

## **We Welcome Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, refugees are individuals forced to flee their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster;

**WHEREAS**, there are more refugees in the world today than at any time in recorded history, and half of the world's refugees are children, some traveling alone, and none of whom can return home due to extreme vulnerability;

**WHEREAS**, refugees are fleeing armed conflict and persecution in Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Central America, and other regions;

**WHEREAS**, host countries lack the necessary funding to provide humanitarian services, food and medical aid for refugees awaiting resettlement;

**WHEREAS**, there are 25.4 million refugees in the world but less than 1% will ever be resettled.

**WHEREAS**, in keeping with our country's values and commitments to human rights the United States has maintained a historical commitment to resettling refugees;

**WHEREAS**, the number of refugees allowed into the United States has been slashed to the lowest number in decades, at the very time that the refugee crisis merits a powerful international response;

**WHEREAS**, a refugee has no choice about where they are resettled;

**WHEREAS**, refugees are the most vetted individuals to enter the United States, undergoing security checks by multiple law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and are not permitted to travel to the U.S. until all security screenings have been completed and they are found admissible under U.S. immigration law;

**WHEREAS**, Kentucky Refugee Ministries, the organization that provides refugee resettlement services throughout Central Kentucky, as well as numerous other community organizations and religious institutions, have declared their support for resettling refugees in Kentucky;

**WHEREAS**, since 1994 over 29,000 refugees have been resettled in Kentucky from more than 40 countries including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine, Iraq and Bhutan;

**WHEREAS**, a study from the National Bureau of Economic Research found that refugees who are resettled in the U.S pay on average \$21,000 more in taxes than they receive in any kind of welfare payments;

**WHEREAS**, data from a Refugee Economic Impact Study showed that every dollar invested in refugee resettlement had a \$10 economic benefit on the regional economy;

**WHEREAS**, US Department of Health and Human Services analysis found that in a 10-year period, refugees generated \$63 billion more in government revenue than they received;

**WHEREAS**, refugees who resettle in Kentucky communities are a reliable, eager, legal labor force for employers and industry;

**WHEREAS**, resettled refugees offer determination, grit, perseverance, and a strong desire to succeed and build a better life for their families;

**WHEREAS**, Woodford County is home to refugee families from countries like the Ukraine, while churches and community members in Midway have sponsored the resettlement of several refugee families in the area;

**WHEREAS**, Midway, KY is a welcoming community that celebrates diversity and inclusivity;

**RESOLVED**, the City Council of Midway, Kentucky declares its support for the resettlement of refugees no matter their religion, race, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity or country of origin in Kentucky and calls upon other Kentucky communities to join them in supporting a stronger national effort to resettle refugees around the world in need of a home.