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,

Charles D. Baker
Governor