



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
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PHILIP D. MURPHY  
GOVERNOR

November 1, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Last month, you issued an Executive Order outlining your view that refugees should only be resettled in the United States in those jurisdictions in which both the State and local governments consent to resettling refugees. To implement this Order, you called for States and localities to demonstrate this consent in writing before accepting refugees. I want to make clear that New Jersey will continue to welcome refugees anxiously fleeing harm and seeking safety. It is not only the right response; it is the American response.

We believe that America must remain a beacon of hope in the world, and we know that opening its doors to those facing danger and oppression is who we are as a nation. We are disheartened by recent attempts to undercut our commitment to freedom and opportunity by shrinking the numbers of who can seek comfort on our shores and by erecting new and significant barriers for refugees desperately reaching for safety. The announcement that your Administration will continue dramatically cutting the number of refugees allowed to resettle in the United States by reducing admission in the coming year to 18,000 from 30,000 – which was already a drastic decline from the 111,000 ceiling just two years ago – is devastating not only for those seeking refuge from harm but for the United States' standing in the world.

New Jersey is a great and diverse state with the best schools in the country, a thriving economy and one of the most highly educated workforces in the nation. Over two million of our residents are immigrants, including refugees, representing nearly 23 percent of New Jersey's population. There is no doubt that refugees have contributed to the strength of our state and have enriched our communities economically, culturally and socially. Refugees who have made New Jersey their home have helped our state thrive by growing our workforce, starting businesses, contributing to local economies, and becoming valued friends and neighbors.

This year, on America's Independence Day, I was honored to join New Jerseyans from more than 20 countries as they gathered in Camden, New Jersey, to take the oath and become new American citizens. On that day, I also signed an Executive Order that reinforces our commitment to New Jersey

being a welcoming State. My Executive Order directed my Cabinet agencies to further immigrant and refugee integration by advancing welcoming policies and by prioritizing coordination and collaboration across agencies to support immigrants and refugees.

We took these actions because we recognize that new Americans are integral to our State's culture and our economy. Immigrants and refugees in New Jersey include over 120,000 entrepreneurs, employ more than 389,000 people and contribute over \$24.2 billion in federal, State, and local taxes. In fact, 43 percent of the State's science, technology, engineering, and math-focused workforce are new Americans who play a significant part in maintaining the State's role as a leading innovator in the STEM field. Supporting immigrant and refugee integration is a smart strategy for our State and our country.

We know that a strong and vibrant democracy like ours requires that we live out our values through our deeds. To do so, we must continue to hold true to who we are as Americans by helping those who come seeking refuge from violence and persecution around the world. My Administration looks forward to continuing to work together with cities and towns across our great State to welcome immigrants and refugees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Murphy", is written over the printed name and title.

Philip D. Murphy  
Governor