Resolution: 214
(I-23)

Introduced by: Medical Student Section

Subject: Humanitarian Efforts to Resettle Refugees

Referred to: Reference Committee B

Whereas, “refugee” is defined in the Immigration and Nationality Act as an individual experiencing persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion; and

Whereas, the US consistently admits fewer refugees than its cap, leading to 5,000 to 40,000 unallocated refugees; and

Whereas, a record 29 million refugees are expected in 2023, including 14 million children; and

Whereas, over a 20-year period, refugees in the US ages 18 to 45 pay on average $21,000-$43,707 more in taxes than they receive in benefits; and

Whereas, refugees in general contribute $21 billion in taxes annually, including to Social Security and Medicare, offsetting the costs our aging population; and

Whereas, analyses from Ohio, Michigan, and Minnesota demonstrate how refugees produce billions of dollars in economic activity annually and create thousands of jobs; and

Whereas, 77% of refugees are working age, as opposed to the 39.7% of the US-born population and male refugees participate in the labor force at higher rates than US males; and

Whereas, under 3% of refugees return to their country of origin, and 84% of long-term refugees make the US their home by taking steps to become citizens; and

Whereas, when annual refugee admissions decreased 86% between 2016-2020, the 295,000 person gap actually harmed the US economy by nearly $10 billion annually; and

Whereas, decreased resettlement caps and worsening backlogs delay family reunification and leave people displaced for decades, remaining indefinitely in refugee camps; and

Whereas, forced displacement and restrictions on refugee admissions result in distinct chronic medical and psychiatric phenomena and generational trauma; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association support increases and oppose decreases to the annual refugee admissions cap in the United States. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than $1,000

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REFERENCES

8. Clemens MA. The Economic and Fiscal Effects on the United States from Reduced Numbers of Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Published online 2022.

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

D-65.984 Humanitarian and Medical Aid Support to Ukraine

Our AMA will advocate for: (1) continuous support of organizations providing humanitarian missions and medical care to Ukrainian refugees in Ukraine, at the Polish-Ukrainian border, in nearby countries, and/or in the US; (2) an early implementation of mental health measures, including suicide prevention efforts, and address war-related trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder when dealing with Ukrainian refugees with special attention to vulnerable populations including but not limited to young children, mothers, pregnant women, and the elderly; and (3) educational measures to enhance the understanding of war-related trauma in war survivors and promote broad protective factors (e.g., financial, employment, housing, and food stability) that can improve adjustment and outcomes for war-affected people, particularly when applied to vulnerable categories of people. [Res. 017, A-22]