



STATES LAY

THE FOUNDATION

EVERY POLICY HAS A STORY

A policy roadmap to integrate and welcome
refugees and immigrants

June 7, 2024

12-2p.m. ET/9-11a.m. PT



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ABOUT THE IRC

The IRC responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises and helps people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover and gain control of their future. Join the thousands of IRC supporters who have called their representatives, written letters, shared our campaigns or otherwise mobilized to advocate for change in their communities and worldwide.

<https://www.rescue.org/takeaction>

AGENDA

12:00 PM ET

Welcome & Introductory Remarks by **David Miliband**,
President & CEO of the International Rescue Committee (IRC)

12:05 PM ET

Keynote Speech by **Janet Napolitano**, Former Secretary of
Homeland Security and Founder and Professor of the Center
for Security in Politics at UC Berkeley

12:15 PM ET

PANEL 1: RESETTLEMENT

- ▶ Moderated by: Austyn Smith,
State Advocacy Officer with the IRC
- ▶ Kansas State Senator John Doll
- ▶ New York State Senator Andrew Gounardes
- ▶ Washington State Representative Mia Gregerson

12:55 PM ET

IRC SWITCHBOARD PRESENTS

- ▶ Miriam Potocky, Research Officer with
the IRC's Research, Analysis and Learning Unit

1:05 PM ET

PANEL 2: INTEGRATION

- ▶ Moderated by: Sarah Rohrschneider,
State Advocacy Officer with the IRC
- ▶ Utah State Representative Dan Johnson
- ▶ Pennsylvania State Representative
Joseph Hohenstein
- ▶ Kentucky State Representative Nima Kulkarni
- ▶ Illinois State Representative Dagmara Avelar

1:50 PM ET

CLOSING REMARKS

- ▶ Genevieve Kessler, Director of State Advocacy
with the IRC

SPEAKERS & MODERATORS

PRESENTER & SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



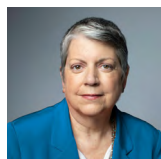
DAVID MILIBAND

David Miliband is the President and CEO of the IRC. He oversees the agency's operations in more than 40 countries and its refugee

resettlement and assistance programs throughout Europe and the Americas. The IRC's mission is to help the world's most vulnerable people, those whose lives and livelihoods have been shattered by conflict and disaster, including the climate crisis, to survive, recover and regain control of their future. In 2023, the IRC and our partners reached over 34.5 million people in countries affected by crisis, connecting more than 2.8 million people with water sources and placng more than 1.5 million children and youth in learning programs.

Prior to joining the IRC, David had a distinguished political career in the United Kingdom. From 2007 to 2010, he served as the 74th secretary of state for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, representing the United Kingdom throughout the world. His accomplishments have earned him a reputation as, in former President Bill Clinton's words, "one of the ablest, most creative public servants of our time." David was named one of the World's Greatest Leaders by *Fortune* magazine in 2016 and was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2018.

David is also the author of the book *Rescue: Refugees and the Political Crisis of Our Time*. As the son of refugees, David brings a personal commitment to the IRC's work and to the premise of the book: that we can rescue the dignity and hopes of refugees and displaced people, and in the process, we will rescue our own values.



JANET NAPOLITANO

Janet Napolitano is the founder of the Center for Security in Politics at the University of California (UC), Berkeley. A distinguished public

servant, Janet served as the president of University of California from 2013 to 2020, as the U.S. secretary of Homeland Security from 2009 to 2013, as governor of Arizona from 2003 to 2009, as attorney general of

Arizona from 1998 to 2003, and as U.S. attorney for the District of Arizona from 1993 to 1997. She earned her bachelor's degree (summa cum laude in political science) in 1979 from Santa Clara University, where she was a Truman Scholar and the university's first female valedictorian. She received her law degree in 1983 from the University of Virginia School of Law.

As secretary of Homeland Security, she led the nation's efforts to prevent terrorist attacks, secure its borders, respond to natural disasters and build domestic resiliency. She oversaw critical enhancements to aviation security, including initiatives like the creation of TSA Pre[®] that bolster security while improving the travel experience. Through the expansion of programs like Global Entry and pre-clearance, the department strengthened our borders, helping to identify threats before they depart for the United States. The department also significantly enhanced its readiness to meet and combat evolving cyber threats. During her time as secretary, she spearheaded the creation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiative, creating hope and relief for thousands of undocumented young people across the nation. Janet was the first woman and, to date, the longest-serving secretary of Homeland Security. Under her leadership, the department transformed its security capabilities, becoming a more efficient, cohesive and effective organization.

As UC president, she was a steadfast advocate for California students, working to stabilize in-state tuition and to enroll historic numbers of California undergraduates. In 2017, under Janet's leadership, UC was the first university in the country to file a lawsuit to stop the federal government's rescission of the DACA program. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the injunctions received by the university prohibiting the rescission of DACA. Janet continued the university's legacy of leadership on global climate action, putting UC on a path to 100% reliance on clean electricity across all campuses and medical centers by 2025. In 2017, Janet spearheaded the formation of the University Climate Change Coalition, or UC3, a group of 18 leading North American research universities and systems working to transition to a low-carbon future.

As governor of Arizona, Janet balanced the state budget while also increasing the state's rainy-day fund. She created a universal all-day kindergarten for Arizona children, established the Science Foundation Arizona, and led the construction of a new medical school in Phoenix. In 2007, she was elected by her peers to serve as chair to the National Governors Association.

Janet is the recipient of nine honorary degrees, including the University of Virginia's highest honor, the Jefferson Medal. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2015 and the American Philosophical Society in 2017. In 2022, Janet was named the president of the Truman Scholarship Foundation, succeeding the Hon. Madeleine Albright. Janet serves as a board member for RAND Corporation, VIR Biotechnology, Zoom, the IRC and the Council on Foreign Relations. She also serves on the Council of The American Law Institute. In 2022, President Biden appointed her to the President's Intelligence Advisory Board.

Janet currently serves as a professor of public policy at the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley. In March 2019, she published *How Safe Are We?: Homeland Security Since 9/11*.



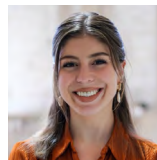
GENEVIEVE KESSLER

Genevieve Kessler has worked at the IRC since 2017 and currently serves as the director of state advocacy, driving strategic engagement and policy deliverables in the 17 states within the IRC network. Genevieve's efforts have defeated all anti-refugee legislation introduced across the network. She has also led the successful advancement and passage of legislation that increased support for the integration of newly arrived individuals, including providing access to education and workforce development opportunities and building infrastructures in states. This is her second experience at the IRC: From 2011 to 2012, she was the immigrant program coordinator, supporting the implementation of a network-wide grant aimed at increasing naturalization in communities across the IRC network. Genevieve also serves as the state strategy lead for the Refugee Advocacy Lab.

