

State of Vermont
House of Representatives
Montpelier, Vermont



House Resolution

H.R. 12

House resolution supporting refugee resettlement in the United States including Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Colburn of Burlington and Sullivan of Burlington

Whereas, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), also referred to as the UN Refugee Agency, reports that as of the end of 2015, there were 65 million forcibly displaced persons worldwide, the highest number on record, and

Whereas, an estimated one-half of the world's refugees are children, and one in every 113 persons is a refugee, and

Whereas, refugees are fleeing armed conflicts and human rights abuses in Africa, Central America, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia, and

Whereas, among these 65 million are persons who can neither return to their home countries nor remain in their current host nations due to extreme vulnerabilities, and

Whereas, only ten nations host one-half of the world's refugees, including countries that do not have adequate resources to feed, house, or keep these refugees safe, and

Whereas, UNHCR has determined that 1.19 million refugees are in need of immediate resettlement, but being realistic, it has submitted fewer than 200,000 resettlement requests, and

Whereas, refugees in need of resettlement represent only a tiny fraction of the world's population, and

Whereas, every single refugee admitted into the United States must undergo a strict and lengthy security check, involving multiple law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and

Whereas, the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants–Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program (USCRI-VRRP) and numerous other Vermont community and religious organizations have declared their support for resettling refugees in Vermont, and since 1980, USCRI-VRRP has resettled more than 7,000 refugees from more than 30 countries in the State, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body applauds the historic bipartisan tradition of the United States welcoming refugees in keeping with our national values and respect for human rights, and be it further

Resolved: That this legislative body declares its support for the resettlement of refugees in the United States, including Vermont, regardless of religion, race, nationality, or country of origin, and calls upon other states to support a stronger national effort to resettle the most vulnerable refugees, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program, to President Donald J. Trump, to Governor Philip B. Scott, and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.