

**As Introduced**

**134th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2021-2022**

**S. C. R. No. 6**

**Senators Maharath, Craig**

**Cosponsors: Senators Thomas, Yuko, Antonio**

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**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To commend refugee communities in Ohio.

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**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in 2019, 79.5 million displaced people were forced from their homes globally, more than any time in recorded history, including 26 million refugees; and

WHEREAS, The UNHCR states that refugees are people who have fled their country because they have a well-founded fear of persecution due to their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group; and

WHEREAS, The UNHCR defines resettlement as the transfer of refugees from an asylum country to another state that has agreed to admit them and grant them permanent residence; this occurs when refugees cannot return to their home country and live in perilous situations or have specific needs that cannot be addressed in the country where they initially sought protection; and

WHEREAS, Resettlement to the United States is available only for those who demonstrate the greatest and most immediate need for protection and takes place only after eligible refugees

undergo a rigorous selection, security vetting, and medical 20  
screening process; and 21

WHEREAS, Ohio is home to a diverse population of refugees 22  
and immigrants who have enhanced the economic vitality and 23  
cultural richness of this state; independent research conducted 24  
on behalf of the Refugee Services Collaborative of Greater 25  
Cleveland estimated that in 2016, refugees generated a total 26  
economic impact of \$82.2 million in spending in the Cleveland 27  
area alone; and 28

WHEREAS, In addition to the benefits refugees provide to 29  
the state of Ohio, the U.S. Department of State recently 30  
reported that a robust refugee admissions program is critical to 31  
foreign policy interests and national security objectives; and 32

WHEREAS, Ohio has been an example of a hospitable and 33  
welcoming place to all newcomers, where the contributions of 34  
everyone are celebrated and valued, and residents of Ohio aspire 35  
to live up to the highest ideals of acceptance and equality by 36  
treating newcomers with decency and respect, building a vibrant 37  
community for all; now therefore be it 38

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 39  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, commend refugee communities in 40  
Ohio for their many contributions to the beauty and richness of 41  
Ohio's diversity and for their work to make this state a place 42  
where all are welcome, accepted, and appreciated; and be it 43  
further 44

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 45  
authenticated copies of this resolution to the Office of Refugee 46  
Services in the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to be 47  
distributed to Ohio refugee resettlement agencies, on behalf of 48  
refugee communities in Ohio, as an expression of the General 49  
Assembly's admiration for the importance of these communities to 50

the state of Ohio; and be it further	51
RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly	52
authenticated copies of this resolution to the news media of	53
Ohio.	54