Prior to joining the IRC, Genevieve worked for two members of Congress: Rep. John Hall (NY-19) from 2006 to 2011 and Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18) from 2013 to 2016. During these years, she served in several roles with increasing levels of

responsibility in constituent services, as a district representative and ultimately as a deputy director cross-functionally supervising district and D.C. staff. With creative leadership in resolving key issues impacting district constituents, Genevieve built strong relationships with bipartisan state and local legislators.

Genevieve is a proud graduate of John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY), where she earned a master's degree in public administration, and Ramapo College of New Jersey, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in history.



AUSTYN SMITH

Austyn Smith currently serves as the IRC's U.S. East Region advocacy officer. Previously, Austyn worked as a legislative aide for U.S. Sen.

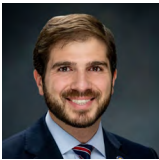
Patty Murray (WA), former president pro tempore of the Senate and chair of the Committee on Appropriations. In Austyn's role, she advised on issues including immigration, foreign policy, transportation/infrastructure, small business, banking/financial services, nutrition and much more. Austyn's professional experience includes roles at think tanks and environmental advocacy groups and in academia. She also worked with a nonprofit in Vietnam that collaborated with villages and communities to achieve their vision of a better future through asset-based community development.

Austyn's experience as a daughter of Mexican immigrants brought her to the IRC and stimulated her passion to engage in refugee-related advocacy work. She is a graduate of The George Washington University, where she earned a master's degree in international affairs with concentrations in conflict resolution and international development. Additionally, she graduated from Western Washington University with bachelor's degrees in political science and Spanish and a minor in German.



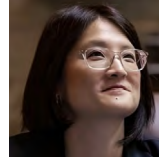
KANSAS STATE SENATOR
JOHN DOLL

John Doll is a lifelong Kansan with experience in teaching, agriculture and small business ownership. John's parents emphasized to him the importance of hard work, generosity to neighbors, help for those less fortunate and a duty to serve his community and country. These values now comprise the backbone of John's philosophy about life, government and service. John graduated from St. Mary of the Plains College and attended graduate school at Emporia State University. For 20 years, John taught the subjects of history and government in Kansas public schools. John has an extensive agricultural background that began on his family's farm, where he learned machinery operation, seasonal responsibilities and the importance of teamwork. He has owned and operated a successful chemical application business in southwest Kansas. John's political career began in 2010, when he served as the mayor of Garden City, Kansas. In 2013, he was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives, and then in 2017 was elected to the Kansas State Senate.



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
ANDREW GOUNARDES

Andrew Gounardes represents New York's 26th State Senate District in Brooklyn. He is a strong champion for working families, and he has written and passed legislation to fight skyrocketing hospital costs, create safer streets and protect workers' rights. He is the prime sponsor of the "I Heart Refugees" Act (S.6070A), which would codify and protect New York's refugee services programs to ensure they serve new New Yorkers for generations to come. Guided by the principle of *philoxenia*—a Greek word meaning "love of strangers"—he has worked tirelessly for a better New York that is fair, affordable and gives everyone an opportunity to thrive.



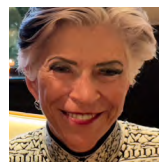
WASHINGTON STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MIA GREGERSON

Mia Gregerson was first appointed in 2013 to represent Washington's 33rd Legislative District, which includes Seattle-Tacoma, Normandy Park, Des Moines and parts of Kent, Burien, Renton and unincorporated King County. Mia prides herself on representing one of the most racially diverse districts in the state.

Mia also served as mayor of the SeaTac City Council from 2008 to 2015, and she helped lead the charge in the \$15 minimum wage initiative that passed in Seattle in 2014. This was the first \$15 minimum wage initiative in the nation, and other cities and states later followed suit.

Her many legislative accomplishments include serving as chair of the House Members of Color Caucus and vice chair of the House Appropriations Committee, expanding voting rights, ensuring residents are housed, helping to establish Washington's first Office of Equity, championing statewide digital equity and being part of the so-called food fighters working together on legislation to help the food insecure. In the summer of 2023, Mia was appointed to serve on the board of directors of the Washington State Investment Board (WSIB), and she was assigned to WSIB's Public Markets Committee in the fall of 2023.

Mia has spent more than 40 years in South King County and holds degrees from Highline Community College and the University of Washington. Prior to her service as a state representative, Mia worked as a surgical assistant and business manager in the dental field for nearly 20 years. Mia is one of four generations of her family in the South King County area. She has an adult daughter, Alexis, who lives in Seattle.



MIRIAM POTOCKY

Miriam Potocky, PhD is a researcher at the IRC and a professor of social work at Florida International University. Her work focuses on the development, dissemination and implementation of evidence-based practices in resettlement. She is the author of *Best Practices for Social Work with Refugees and Immigrants*.



SARAH ROHRSCHEIDER

Sarah Rohrschneider brings a breadth of experience to her current role as the state advocacy officer for the U.S. South at the IRC.

From 2021 to 2024, she served as the assistant director for the Center for Security in Politics at UC Berkeley, created and directed by former Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano. Prior to her role as assistant director, Sarah served as a graduate student researcher for Napolitano and Dr. Daniel Sargent at the Goldman School of Public Policy, where she helped create UC Berkeley's first security policy course. Her professional journey highlights her penchant for public service, including her time as outreach coordinator for U.S. Rep. Donald S. Beyer Jr. (VA-08) and as a federal contractor at Accenture Federal Services, where she supported critical projects for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the U.S. Postal Service and the Department of the Interior. Sarah completed an AmeriCorps service year in 2017, during which she clocked over 1,700 hours of community service across Alabama. From 2014 to 2015, Sarah studied at St. Peter's College, the University of Oxford. She has a master's degree in global studies from UC Berkeley and a bachelor's degree in English from Barnard College.



UTAH STATE REPRESENTATIVE DANIEL N. JOHNSON

Dr. Dan Johnson grew up on a farm in eastern Nebraska. This is where he learned many of life's lessons,

especially the value of hard work. He is the first person in the generations of his family to graduate from college. Dan has several degrees from colleges and universities in Nebraska: a bachelor's degree from Peru State Teachers College, a master's degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, an educational specialist degree from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and a doctorate degree in educational leadership. Dan has been an educator for 50 years, including 42 years as an administrator. He served as the assistant superintendent for the Tooele County School District in Tooele, Utah, and retired in 2018 as the director of Edith Bowen Laboratory School in the College of Education and Human Services on the campus of Utah State University. Dan proudly represents the citizens of Logan in House District 3.

