

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

House Resolution

H.R. 9

House resolution expressing support for the welcoming and settling of refugees in the United States

Offered by: Representatives Colburn of Burlington, Anthony of Barre City, Austin of Colchester, Bartholomew of Hartland, Bates of Bennington, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Birong of Vergennes, Bock of Chester, Briglin of Thetford, Browning of Arlington, Brumsted of Shelburne, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carroll of Bennington, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christensen of Weathersfield, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Coffey of Guilford, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Cordes of Lincoln, Demrow of Corinth, Dolan of Waitsfield, Donahue of Northfield, Donovan of Burlington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Elder of Starksboro, Fagan of Rutland City, Fegard of Berkshire, Feltus of Lyndon, Giambatista of Essex, Grad of Moretown, Haas of Rochester, Harrison of Chittenden, Hashim of Dummerston, Hooper of Montpelier, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Houghton of Essex, Howard of Rutland City, James of Manchester, Jessup of Middlesex, Jickling of Randolph, Killacky of South Burlington, Kimbell of Woodstock, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Krowinski of Burlington, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lippert of Hinesburg, Macaig of Williston, Masland of Thetford, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McCormack of Burlington, McCullough of Williston, Mrowicki of Putney, Murphy of Fairfax, Notte of Rutland City, Noyes of Wolcott, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Pajala of Londonderry, Patt of Worcester, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Ralph of Hartland, Redmond of Essex, Rogers of Waterville, Scheu of Middlebury, Seymour of Sutton, Sibia of Dover, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, Sullivan of Dorset, Sullivan of Burlington, Toleno of Brattleboro, Townsend of South Burlington, Trieber of Rockingham, Troiano of Stannard, Walz of Barre City, Webb of Shelburne, White of Hartford, Wood of Waterbury, Yacovone of Morristown, Yantachka of Charlotte, and Young of Greensboro

Whereas, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established in December 1950 “to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide,” and

Whereas, the UNHCR reports that there are more refugees in the world today than at any time since World War II, and many of the world’s refugees are children, and

Whereas, the UNHCR has determined that 1.19 million refugees are in need of immediate resettlement, and

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

Whereas, these refugees who need to be resettled include torture survivors, people with severe medical conditions, LGBTI individuals, children travelling alone, and women and children at risk—none of whom can return home nor stay in their current host country due to their extreme vulnerability, and

Whereas, only 10 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, 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 (VRRP) and numerous other Vermont community and religious organizations have declared their support for resettling refugees in Vermont, and since 1980, VRRP has resettled more than 7,000 refugees from many nations, and

Whereas, in the interest of affordability and sustainable economic development, Vermont is working hard to build its workforce, to be a supportive place for children and families, and to welcome people as new residents to the State, and

Whereas, the United Nations World Refugee Day will be celebrated on June 20, 2019 to honor the strength and courage of refugees and to encourage public awareness and support of refugees, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body applauds the historic 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 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, the President of the United States, the Governor, the Vermont Congressional Delegation, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Mitzi Johnson
Speaker of the House

Attested to:

William M. MaGill

Clerk, House of Representatives