



January 9, 2020

Governor Greg Abbott
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott:

In accordance with President Trump's executive order, the State Department has declared that states must affirm their participation in the federal Refugee Resettlement Program by January 21. I am asking for you to commit to allow refugees to resettle in Texas under this program.

This issue is both a moral and an economic one. We have an ethical obligation to help those who are fleeing violence and oppression. Most Americans recognize this: a 2018 poll by the Public Religion Research Institute showed that 60% of Americans oppose passing a law that would prevent refugees from coming to the US.

Additionally, refugees make a significant economic contribution to Texas and the US. They possess an entrepreneurial spirit: 13% of refugees were entrepreneurs in 2015, compared to 9% of the US-born population. That same year, refugees in Texas spent \$4.6 billion and paid \$1.6 billion in taxes.

People who are forced to flee their home countries come here looking for a better life and work hard to achieve that goal. We should welcome refugees into our state, and I urge you to do this by committing Texas to the Refugee Resettlement Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vikki Goodwin".

Vikki Goodwin
State Representative, District 47

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Beckley".

Michelle Beckley
State Representative, District 65

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rhett Andrews Powers".

Rhett Andrews Powers
State Representative, District 113

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gina Hinojosa".

Gina Hinojosa
State Representative, District 49



Donna Howard
State Representative, District 48



Jon Rosenthal
State Representative, District 135



James Talarico
State Representative, District 52



John Turner
State Representative, District 114



Erin Zwiener
State Representative, District 45