Dan has had the opportunity to speak at several state, regional and national conferences. Topics have ranged from effective leadership practices, parent partnership programs (Johns Hopkins University), and powerful teaching and learning strategies, to data-informed decision making. He has been a trainer for the Utah State Board of Education and led teams on site visits for school improvement. Dan has been the architect behind curriculum design that emphasized technology integration, and he created several programs that engaged students and parents in powerful experienced-based learning opportunities. In his career, Dan has been particularly interested in creating opportunities for students to form meaning from the experiences they have. He studied computer adaptive testing models that could be used to measure student growth and to simultaneously inform instruction by classroom teachers.

Dan has been the recipient of several awards, including Utah Principal of the Year, runner-up for National Principal of the Year, Governor's "Point of Light" for his volunteer service, the Utah Council of the International Reading Association "Reading Principal of the Year" and the Technology Leader of the Year in Utah. His contributions to education were recognized when he received the prestigious Jon M. Huntsman Award for Excellence in Education. Dan has been invited to the White House on two occasions to celebrate his contributions to education and to meet with federal officials.

Dan and his wife, Carol, have seven children. All of them have been educated in the public schools, colleges and universities of America. Note of interest: Dan and his wife have each run 50 marathons, including the Boston Marathon, where they both performed better than their qualifying times.



KENTUCKY STATE
REPRESENTATIVE
NIMA KULKARNI

In 2018, Nima Kulkarni became the first Indian immigrant to be elected in the history of the Kentucky Legislature. She represents the 40th District in Louisville, which includes the University of Louisville and Churchill Downs.

Since 2010, she has also managed her own immigration law practice, helping others achieve the American dream. Nima earned a bachelor's degree in English literature, a law degree and a MBA degree in entrepreneurship. She established the New Americans Initiative, a nonprofit dedicated to educating, engaging and empowering immigrants in our community.

As a legislator, Nima is focused on issues of economic, social, racial and environmental justice, and she has dedicated her time as a public servant to helping the most vulnerable Kentuckians. She has worked to move progressive legislation forward in the commonwealth and has gained bipartisan support for her bills—even in the superminority—including: a historic bill that ensures a fair and equitable judicial process for all Kentuckians; legislation that extends unemployment benefits to those experiencing domestic, sexual or stalking violence; legislation establishing a task force to study historically untapped populations to address workforce shortages; and legislation that would empower individuals with disabilities and improve their interactions with law enforcement.



PENNSYLVANIA STATE
REPRESENTATIVE
JOSEPH HOHENSTEIN

Joseph Hohenstein is the state representative for the 177th District in Pennsylvania, representing the Philadelphia neighborhoods where he grew up. He is also an immigration attorney, nationally renowned for his success in solving challenging cases. Joe's work focuses on keeping families united and on cutting-edge due process issues. When former President Trump signed the infamous travel ban in early 2017, Joe was part of the legal team that successfully sued the president to reunite a Syrian Christian family that was legally immigrating to our country but was ruled ineligible mid-flight. Joe also has legal experience in the nonprofit sector. In 1996, he received one of the first Independence Foundation Fellowships to work at Philadelphia VIP, where he began to develop a clinical immigration law program at Temple University Beasley School of Law, which he taught from 1997 through 2005. He served for years on the National Amicus Committee of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). In 2015, he received the Matthew Baxter Mentorship Award from the Philadelphia Chapter of AILA in recognition of his willingness to teach and guide students and colleagues in the intricacies of one of the most complex areas of U.S. law. In 2016, he received the Light of Liberty Award for pro bono service from the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center.

As state representative, he seeks to use his experience and skills to help make government work better for individual constituents. He is co-chair of the Welcoming PA Caucus, which focuses on advocating for immigrants and newcomers in the commonwealth.

Joe graduated from Earlham College with a degree in international studies in 1989. He graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1993 and passed the bar the same year.



ILLINOIS STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DAGMARA AVELAR

Dagmara Avelar is the state representative for the 85th House District, which she was first elected to represent in 2020. For over a decade, she has dedicated her life to advocating for working families, focusing particularly on projects addressing the barriers facing Illinois residents with low incomes or limited English proficiency.

Prior to becoming a state legislator, Dagmara led the biggest naturalization efforts in the state of Illinois: the New Americans Initiative. A community organizer at heart, she got involved at a young age in civic engagement efforts to get out the vote of disenfranchised voters in the southwest suburbs. She is a formerly undocumented DREAMer who naturalized and became a U.S. citizen in 2016.

During her first term in office, Dagmara hit the ground running by introducing legislation guided by constituents and leaders of the 85th District.

Her work included legislation to combat the opioid crisis, increase access and transparency in health care, and protect drinking water. She secured over \$100 million in funding for the areas of education, infrastructure, social services, small businesses and other industries. She is a member of the Restore, Reinvest, Renew (R3) board, which oversees the grant-making process of R3 funds in Illinois. She is also a member of the Task Force on Foster Youth Transitioning Out of Care. She is the House Chair of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus, and as previous co-chair of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation, she led the organization in the hiring of its first full-time executive director, advised on programming and collaborated on efforts for the foundation to raise over \$1 million at its 20th anniversary gala.

A proud graduate of the public school system, Avelar went to Bolingbrook High School and Northeastern Illinois University, and she is currently working on her master's in urban planning and policy and Policy at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

2024 SUMMIT

STATES LAY THE FOUNDATION 2024: EVERY POLICY HAS A STORY

What brings legislators together in the interest of protecting and supporting the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and refugees arriving in their communities? What is the story behind their commitment, and how has that story resulted in a program with bipartisan support in state legislatures around the country? In this year's **States Lay the Foundation Summit**, we will explore the stories that bring us together to introduce, advocate for, enact and implement legislation that supports the world's most vulnerable people in their journey to rebuild their lives in the United States. Audiences will hear from bipartisan legislators who have advanced measures in their states that welcome the persecuted and vulnerable, affirm and protect resettlement infrastructure and invest in the services that contribute to the integration of newly arrived refugees in their states and communities. From our guests, we will uncover what ignited their interest in this work and how this spark can translate to engaging incumbent or newly elected leaders in the time that will follow this pivotal election year.

