,282 refugees over the past decade, from 59 countries. Throughout history, many of the refugees our Country admitted became distinguished scientists, government leaders, entrepreneurs, cultural icons, and public servants. We have much to gain in providing refuge to those in need. Foreign-born employees provide significant support to our economy and make up a critical part of the health and human services sector workforce.

In Massachusetts, local municipalities would serve as the equivalent to County Consent. We are pleased to continue to welcome refugees to resettle in our great Commonwealth, with the consent of local municipalities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" and last name "Baker" clearly legible.

Charles D. Baker
Governor

CC: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Carol T. O'Connell
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, U.S. Department of State
Senator Edward J. Markey
Senator Elizabeth Warren
Representative Katherine Clark
Representative William R. Keating
Representative Joseph P. Kennedy III
Representative Stephen F. Lynch
Representative James P. McGovern
Representative Seth Moulton
Representative Richard E. Neal
Representative Ayanna Pressley
Representative Lori Trahan
Angela Bovill, Ascentria Care Alliance
Kathryn Buckley-Brawner, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Springfield
Deborah Kincade Rambo, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Boston
Jeff Thielman, International Institute of New England
Maxine Stein, Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts
Mariam Gas, Refugees and Immigrants Assistance Center