

November 8, 2019

Dear Members of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors:

I write to you today about the future of the refugee resettlement program in Charlottesville and Albemarle County and to seek your written consent to continue our partnership, as is now required under a new Executive Order (EO). On September 26, 2019, President Trump issued Executive Order (EO) 13888[1], which requires your formal consent for continued refugee resettlement in Albemarle County. Given the life-saving nature of this program, I ask that you provide written consent by December 20, 2019.

This year, President Trump has proposed setting refugee admissions at 18,000 refugees. As you know, the refugee resettlement program has had a long history here in Charlottesville and Albemarle County thanks to widespread community support. Refugee resettlement has economically and culturally enriched our community, and has brought substantial value through a public-private partnership. Nationally, as the Department of Health and Human Services recently noted, refugees contributed \$63 billion dollars in revenue over the past decade.

Attached is sample consent language. I hope you can issue consent as soon as possible, so as not to leave people in harm's way or impact existing services in our community. I have also enclosed additional background information on refugee resettlement and the EO. If you have any questions about the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to reach out. I would be happy to schedule a meeting to discuss further. Additionally, if you have questions about the EO, I recommend that you contact the Department of State.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Kuhr
Executive Director
The IRC in Charlottesville

[1] Although we are communicating with you about the implementation of the EO, communication about, or participation in, the implementation of Executive Order 13888 is not in any way an endorsement of the legality of the EO.