State elected leaders are on the front lines of serving their communities. They have witnessed the impact of inconsistent federal policies coupled with the eagerness and determination of refugees who are rebuilding their lives. Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a report on the fiscal impact of refugees and asylees from 2005 to 2019. The findings confirm what we have long known to be true: Refugee resettlement is good for our communities and for our country. Across the nation, refugees are contributing billions in federal, state and local taxes while retaining billions in spending power to drive their local economies.

RESETTLEMENT

Kansas State Senator John Doll filed to introduce a resolution affirming welcome for refugees in the state. He will be accompanied by Ifrah Ihmed, who arrived as a refugee and is building her life in Garden City, Kansas.

New York State Senator Andrew Gounardes and Washington State Representative Mia Gregerson both introduced legislation to codify their states' commitments to the resettlement program. The Washington state bill was signed into law and takes effect this month.

INTEGRATION

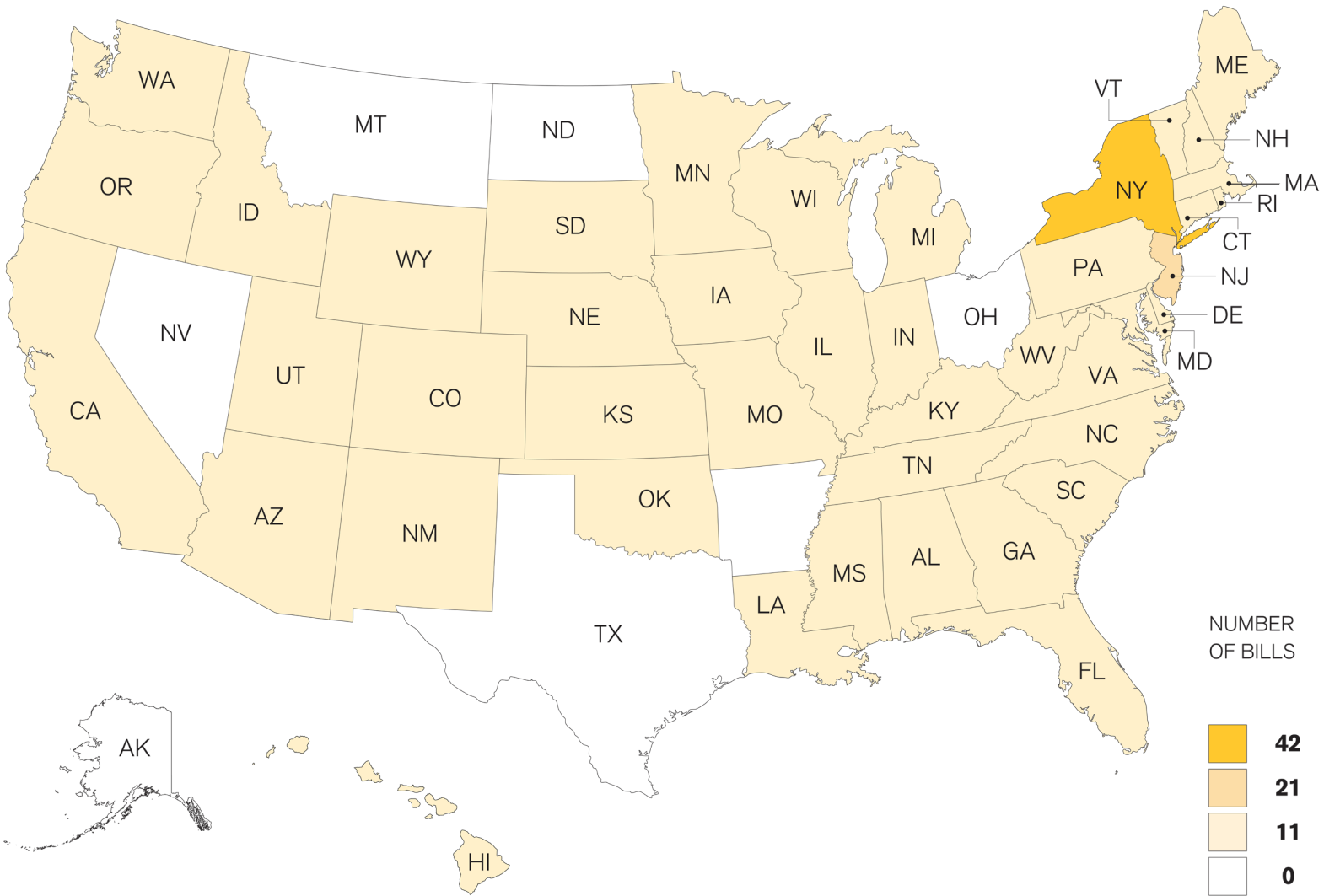
Utah State Representative Dan Johnson has introduced several measures during his time in public office that support the welcome and integration of refugee children into the school system.

Kentucky State Representative Nima Kulkarni's 2024 bill would create a task-force to make recommendations on providing effective workforce development for untapped talent, such as immigrants, in the state.

Pennsylvania State Representative Joseph Hohenstein cosponsored legislation in 2024 to create an Office of New Pennsylvanians, which would further the coordination among state government and impacted communities as well as the agencies that deliver services to them.

Illinois State Representative Dagmara Avelar's 2024 legislation creates the Division of Language Equity within the Governor's Office of New Americans, which will lead statewide efforts in implementing language equity and access policies for people with limited English proficiency.

2024 STATE LEGISLATIVE MAP



WELCOMING RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions are key messaging documents that legislative chambers can use to affirm their support and welcome for refugees and other new Americans. The following are examples from states that both reflect on the unique history of immigration to each state and affirm welcome for refugees who may yet arrive.

KANSAS

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION: CELEBRATING KANSAS'S HISTORY OF WELCOMING REFUGEES

Description: A Concurrent Resolution celebrating Kansas's rich history as a welcoming state for individuals fleeing persecution.

