

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

House Resolution

H.R. 24

House resolution supporting Rutland City's welcoming of 100 Syrian refugees

Offered by: Representatives Ancel of Calais, Bartholomew of Hartland, Berry of Manchester, Bissonnette of Winooski, Botzow of Pownal, Briglin of Thetford, Browning of Arlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Buxton of Tunbridge, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christie of Hartford, Clarkson of Woodstock, Cole of Burlington, Condon of Colchester, Connor of Fairfield, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Corcoran of Bennington, Dakin of Chester, Dakin of Colchester, Davis of Washington, Deen of Westminster, Donovan of Burlington, Emmons of Springfield, Evans of Essex, Fields of Bennington, Forguites of Springfield, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Gage of Rutland City, Gonzalez of Winooski, Grad of Moretown, Greshin of Warren, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Hooper of Montpelier, Huntley of Cavendish, Jerman of Essex, Jewett of Ripton, Johnson of South Hero, Keenan of St. Albans City, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Klein of East Montpelier, Krebs of South Hero, Krowinski of Burlington, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lenes of Shelburne, Lippert of Hinesburg, Long of Newfane, Lucke of Hartford, Macaig of Williston, Manwaring of Wilmington, Martin of Wolcott, Masland of Thetford, McCormack of Burlington, McCullough of Williston, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Murphy of Fairfax, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Brien of Richmond, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Partridge of Windham, Patt of Worcester, Pearson of Burlington, Poirier of Barre City, Potter of Clarendon, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Ryerson of Randolph, Sharpe of Bristol, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sibia of Dover, Smith of Morristown, Stevens of Waterbury, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Burlington, Sweaney of Windsor, Terenzini of Rutland Town, Till of Jericho, Toleno of Brattleboro, Toll of Danville, Townsend of South Burlington, Trieber of Rockingham, Troiano of Stannard, Walz of Barre City, Webb of Shelburne, Wood of Waterbury, Woodward of Johnson, Yantachka of Charlotte, Young of Glover, and Zagar of Barnard

Whereas, the Syrian Civil War has claimed more than 250,000 lives and four million people have fled this war-torn nation, and

Whereas, approximately 1.32 million migrants, many from Syria, have filed asylum claims with the European Union, and

Whereas, far closer to home, the Canadian government plans to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees, but the United States has admitted under 3,000, and

Whereas, on April 26, 2016, Rutland City Mayor Christopher Louras announced a partnership with the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program to welcome 100 Syrian refugees to the city starting this fall, and

Whereas, Mayor Louras referred to his own ancestors fleeing from persecution on the Greek island of Chios, and Rutland City Board of Aldermen President William Notte also spoke favorably, noting his Italian immigrant ancestry, and

Whereas, among the organizations and individuals expressing support for the Syrian refugees coming to Rutland City were Project VISION, Rutland Young Professionals, the Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity, the Rutland Herald in an editorial, and local school and college officials, and

Whereas, our nation is one of immigrants from which many of us can trace our ancestry to individuals and families fleeing persecution and war and seeking a better life, and

Whereas, in 2013, the nation's 26.3 million foreign-born workers comprised 16.5 percent of the nation's workforce and added approximately 0.2 percent to the Gross Domestic Product, with the average immigrant contributing \$120,000.00 more in taxes than he or she consumes in public benefits, and

Whereas, regarding the claim that Syrian refugees pose a threat to the nation's security, none admitted since October 1, 2010 has been arrested or expelled on terrorism charges, and many are victims of terrorists, and

Whereas, 77 percent of the Syrian refugees admitted into the United States are women and children, and

Whereas, the Syrian refugees will bring a new infusion of cultural diversity and economic vitality into Rutland City, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body supports Rutland City's welcoming of 100 Syrian refugees, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Rutland City Mayor Christopher Louras.