



STATE OF ARKANSAS

ASA HUTCHINSON

GOVERNOR

December 23, 2019

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

Re: Refugee Resettlement Authorization

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

This letter is in regards to Executive Order 13888 "*On Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Resettlement.*"

I first want to thank the administration for enhancing security checks to ensure proper screenings are carried out for individuals coming into the United States via the resettlement program. As governor, it is my duty to ensure the safety of Arkansans as we welcome legal immigrants and refugees to the land of freedom and opportunity.

Arkansans have a history of welcoming refugees. While we fully support control of our borders and oppose illegal immigration, we also value the contribution of immigrants and understand the importance of America continuing to be a welcoming nation for those truly seeking refuge and following the legal path to our land. Immigrants bring energy, a thirst for freedom, and a desire to pursue the American dream. This is America's strength and part of our future.

To that end, I have received confirmation from local municipalities, members of the faith-based community, as well as members of the non-profit community, confirming they will coordinate support and facilitate employment opportunities for refugees that are approved for relocation to Arkansas.

Therefore, I issue my consent to initial refugee resettlement for the 2020 calendar year pursuant to Executive Order 13888 and affirm State participation in the United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP).

I look forward to future cooperation and dialogue between the Department of State, my administration, and local jurisdictions, as we provide a pathway for refugees to become self-sufficient and achieve their own American Dream.

Once again, I want to thank the administration for its willingness to allow state and local jurisdictions to be involved in the decision-making process regarding continued resettlement activity within our borders. This is something I have advocated for as governor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Asa Hutchinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Asa Hutchinson

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