WHEREAS, as of 2023 the United Nations estimates there are over 36 million refugees in the world today, more than any other time since World War II, and nearly half of these refugees are children; people displaced from their home country who are unable to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, nationality, religion, political opinion, or membership in a particular group; and

WHEREAS, the United States participates in a resettlement program that is critical to global humanitarian efforts and reflects America's values, strengthens global security and alleviates some of the burden placed on frontline host countries; and

WHEREAS, refugees that enter the United States are among the most vetted travelers to enter this country and are subject to extensive screening checks including in-person interviews, biometric and biographic data checks, multiple interagency checks, medical screening and health requirements; and

WHEREAS, once refugees resettle in the United States, refugees contribute to their communities by starting businesses, paying taxes, and sharing their cultural traditions; these new residents are workers, students, entrepreneurs, parents, neighbors, and community leaders who contribute more than they consume in state-funded services including schooling and healthcare; and

WHEREAS, Kansas boasts a rich history of settlement, and welcoming diverse newcomers beginning thousands of years ago with the ancestors of indigenous communities and leading to those pioneers who relocated following the Homestead Act; with the state then welcoming and inviting African Americans after the end of the Civil War; who were then followed by German, Swedish, and Mexican immigrants making their way to Kansas to seek opportunities; and more recently with the arrival of Hmong refugees following the fall of Saigon to today's refugees and new Americans from Ukraine, Afghanistan, DRC, Cuba and so many other nations who are all seeking the freedom American's hold so dear, and a chance to contribute to the legacy and pride of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, refugees contribute enormously to the Kansas economy in various ways as members of the state's workforce, as homeowners, as business owners and entrepreneurs, as taxpayers, as consumers, and as essential workers filling gaps in Kansas workforce shortage strengthening the economy; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Legislature has warmly welcomed refugees and refugee serving organizations to the capitol, learning about the program, the culture, and showing welcome and support for these new Americans; and

RESOLVED, the state of Kansas celebrates its history as a welcoming state for refugee families and declares its support for the resettlement of refugees in Kansas and calls upon other local governments and communities to join them in supporting a stronger national effort to resettle the world's most vulnerable refugees.

UTAH

H.C.R. 9 CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CELEBRATING UTAH'S HISTORY OF WELCOMING REFUGEES

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, as of 2023, the United Nations estimates there were over 36 million refugees in the world, more than at any other time since World War II, and nearly half of these refugees are children;

WHEREAS, refugees are people displaced from their home country who are unable to return to that country due to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, nationality, religion, political opinion, or membership in a particular group;

WHEREAS, the United States participates in a resettlement program that is critical to global humanitarian efforts and reflects the United States' values, strengthens global security, and alleviates some of the burden placed on frontline host countries;

WHEREAS, refugees who enter the United States are among the most vetted individuals to enter this country and are subject to extensive screening checks including in-person interviews, biometric and biographic data checks, multiple interagency checks, and medical screenings;

WHEREAS, once refugees resettle in the United States, refugees contribute to their new communities by starting businesses, paying taxes, and sharing their cultural traditions;

WHEREAS, these new residents are workers, students, entrepreneurs, parents, neighbors, and community leaders who contribute more than they consume in state-funded services, including schooling and healthcare;

WHEREAS, Utah boasts a rich history of multicultural blending, dating back tens of thousands of years when the first people lived within the boundaries of the state, continuing into the 1700s when explorers from Spain and France ventured into the region, and later, when pioneers settled in Utah, it became a haven for those seeking religious freedom and an escape from persecution;

WHEREAS, over the years, the state has continued to be a beacon of welcome for families and individuals fleeing violence, with an acknowledgment of at least 106 different languages spoken by families throughout the state;

WHEREAS, refugees contribute enormously to Utah's economy as members of the workforce, as homeowners, as business owners and entrepreneurs, as taxpayers, as consumers, and as essential workers filling gaps in Utah's workforce shortage and strengthening the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the state of Utah has affirmed its support for refugee families in bipartisan, unanimous legislation in 2021, 2022, and 2023:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, celebrates Utah's history as a welcoming state for refugee families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor declare their support for the resettlement of refugees in Utah and call upon other local governments and communities to join in supporting a strong national effort to resettle the world's most vulnerable refugees.

CODIFYING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO RESETTLEMENT

Codifying a state's commitment to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) will strengthen protections against harmful political actions and ensure the programmatic resiliency and access for those individuals resettled to the state.

NEW YORK

S.6070: RELATES TO REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

The department shall establish a refugee resettlement program, to be administered by the bureau of refugee services housed within the department. The department may contract with public and/or private nonprofit agencies as provided in 8 U.S.C. § 1522(e) in order to provide the services to refugees described in this subdivision. The department shall submit the plan for such refugee resettlement program to the federal department of health and human services and shall act for the state in any negotiations relative to the submission and approval of such plan and make any arrangement which may be necessary to obtain and retain such approval. Provided, however, that the provisions of this paragraph shall not be contingent upon one hundred percent federal funding as described in paragraph (a) of this subdivision. The refugee resettlement program described in this subdivision may be funded from the federal and/or state government or governments, or political subdivisions thereof.

(c) The refugee resettlement program established in paragraph (b) of this subdivision shall have the core mission of directing resources to local public or private entities that assist refugees in:

- (i) achieving economic and social self-sufficiency;
- (ii) assisting victims of human trafficking; and
- (iii) assuring proper foster care for unaccompanied refugees and entrant minors.

(d) Such refugee resettlement program administered by the department shall partner with public or private entities which assist refugees in the provision or promotion of: civic and social engagement; mentoring services for youth; comprehensive case management; food, clothing, shelter, school supplies, or other basic needs; employment and training services; English language instruction; community school activities; temporary cash and medical assistance; programs to increase health literacy; programs to increase access to public and/or private health insurance; initial medical screenings and immunizations; programs designed to ease the transition of school-aged refugee children into elementary, middle, and high schools; support services for victims of human trafficking; social and supportive services for refugees aged sixty or older; foster care programs for unaccompanied refugee minors; and other social services programs created to meet other needs of refugees as such needs arise.

WASHINGTON

H.B.2368: ASSISTING REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

AN ACT Relating to assisting refugees and immigrants by describing the role of the office of refugee and immigrant assistance within the department of social and health services in administering federal funding regarding refugee support services and authorizing the office of refugee and immigrant assistance within the department of social and health services to administer services to immigrants;

and adding a new chapter to Title 74 RCW.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON: NEW SECTION.

Sec. 1. The purpose of this chapter is to establish the scope of refugee and immigrant assistance administered by the office of refugee and immigrant assistance within the department.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(2) "Federal act" means Title IV of the federal immigration and nationality act, 8

U.S.C. Sec. 1521 et seq. as amended, including any federal rules adopted pursuant to the federal act.

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2368 Passed Legislature - 2024 Regular Session State of Washington 68th Legislature 2024 Regular Session By House Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning (originally sponsored by Representatives Gregerson, Eslick, Thai, Low, Senn, Leavitt, Davis, Farivar, Nance, Reed, Doglio, Ramel, Simmons, Ormsby, Street, Goodman, Timmons, Pollet, and Santos) READ FIRST TIME 01/31/24, p. 1 SHB 2368.SL

(3) "Immigrant" means a person who has arrived in the United States and the state of Washington from another country seeking residence who is not a naturalized citizen.

