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Office of Governor Steve Sisolak

December 18, 2019

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

RE: U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)

Dear Secretary Pompeo and Deputy Assistant Secretary O'Connell:

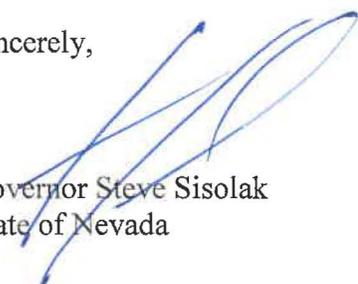
I write to affirm that the State of Nevada will continue to take part in the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). As Governor of Nevada, I consent to the resettlement of refugees within Nevada as per the terms of the Executive Order.

Nevada is proud of our long-standing tradition of resettling refugees. Since the 1970s, Republican and Democratic Governors from Nevada have welcomed these individuals into our state with open arms. Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to meet with dozens of refugee children at the State Capitol in Carson City. While their unimaginable experiences of suffering and hardship may have originated in different areas around the globe, the personal stories they shared were defined by courage, hope and resilience. These stories embody the identity and values of this country. Such is the story of Nevada Assemblyman Alexander Assefa. Mr. Assefa came to the U.S. as a refugee with similar hopes and dreams. After a lot of hard work, he became a pilot, a small business owner, and he now proudly serves in the Nevada State Legislature. Above all else, he is a proud American.

We need not forget that refugees fled for their lives after enduring persecution, war and dire humanitarian conditions. Many waited several years in remote places, while undergoing extensive background checks and security clearances, for the opportunity to start a new life in the United States. Once here, refugees become productive, responsible and self-sufficient members of society and account for an important part of our workforce that drives our economic engine.

We will continue to work closely with Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, the ECDC – African Community Center, and the Northern Nevada International Center, to ensure that our state follows the requirements prescribed in the Executive Order.

Sincerely,


Governor Steve Sisolak
State of Nevada