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**Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners**

**RESOLUTION**

**CONSENTING TO CONTINUED RESETTLEMENT of**

**REFUGEES IN KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

WHEREAS, Kalamazoo County has welcomed refugees facing religious, ethnic and political persecution for over two hundred years; and,

WHEREAS, the world is currently facing one of the worst humanitarian crises in human history; and,

WHEREAS, by definition, refugees are individuals who have been forced to flee their home country due to persecution based on their race, religion, ethnicity, political opinion, or social group; and,

WHEREAS, resettlement is the last resort for refugees who cannot return to their home country and cannot rebuild their lives where they first fled; and,

WHEREAS, the United States has the most extensive refugee vetting in the world; and,

WHEREAS Kalamazoo County is currently the home of resettled refugees who will likely be joined by family members in the upcoming year; and,

WHEREAS, churches and families have supported the arrival and integration of refugee families for several years; and,

WHEREAS several local businesses depend on refugees to meet labor demands; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners consents to and affirms the continued resettlement of refugees within Kalamazoo County and shall expressly confirm such consent in writing to the US Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration upon passing of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners directs that the County Staff and County Attorney affirmatively undertake to comply with any process developed by the Secretary of State and/or Secretary of Health and Human Services, if any, to perfect the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners’ consent, on behalf of Kalamazoo County, under the terms of Executive Order 13888.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners urges the Governor of Michigan and elected leaders within Kalamazoo County to consent, in writing, to the resettlement of refugees within the State of Michigan and localities in Kalamazoo County as per the terms of Executive Order 13888 and/or any subsequent process developed by the Secretary of State and/or Secretary of Health and Human Services, if any, pursuant to Executive Order 13888.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk will transmit a copy of this resolution by electronic mail and first class mail to:

Secretary Michael R. Pompeo

U.S. Department of State

Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

2201 C Street NW

Washington DC, 20520; and

Secretary Alex Azar

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
[Hubert H. Humphrey Building](https://www.hhs.gov/about/hhs-headquarters/index.html)

200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Clerk will also transmit a copy of this resolution by electronic mail and first class mail to the Governor of the State of Michigan, and State Representatives and local elected boards as appropriate.

STATE OF MICHIGAN )

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COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO )

I, Timothy A. Snow, County Clerk/Register, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners at a regular session held on December 3, 2019.

 Timothy A. Snow, Clerk