



# State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
*Governor*

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains  
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Denver, CO 80218

Attn: Nina Zelic

Oct. 7, 2019

Let me add my voice to the many others expressing profound opposition to this administration's anti-immigrant actions, including, most recently, the Sept. 26 decision to cut by 40 percent the number of refugees allowed into our country.

New Mexico has always welcomed immigrants of all types, including more than 2,500 refugees from 28 countries who have resettled in New Mexico since 2002, adding to the rich multicultural mix of which New Mexicans are so rightly proud.

Unlike other immigrants, refugees have been forcibly displaced from their homes, whether by war, famine, religious and cultural persecution or violence. They leave their home countries fearing for their lives, and they come to our shores and our borders often with nothing more than the clothes on their backs, desperate -- not for a handout but for a chance to start over.

While refugees arrive needing our help, they are often quick to pay back the country and communities that welcome them. They get jobs and pay taxes. They open businesses. They contribute their cuisines and cultures, bringing us new forms of entertainment and understanding.

The U.S. used to resettle 95,000 refugees each year on average, but this number has been dropping despite record high numbers of displaced people. To cut it again to 18,000 is unconscionable and un-American.

Let me be perfectly clear: New Mexico fully supports and welcome immigrants and refugees, those seeking a chance to rebuild their lives in our country.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Lujan Grisham".