



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Tim Walz

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

December 13, 2019

Michael Pompeo  
Secretary, U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

Minnesota has a strong moral tradition of welcoming those who seek refuge. Our state has always stepped forward to help those who are fleeing desperate situations and need a safe place to call home. In keeping with this proud history, I offer my consent to continue refugee resettlement in the State of Minnesota.

Refugees strengthen our communities. Bringing new cultures and fresh perspectives, they contribute to the social fabric of our state. Opening businesses and supporting existing ones, they are critical to the success of our economy. Refugees are doctors and bus drivers. They are entrepreneurs and police officers. They are students and teachers. They are our neighbors.

I reject the intent of the President's *Executive Order on Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement*, and we reserve our right to challenge the Executive Order's requirements. As the Holiday Season approaches, we are reminded of the importance of welcoming all who seek shelter. The inn is not full in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. J. Walz".

Tim Walz  
Governor