(4) "Refugee" means a person admitted into the United States under section 207 of the immigration and nationality act and others who are eligible for federal refugee resettlement services under the federal act.

(5) "State plan" means the Washington state plan for refugee resettlement described in section 4 of this act.⁹

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The department shall coordinate statewide efforts to support the economic and social integration and basic needs of immigrants and refugees arriving and resettling in Washington. The department shall coordinate with local, state, and federal government agencies and other stakeholders.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. The department is designated as the lead state agency responsible for the development, review, and administration of the Washington state plan for refugee resettlement. The department shall submit the state plan to and seek approval from the federal office of refugee resettlement within the federal department of health and human services according to the federal act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. (1) The department shall provide refugee cash assistance, refugee medical assistance, and refugee support services in accordance with the federal act and the state plan.

(2) The refugee support services described in this section may include:

- (a) Employment services;
- (b) English language instruction;
- (c) Case management; and
- (d) Other services or assistance consistent with the federal act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. (1) The department may administer services to immigrants who are ineligible for federal services described in section 5 of this act.

(2) The department may contract with external entities, including community-based organizations, to provide the services authorized under this section. In contracting with community-based p. 2 SHB 2368.SL 1 organizations, the department must engage communities impacted to determine an equitable funding distribution and contracting process.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. The department may adopt rules in order to achieve the purposes of this chapter.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. Sections 1 through 7 of this act constitute a new chapter in Title 74 RCW.

WORKFORCE INTEGRATION

A concurrent resolution relating to the establishment of a Workforce Innovation Task Force to complete a study of current education and workforce development programs and provide recommendations on how to provide effective workforce development programs to facilitate the training and employment of historically untapped workforce populations in the Commonwealth.

KENTUCKY

H.C.R.79: CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKFORCE INNOVATION TASK FORCE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION relating to the establishment of a Workforce Innovation Task Force to complete a study of current education and workforce development programs and provide recommendations on how to provide effective workforce development programs to facilitate the training and employment of historically untapped workforce populations in the Commonwealth.

WHEREAS, Kentucky employers are reporting shortages of employees; and WHEREAS, the global pandemic has exacerbated challenges employers face in finding the talent they need and, as our economy recovers from the pandemic, Kentucky faces a looming worker shortage over the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, to address worker shortage, Kentucky will benefit from providing high quality, work-based learning for students and adults; and

WHEREAS, work-based learning allows youth and adults to explore new opportunities, build skills, and transition into new career pathways; and

WHEREAS, addressing language barriers through the alignment of education and employment can create immediate access to talent for employees; and

WHEREAS, these target populations include:

1. Individuals who are or were incarcerated;
2. Members of any household with an income that is not more than 150% of the federal poverty level, as determined by the most current federal poverty guidelines issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services;
3. Veterans;
4. Individuals with disabilities;
5. Individuals who have recently legally immigrated to the United States and reside in the Commonwealth;
6. Individuals who are English language learners or use English as a second language;
7. Individuals with low levels of literacy;
8. Individuals who reside in rural areas;
9. Individuals who are homeless;
10. Individuals with training and skills in a particular industry who lack resources to obtain required licenses to compete in the workforce; and
11. Youth; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has an economic interest in adding talent to its workforce that will benefit the employed individuals, the industries who employ these individuals, and the economy of the Commonwealth as a whole;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:

Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission is hereby directed to create the Workforce Innovation Task Force to conduct a comprehensive review of current education and workforce development programs and provide recommendations on how to identify, enhance, and expand effective workforce development programs to facilitate the training and employment of historically untapped workforce populations in the Commonwealth. The Workforce Innovation Task Force shall:

- (1) Identify strategies to attract and locate industries experiencing worker shortage;
- (2) Identify strategies to enhance recruitment and retention of workers in industries experiencing worker shortage;
- (3) Identify strategies to expand experiential, work-based learning opportunities for adults and youth in the target populations;
- (4) Identify strategies for closing the digital divide for disconnected Kentuckians to create new opportunities for participation in society and the economy;
- (5) Study information on current education and workplace development programs, and identify what programs provide resources to the target populations;
- (6) Gather information on work completed by other groups, states, and the federal government related to worker shortage in identified industries;
- (7) Make recommendations of additional programs that will address the identified needs of the target populations;
- (8) Study the pathways for obtaining certain in-demand occupational licenses and international credentials to take advantage of the global pool of skilled workers in Kentucky;
- (9) Accelerate and expand work that other state agencies have done to integrate new Americans and internationally trained professionals into the workforce;
- (10) Ensure English language learners have access to work-based learning, job training, and employment opportunities and the support they need for success in a career aligned English as a second language program and employment with workforce partners and employers;
- (11) Identify ways to ensure programs are coordinated in a way that maximizes participation for employers and employees; and
- (12) Accelerate the adoption of career-aligned English as a second language classes into employer and work-based learning programs and training programs for reskilling, upskilling, and next skilling.

Section 2. The Workforce Innovation Task Force shall be composed of the following members, with final membership of the task force being subject to the consideration and approval of the Legislative Research Commission.

(1) Four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, and one of whom shall be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as a cochair of the task force; and

(2) Four members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, and one of whom shall be designated by the President of the Senate as a co-chair of the task force.

Section 3. The Workforce Innovation Task Force shall meet at least three times during the 2024 Interim and shall submit its findings, legislative recommendations, or a memorandum to the Legislative Research Commission no later than December 1, 2024. If legislative recommendations are submitted, the Legislative Research Commission may refer the recommendations to the appropriate committee or committees of jurisdiction in advance of the 2025 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

Section 4. Provisions of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to designate a study completion date.

EDUCATION & LANGUAGE ACCESS

Requires the State Board of Education (state board) to allocate funding to local education agencies for instructional materials and licenses used for English language learner instruction and support; and requires the state board to provide to the Education Interim Committee a funding projection for annual and one-time costs associated with English language learner support.

UTAH

H.C.R.79: CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKFORCE INNOVATION TASK FORCE

Section 1. Section 53F-2-419 is amended to read:

53F-2-419. English language learner software.

(1) Subject to legislative appropriations, the state board shall:

(a) allocate the appropriation of funds under this section to an LEA for English language learner software and hardware instructional materials and licenses for English language learner instruction and support; and

(b) make the allocation described in Subsection (1)(a) in proportion to the LEA's share of statewide English language learner students. (2) An LEA shall use an allocation the LEA receives under Subsection (1) to select a vendor and pay for software licenses for software used for English language learner instruction.

