

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 132

Reps. Xiong, Rheingans, Myers-Phillips, Foreman, Coffia, Skaggs, McFall, Weiss, Martus, MacDonell, Brixie, Pohutsky, Mentzer, Dievendorf, Glanville, B. Carter, Byrnes, Rogers, Miller, Hoskins, Grant, T. Carter, O'Neal, Arbit, Wegela, Neeley, Wilson, Hope, Longjohn, Tsernoglou, Steckloff, Liberati, Tate, Wooden, Conlin, Young, Snyder and Farhat offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to urge the federal government to reinstate the  
2 United States Refugee Admissions Program.

3       Whereas, The Immigration and Nationality Act authorizes the  
4 admission of refugees of special humanitarian concern to the United  
5 States, as well as the granting of asylum to refugees, on a case-  
6 by-case basis. Refugees are a vulnerable population, facing  
7 persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership  
8 in a particular social group, or political opinion. Under the U.S.  
9 Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP), these individuals may be

1 admitted to the country after a series of interviews, a health  
2 screening, and multiple background checks. Some refugees are  
3 referred to the program by the United Nations High Commissioner for  
4 Refugees, a U.S. embassy, or a non-governmental organization, while  
5 others are privately sponsored or seek admission to reunite with  
6 family members who were granted asylum or admitted as a refugee.  
7 After refugees are admitted into the United States, they receive  
8 transitional assistance and referrals for services as needed to  
9 help them establish a new life in this country; and

10       Whereas, On January 20, 2025, President Trump suspended the  
11 USRAP indefinitely. In Executive Order No. 14,163, entitled  
12 "Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program," the  
13 President declared that "entry into the United States of refugees  
14 under the USRAP would be detrimental to the interests of the United  
15 States" and directed that the entry of refugees under this program  
16 be generally suspended until such time as the President determines  
17 that the resumption of the program is in the interests of the  
18 United States. The rationales given for this decision were the  
19 President's concern about public safety and national security,  
20 uncertainties about the ability of refugees to "fully and  
21 appropriately assimilate into the United States," and the need to  
22 preserve taxpayer resources for U.S. citizens; and

23       Whereas, This executive order was quickly challenged in  
24 federal court as exceeding the President's statutory and  
25 constitutional authority. A federal district court enjoined the  
26 federal government from suspending the USRAP on February 25, 2025,  
27 but, while the appeal of this case is ongoing, the Court of Appeals  
28 for the Ninth Circuit has limited the injunction such that it only  
29 applies to a very narrow subset of individuals who had nearly

1 completed the process to be admitted as a refugee by January 20,  
2 2025. While Executive Order No. 14,163 calls for reports to be  
3 submitted every 90 days regarding whether the USRAP should be  
4 resumed, the first deadline for this report has passed without any  
5 indication that the President's policy will change; and

6       Whereas, The USRAP should be reinstated. As was stated in the  
7 September 2024 report to Congress on the USRAP, "[r]efugees are the  
8 most thoroughly screened and vetted group to enter the United  
9 States" - they do not pose a threat to our safety or security.

10 Concerns about assimilation are similarly overblown; the USRAP has  
11 offered a cultural orientation for refugees, and, upon coming to  
12 the United States, refugees become critical members of the  
13 communities they live in. The United States has accepted more than  
14 three million refugees since 1975, and we should not abandon our  
15 commitment to the protection of this most vulnerable population;  
16 now, therefore, be it

17       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the  
18 federal government to reinstate the United States Refugee  
19 Admissions Program; and be it further

20       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
21 President of the United States, the United States Secretary of  
22 Homeland Security, and the United States Secretary of State.