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December 6, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

We are writing to affirm Los Angeles County's participation in the United States Refugee Admissions Program and to express our consent to initial refugee resettlement in Los Angeles County, as per the terms of the Executive Order 13888 on "Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement."

Those seeking refuge in the U.S., or in other countries, are fleeing persecution, war, or violence in their home country due to their race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. We are concerned about the Administration's proposal to drastically reduce the number of refugees admitted to the U.S., which includes victims of torture, people with physical disabilities, and unaccompanied minors who need immediate protection.

Los Angeles County is committed to welcoming all refugees to the region and ensuring that they have the support they need to become self-sufficient residents of the County. For example, the County has a Refugee Employment and Acculturation Services (REAS) program which supports refugees in their resettlement by assisting them with achieving economic self-sufficiency for up to 60 months after arrival in the U.S. Client participation in the REAS program has decreased nearly 70 percent since December 1, 2016, which is likely attributed to the corresponding decrease in the number of refugees allowed into the U.S. However, we are also concerned that eligible refugees may be opting not to participate in this program due to fear of doing so may negatively affect them and their families.

The foundation of our nation is linked to many contributions of immigrants, including refugees. Los Angeles County strongly supports the admission of refugees into the U.S. Therefore, we affirm our support and offer consent to initial resettlement of refugees in Los Angeles County.

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo  
December 6, 2019  
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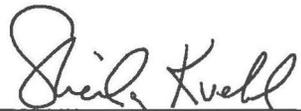
Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
KATHRYN BARGER  
Chair of the Board  
Supervisor, Fifth District

  
HILDA L. SOLIS  
Supervisor, First District

  
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Supervisor, Second District

  
SHEILA KUEHL  
Supervisor, Third District

  
JANICE HAHN  
Supervisor, Fourth District