Section 2. Section 53G-7-223 is amended to read:

53G-7-223. Policy supporting students learning English, parents, and families.

(1) An LEA shall adopt a policy addressing the LEA's communication and assistance to students learning English, their parents, and their families.

(2) The policy shall provide:

(a) guidance on the appropriate use of an interpreter and recommended interpreter qualifications, including certification or education-specific experience, for the following:

(i) classroom activities;

(ii) impromptu and scheduled office visits or phone calls;

(iii) enrollment or registration processes;

(iv) the IEP process;

(v) student educational and occupational planning processes;

(vi) fee waiver processes;

(vii) parent engagement activities;

(viii) student disciplinary meetings;

(ix) school community councils;

(x) school board meetings;

(xi) other school or LEA activities; and

(xii) other interactions between the parents of a student learning English and educational staff;

(b) guidance on the appropriate use of a translator or interpreter for the translation or interpretation of:

- (i) registration or enrollment materials, including home language surveys and English learning program entrance and exit notifications;
- (ii) assignments and accompanying materials;
- (iii) report cards or other progress reports;
- (iv) student discipline policies and procedures;
- (v) grievance procedures and notices of rights and nondiscrimination;
- (vi) parent or family handbooks; and
- (vii) requests for parent permission; and

(c) any other guidance, including guidance on when oral interpretation is preferable to written translation, to improve instruction and assistance by teachers, counselors, and administrators to a student learning English and the student's parents and family.

(3) The state board shall provide to an LEA notification of LEA requirements described in this section, a model of the policy described in this section, and guidance and technical assistance regarding existing requirements in relevant statute, administrative rule, and federal law.

(4) On or before July 1, 2023, the state board shall provide to the Education Interim Committee a funding projection for annual and one-time costs associated with an LEA's implementation of the policy described in this section.

ILLINOIS

H.B.5387 CREATES THE LANGUAGE EQUITY AND ACCESS ACT

Creates the Language Equity and Access Act. Creates the Division of Language Equity and Access within the Governor's Office of New Americans to lead statewide efforts in the implementation of the State's language equity and access policy for limited English proficient persons and to ensure meaningful access to information, services, programs, and activities offered by State agencies and other covered entities, including departments, offices, commissions, boards, or other agencies, for limited English proficient persons. Provides that the Division shall provide expertise and monitor implementation of the Act. Provides that the Division shall work with State agencies and covered entities and use other available State resources, such as the Office of New Americans, the Office of Equity, and the Department of Human Services Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Services, to ensure that the State compiles available U.S. Census data on languages used across the State, including the identification of geographic patterns and trend data. Provides that each State agency and covered entity shall prepare a language access plan that will describe its limited English proficient service population, the policy and programmatic actions it will implement and the metrics that will be used to measure compliance. Provides that the Division will prepare and submit a Language Equity and Access Compliance Report to the General Assembly by January 1, 2026 and annually thereafter. Provides that the Governor's Office shall provide administrative and other support to the Governor's Office of New Americans and its Division of Language Equity and Access. Defines terms.

OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS

Offices of New Americans serve as a critical link in state government to ensure that new Americans may equitably access state services. It also serves as a critical link for state agencies to engage with impacted communities.

PENNSYLVANIA

H.B.1630: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF NEW PENNSYLVANIANS AND PROVIDING FOR ITS POWERS AND DUTIES; AND ESTABLISHING THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO OFFICE OF NEW PENNSYLVANIANS AND PROVIDING FOR ITS POWERS, DUTIES AND MEMBERSHIP.

Section 101. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Office of New Pennsylvanians Act.

Section 102. Legislative policy and declarations.

The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

- (1) According to the United States Census Bureau, in 2018, Pennsylvania ranked 42nd among the 50 states in population growth since 2010, increasing only 0.86%.
- (2) In 2019, Pennsylvania's 893,167 foreign-born individuals comprised 7% of this Commonwealth's population, an increase of 75.7% since 2000, compared to only 1.2% growth in the United-States-born population.
- (3) Throughout this Commonwealth's history, immigrants have played a critical role in this Commonwealth's economic, cultural and political growth and success.
- (4) Policies that promote the attraction, retention and inclusion of immigrants and refugees will help enhance this Commonwealth's economy and diversity, thereby improving the lives of all residents and helping to remove barriers that may undermine immigrants' full potential.
- (5) Immigrants currently fill skilled positions throughout this Commonwealth's economy and are a vital part of this Commonwealth's economy and tax base. In 2019, immigrant business owners in this Commonwealth generated more than \$1,700,000,000 in business revenue and immigrant spending power increased to \$24,900,000,000.
- (6) 40% of immigrants in this Commonwealth have a bachelor of arts, bachelor of science or graduate degree, compared to 32% of United-States-born Pennsylvanians.
- (7) Organizations are providing leadership in this Commonwealth's immigrant integration efforts through programs and services that connect newcomers and longtime Pennsylvanians to economic opportunity.
- (8) It is essential for this Commonwealth's future that skilled, energetic and entrepreneurial immigrants are attracted, retained and integrated. Immigrants help to bolster this Commonwealth's economy and strengthen the social, civic and cultural fabric.
- (9) States enforce and provide for many services, licenses and educational and economic opportunities that make it imperative to coordinate the work of state agencies, leverage relationships with partner and nonprofit organizations, and recommend policies and programs that support immigrant inclusion. Immigrants on the path to full civic and economic participation benefit from a welcoming environment and policies that:
 - (i) Increase access to English language instruction and workforce development and employment.
 - (ii) Reduce exploitation and fraud against immigrants.
 - (iii) Connect new Pennsylvanians to legal services and assist on the path to naturalization.
 - (iv) Provide individuals with meaningful access to Commonwealth resources and opportunities regardless of English proficiency.

(10) In recognition of these facts and in promotion of the stated goals, the creation of the Office of New Pennsylvanians will help improve the lives and economic prosperity of immigrants and Pennsylvanians generally.

Section 103. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Advisory committee.” The Advisory Committee to Office of New Pennsylvanians.

“Department.” The Department of Community and Economic Development of the Commonwealth.

“Office.” The Office of New Pennsylvanians.

“Secretary.” The Secretary of Community and Economic Development of the Commonwealth.

CHAPTER 3

OFFICE OF NEW PENNSYLVANIANS

Section 301. Establishment of office.

The Office of New Pennsylvanians is established within the department.

Section 302. Powers and duties of office.

