



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

December 30, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

This letter is in response to Executive Order 13888, *On Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement*.

Providing more flexibility to states has been one of my key priorities, and I appreciate the administration's renewed emphasis on state and local engagement in determining policies that affect our security and resources.

With proper diligence and in conjunction with the continued cooperation of local jurisdictions in our state, Maryland consents to receive legally vetted resettlement refugees in Fiscal Year 2020, per the terms of the Executive Order. We are willing to accept refugees who the federal government has determined are properly and legally seeking refugee status and have been adequately vetted. This, as you know, is different from any kind of 'sanctuary' status for those in the United States unlawfully. Maryland's approach is consistent with both our laws and our values.

If you have additional questions, please contact my Director of Federal Relations, Tiffany Waddell, at tiffany.waddell@maryland.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Hogan'.

Larry Hogan
Governor

CC: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Carol T. O'Connell, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, U.S. Department of State