



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

December 20, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

I write to you today in reference to Executive Order 13888 "*Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Resettlement*." The State of California is proud to be a welcoming state, and is committed to the continued resettlement of refugees in partnership with local jurisdictions and community partners. California recognizes its resettlement programs and services are an indispensable lifeline for refugees who have been forcibly displaced from their home countries and cannot rebuild their lives where they first fled.

The refugee resettlement program has a long history in California, spanning over 40 years and successfully resettling over 700,000 men, women and children. During these four decades, refugees continuously have contributed to the enrichment of our economy, culture, and society. California's communities have flourished because of their diversity and ongoing ability to embrace refugees and immigrant families.

Refugees deserve our support and we will keep our doors open to these families and people to sustain an inclusive California for All. As Governor of California, I consent to refugee resettlement in the State of California.

Notwithstanding this consent, California expressly reserves its rights to challenge the legality of, and any harms resulting from, the Executive Order on "*Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Resettlement*", issued on September 26, 2019, and its implementation.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom
Governor of California