The office shall:

- (1) Respond to inquiries from Commonwealth agencies, the media, immigrant-serving organizations and the public about immigration issues in this Commonwealth.
- (2) Serve as point of contact for Commonwealth licensing boards and the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs.
- (3) Serve as an information clearinghouse for Commonwealth agencies on immigration-related policy issues and coordinate among agencies as appropriate.
- (4) Analyze economic, demographic and other trends impacting immigrants in this Commonwealth and make policy recommendations.
- (5) Ensure that the Commonwealth is gathering relevant data to inform the Commonwealth's policy making on immigrant issues.
- (6) Develop strategies to attract, retain and integrate immigrants into this Commonwealth.
- (7) Convene stakeholders in business development and international trade promotion programs to increase capacity to utilize immigrant contributors.
- (8) Disseminate information to new and prospective immigrant residents of this Commonwealth who wish to invest capital, launch businesses or apply their skills in this Commonwealth.
- (9) Convene municipal officials to boost peer learning on increasing immigration in cities of the third class struggling with population loss and economic decline.
- (10) Convene college and university officials to foster learning on strategies for immigrant and international student retention.
- (11) Provide matching grant funds for high-quality immigration and economic development programs that can demonstrate corporate or philanthropic investment.
- (12) Disseminate information about available services to assist new and prospective immigrant residents of this Commonwealth on the path to naturalization.
- (13) Disseminate information about legal services available to new Pennsylvanians in civil legal matters, including housing, family, immigration and other matters.
- (14) Disseminate information about English language instruction and resources available to immigrant residents of this Commonwealth.
- (15) Convene stakeholders in Commonwealth agencies, immigrant-serving organizations and the public to identify and reduce exploitation and fraud against immigrants.
- (16) Convene stakeholders in Commonwealth agencies, immigrant-serving organizations and the public to promote race, sex, gender, age, income and LGBTQ equity and to identify and reduce inequities.
- (17) Develop strategies to provide immigrants with meaningful access to Commonwealth resources and opportunities regardless of their level of English proficiency.
- (18) Communicate with Federal and international stakeholders to support the resettlement process for refugees who have been identified for resettlement in this Commonwealth.
- (19) Evaluate the success of activities and adjust courses as appropriate.

CHAPTER 5
 ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO
 OFFICE OF NEW PENNSYLVANIANS

Section 501. Establishment of advisory committee.

The Advisory Committee to Office of New Pennsylvanians is established within the office and shall serve in an advisory capacity to the office in matters regarding immigrants in this Commonwealth. The advisory committee shall be staffed and administered by the office.

Section 502. Membership.

(a) Public official members.--The advisory committee shall consist of the following members, who shall serve by virtue of their public position:

- (1) The secretary or a designee.
- (2) The Secretary of Administration or a designee.
- (3) The Secretary of Education or a designee.
- (4) The Secretary of Health or a designee.
- (5) The Secretary of Human Services or a designee.
- (6) The Secretary of Labor and Industry or a designee.
- (7) The Secretary of Transportation or a designee.
- (8) The Commissioner of Pennsylvania State Police or a designee.
- (9) The Attorney General or a designee from the Office of the Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection.

(b) Nongovernmental members.--The advisory committee shall consist of nongovernmental members to be appointed by the Governor as follows:

- (1) Three members from an organization that attracts, retains and integrates immigrants into this Commonwealth's economic, cultural and civic affairs. The advisory committee shall establish a minimum of three regions within this Commonwealth for the purpose of appointing one member from each region.
- (2) One member from a Pennsylvania chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.
- (3) One member from an institution of higher education who has a primary focus on immigration issues.
- (4) One member from the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry or a similar local advocate for economic improvement.
- (5) One member with expertise in promoting language access plans.
- (6) One member from an agency focused on providing English language instruction to speakers of other languages.
- (7) One member from the Pennsylvania banking sector.
- (8) One member from a workforce training agency.
- (9) One member from the health care sector.
- (10) One member from an agency working to increase immigrants' access to health care services.
- (11) One member from a human services agency.
- (12) One member from a refugee resettlement agency.
- (13) One member from an agency focused on working with immigrants in matters of tenants' rights.

(c) Voting.--

- (1) All members appointed shall hold voting privileges on all matters brought for consideration before the advisory committee.
- (2) A simple majority of members with current appointments to the advisory committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. An action adopted by the majority of the members present at a meeting in which there is a quorum shall be deemed to be an act of the advisory committee.

- (d) Terms.--
- (1) The terms of the members under subsection (a) shall be concurrent with their holding of the public office.
 - (2) A member appointed under subsection (b) shall serve a three-year term as long as they represent the interest of the membership class for which they were appointed and shall serve until a successor is appointed.
- (e) Chairperson.--The secretary shall serve as chairperson of the advisory committee.
- (f) Expenses of members.--Members of the advisory committee shall receive no compensation for their services. Members who are not employees of State government shall be reimbursed at established Commonwealth rates for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties on the advisory committee.
- Section 503. Powers and duties of advisory committee.
- (a) General rule.--The advisory committee shall:
- (1) Make recommendations to the Governor and the secretary on policies, procedures, regulations and legislation to attract, retain and integrate immigrants into this Commonwealth's society.
 - (2) Serve as the Governor's liaison to new Pennsylvanians on policies, procedures, regulations and legislation that affect immigrants, in order to ensure that State government is accessible, accountable and responsive to the needs of immigrants.
 - (3) Serve as a resource to all departments, commissions and agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction to ensure that government entities are cognizant of the needs of immigrants and that the entities' respective services and programs are accessible to immigrants.
 - (4) Work with the office to monitor the practices of Commonwealth agencies relating to the attraction, retention and integration of immigrants in order to maximize the efficiency and accessibility to State government.
 - (5) Perform other duties as the Governor and secretary may assign in planning for services and programs for immigrants.
- (b) Studies and reports.--The advisory committee may conduct studies and issue reports upon request and as necessary on issues affecting immigrants in this Commonwealth.
- (c) Public hearings.--The advisory committee shall conduct at least one public hearing each year to receive testimony and public comments on improving the attraction, retention and integration of immigrants in this Commonwealth.
- (d) Construction.--Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the advisory committee from establishing ad hoc work groups or local committees to assist in research and other duties necessary to carry out the mission of the office.

CHAPTER 7

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 701. Effective date.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

STATES LAY THE FOUNDATION

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises and helps people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover and gain control of their future. Join the thousands of IRC supporters who have called their representatives, written letters, shared our campaigns or otherwise mobilized to advocate for change in their communities and worldwide.

<https://www.rescue.org/takeaction>

