

1                   **HOUSE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HUMANE RESPONSE**  
2                                   **TO REFUGEE CRISES**  
3                                   2019 GENERAL SESSION  
4                                   STATE OF UTAH

5                                   **Chief Sponsor: Jennifer Dailey-Provost**

6	Cosponsors:	John Knotwell	Lawanna Shurtliff
7	Patrice M. Arent	Karen Kwan	Andrew Stoddard
8	Susan Duckworth	Phil Lyman	Steve Waldrip
9	Suzanne Harrison	Stephanie Pitcher	Elizabeth Weight
10	Jon Hawkins	Marie H. Poulson	Mark A. Wheatley
11	Sandra Hollins	Marc K. Roberts	
12	Marsha Judkins	Angela Romero	
	Brian S. King		

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14                   **LONG TITLE**

15                   **General Description:**

16                   This House resolution urges a humane response to the humanitarian crises at the  
17                   U.S.-Mexico border.

18                   **Highlighted Provisions:**

- 19                   This resolution:
- 20                   ▶ recognizes the plight of millions of people who fled their country seeking relief
  - 21                   from civil conflict or other hardships; and
  - 22                   ▶ opposes separating children from their families at the U.S.-Mexico border.

23                   **Special Clauses:**

24                   None

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26                   *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the state of Utah:*

27                   WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice has adopted a zero tolerance policy toward

28 individuals apprehended at the U.S.-Mexico border, which calls for the criminal prosecution of  
29 all migrants entering the United States outside of ports of entry;

30 WHEREAS, the effects of this policy have been costly, unnecessarily punitive, and  
31 harmful to family units;

32 WHEREAS, on June 19, 2018, officials confirmed, in compliance with this policy, that  
33 2,342 children had been separated from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border between May 5  
34 and June 9, 2018 (an average of 65 children each day);

35 WHEREAS, it has been reported that children have been held at the U.S.-Mexico  
36 border in unsanitary and overcrowded conditions beyond the legally mandated 72-hour period;

37 WHEREAS, many of the affected families are fleeing violence in their home countries  
38 and it is inhumane to punish them for claiming refuge or asylum in the United States;

39 WHEREAS, individuals claiming refugee or asylee status have a right under U.S. law  
40 to due process;

41 WHEREAS, the zero tolerance policy that has separated children from their families  
42 has threatened the moral core of our nation;

43 WHEREAS, forced family separation and the intentional infliction of injury on children  
44 are reprehensible and contrary to American values;

45 WHEREAS, Utah supports, values, and respects asylees and refugees regardless of their  
46 immigration status;

47 WHEREAS, Utah believes that families, including refugee and asylee families, are a  
48 core and vital building block of the community;

49 WHEREAS, Utah believes in the words of Emma Lazarus, etched on a plaque at the  
50 Statue of Liberty, Mother of Exiles, "Give me your tired, your poor... Your huddled masses  
51 yearning to breathe free... Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me...";

52 WHEREAS, Utah is a state founded and populated by individuals fleeing violence and  
53 persecution, and consequently has a rich history of being a place of refuge;

54 WHEREAS, Utah recognizes that children growing up without their parents suffer  
55 lasting negative impacts on their development and future success;

56 WHEREAS, the long-term negative psychological effects of family separation have  
57 significant and long-term consequences;

58 WHEREAS, various private, public, and faith communities have a long standing  
59 commitment to supporting policies that encourage keeping families whole; and

60 WHEREAS, Utah has a long and rich history of prioritizing policies that keep families  
61 intact and healthy:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representative of the state  
63 of Utah recognizes with great concern and compassion the plight of millions of people around  
64 the world who have fled their homes seeking relief from civil conflict or other hardships.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Utah supports a humane response to the  
66 humanitarian crises at the U.S.-Mexico border.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Utah affirms the rights of all families, regardless of  
68 immigration status to be together and strongly opposes separating children from their families  
69 at the U.S.-Mexico border.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to members of the  
71 Utah congressional delegation, the President of the United States, the U.S. Department of  
72 Justice, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Governor of this state.