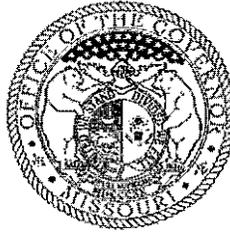


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*Michael L. Parson*

GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MISSOURI  
December 30, 2019

Honorable Michael R. Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
United States Department of State  
2201 C. Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

Thank you and President Trump for your leadership on immigration issues and your willingness to cooperate and consult with state governments regarding the resettlement of lawfully admitted refugees. Your Executive Order 13888, "Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement," allowing states to have greater involvement in the process of determining the placement of properly vetted refugees within their borders is to be applauded.

Missouri has a long and rich history of immigration, dating back to America's earliest explorers, fur traders, and missionaries. Today, Missouri's population includes thousands of former refugees who have become vital members of our communities. Since 2002, nearly 18,000 refugees from 45 countries have resettled in Missouri.

In Missouri, state organizations and faith-based groups work tirelessly to support refugee resettlement. Currently, there are five agencies that integrate refugees in St. Louis, Kansas City, Columbia, and Springfield, where they have helped strengthen local economies, especially through entrepreneurship. These groups do an excellent job of transitioning newly settled populations, ensuring they are educated, trained, and prepared to assimilate into their new community. In fact, St. Louis boasts one of the largest Bosnian populations outside that country itself. Community volunteers, especially faith-based partners, continue to be an integral part of such local resettlement efforts.

Therefore, in response to Executive Order 13888, I, Michael L. Parson, Governor of the State of Missouri, hereby consent to the resettlement of lawfully admitted refugees within the State of Missouri in the communities that request them, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Such consent shall be valid unless or until it is withdrawn.

We will continue to work hard to ensure refugees become a thriving part of our communities, and I am confident this demonstration of compassion will mark the first step in these immigrants becoming patriotic and productive fellow Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Parson", written over a white background.

Michael L. Parson  
Governor