COLORADO
Governor Jared Polis

December 16, 2019

Secretary Michael R. Pompeo   Secretary Alex M. Azar II
US Department of State   US Department of Health and Human Services
2201 C Street, NW   200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20520   Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Pompeo and Secretary Azar:

I am writing in response to your Executive Order on Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement dated September 26, 2019. I would like to assure you that Colorado will continue to assist and resettle more refugees in our communities as long as people around the world are displaced from their home countries.

Since 1980, Colorado has welcomed individuals and families fleeing persecution, war, and violence from all over the world through the United States Refugee Admissions Program. Having a robust refugee program ensures that we are upholding our American values of humanitarianism, freedom, and opportunity. Not only is investing in refugees the compassionate and humane thing to do, refugees contribute to our economy in ways that benefit all Coloradans. For every dollar Colorado invests in refugees, we receive a $1.23 return on investment in tax revenue, and four new Colorado jobs are created for every refugee who is resettled in our State.

I would like to assure you that Colorado is committed to refugee resettlement and is eager to assist and support refugees' successful integration into our communities. Last year, on a bipartisan basis, the Colorado State Legislature passed Senate Bill 19-230, which codifies Colorado's Refugee Services Program. This law demonstrates our State's commitment to refugee resettlement, and I am proud to reinforce Colorado's commitment by submitting this consent letter.

Because our State understands the benefits that the refugee program and refugees bring to our nation and local communities, I consent to continue our refugee resettlement program in Colorado. I understand my written consent on behalf of the State of Colorado will be publicly released by the Department of State.

Sincerely,

Jared Polis
Governor