



Don't Buy The "Refugee" Compassion Con

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In the closing weeks of 2019, the mammoth refugee lobby went into overdrive. With Christmas approaching, left-wing political groups launched a concerted lobbying effort aimed at state governors and local county commissioners, using Christian themes to play on compassion and the spirit of the season. The ideologues and profiteers of the very profitable refugee lobby are very anxious and angry, you see, over an executive order issued by President Trump last September that threatens to upend much of their lucrative and subversive agenda.



President Trump signed Executive Order 13888, entitled "Executive Order on Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement," on September 26. It provides an important reversal to the process by which the Obama administration rammed hundreds of thousands of so-called refugees down the throats of unsuspecting communities. We say "so-called" because many of these migrants cannot show "a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion," as required by law (8 U.S. Code § 1101).

"In resettling refugees into American communities, it is the policy of the United States to cooperate and consult with State and local governments, to take into account the preferences of State governments, and to provide a pathway for refugees to become self-sufficient," the executive order begins, before continuing: "These policies support each other. Close cooperation with State and local governments ensures that refugees are resettled in communities that are eager and equipped to support their successful integration into American society and the labor force."

The president's order stipulates that refugees will not be resettled in communities unless the secretary of state receives a letter of consent from state and local officials. It further states, "The Secretary of State shall publicly release any written consents of States and localities to resettlement of refugees." This provides much-needed transparency, accountability, and forewarning, so that local communities don't find themselves bushwhacked by stealth invasions that suddenly (or gradually) appear and dramatically impact schools, crime, housing, healthcare, taxes, welfare costs, and social conflict — as well as personal and national security.

This common-sense bow to enlightened federalism has sent the open-borders crew into a frenzy. It not only jeopardizes their federal funding gravy train, it also throws a wrench into their plans for "bluing the vote" by replacing conservative-leaning voters with more pliant migrants who will reliably vote Democrat. Hundreds of millions of dollars are at stake for the "humanitarian" organizations,



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migration/immigration NGOs, and legal firms that traffic in faux refugees. They are engaged in a huge campaign involving social media, phone calls, letter-writing, and personal visits to state and local officials in an effort to produce letters of consent that will keep the migrant-refugee deluge flowing. Far-left Democratic strongholds have been the first to respond to the challenge.

“The inn is not full in Minnesota,” Minnesota’s Democratic Governor Tim Walz said, in a December 13 letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. “As the Holiday Season approaches, we are reminded of the importance of welcoming all who seek shelter.” Other governors and local politicians echoed Walz, parroting talking points provided to them by a coalition effort spearheaded by the “Big Nine” private agencies that have benefitted enormously from their privileged positions as the go-to placement partners for refugee resettlement. The nine resettlement mega-profiteers, which rake in millions for their placement “services,” are the Church World Service (CWS); Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC); Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM); Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS); International Rescue Committee (IRC); US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI); Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS); United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB); and World Relief Corporation (WR).

According to the *New York Times*, Jenny Yang, vice president for advocacy at World Relief, is in charge of steering the effort to mobilize letters of consent from governors and local officials. Yang told the *Times* in early December that the push had resulted in 16 governors, including six Republicans, who had sent letters of consent to the State Department. She didn’t identify all of the 16, and the letters have not all been made public at the time of this writing. However, the *Times* article did report that “Gov. Doug Ducey, Republican of Arizona, agreed after receiving a letter supporting resettlement signed by 250 evangelical leaders.” That has been part of the trick: Give the politicians cover by presenting the resettlement proposal as having broad-based support from “evangelical Christians, Catholics, and Jews.”

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