

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fourth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1024

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING REFUGEES IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, on December 6, 2019, Governor Doug Ducey consented to
2 resettling refugees in Arizona pursuant to the terms of Executive Order
3 No. 13888, entitled "On Enhancing State and Local Involvement in
4 Resettlement," issued by President Donald Trump on September 26, 2019; and

5 Whereas, refugees arriving in the United States have been vetted and
6 approved by the appropriate national security agencies and the United
7 States Department of State and have been granted legal entry to make a new
8 home in the land of the free; and

9 Whereas, in keeping with our country's values and respect for human
10 rights, there has been a long bipartisan tradition of welcoming refugees
11 to the United States; and

12 Whereas, the economic and social strength of America and Arizona
13 derives in large part from the diversity of our citizenry and the
14 patriotic energy of those who have fled from war and terror over the
15 centuries to come to a new home that welcomed them as a beacon of liberty;
16 and

17 Whereas, having resettled more than 80,000 individuals from dozens
18 of countries since 1978, Arizona already hosts a diverse community of
19 refugees who represent many different religions, cultures and languages;
20 and

21 Whereas, refugees contribute enormously to Arizona's economy in
22 various ways as members of the state's workforce, as homeowners, as
23 business owners and entrepreneurs, by paying taxes, as consumers in the
24 nation's marketplace and by revitalizing struggling local Arizona
25 communities; and

26 Whereas, there are 25.9 million refugees in the world today, more
27 than at any other time since World War II, and more than half of these
28 refugees are children; and

29 Whereas, refugees do not leave their homes by choice but have been
30 forced to flee because of a "well-founded fear of persecution for reasons
31 of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a
32 particular social group"; and

33 Whereas, current policies have reduced admissions quotas pursuant to
34 the United States Bipartisan Refugee Resettlement Program to a historic
35 low number of 18,000 refugee admissions in 2019, compared to the typical
36 average of 95,000 annually; and

37 Whereas, we must continue to support a stronger national effort to
38 resettle the world's most vulnerable refugees so that our state and nation
39 can benefit from their entrepreneurial energy as our newest and most
40 grateful residents.

41 Therefore

42 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of
43 Representatives concurring:

44 That the Members of the Legislature welcome and declare their
45 support for resettling refugees who are placed in Arizona through the
46 federal Refugee Resettlement Program.