

1                   **HOUSE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HUMANE RESPONSE**  
2                                   **TO REFUGEE CRISIS**  
3                                   2019 GENERAL SESSION  
4                                   STATE OF UTAH

5                   **Chief Sponsor: Jennifer Dailey-Provost**

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7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9                   This House resolution urges a humane response to the immigration crisis at the  
10 U.S.-Mexico border.

11 **Highlighted Provisions:**

12                   This resolution:

- 13                   ▶ recognizes the plight of millions of people who fled their country seeking relief
- 14 from civil conflict or other hardships; and
- 15                   ▶ opposes separating children from their families at the U.S.-Mexico border.

16 **Special Clauses:**

17                   None

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19 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the state of Utah:*

20                   WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice has adopted a zero tolerance policy toward  
21 individuals apprehended at the U.S.-Mexico border, which calls for the criminal prosecution of  
22 all migrants entering the United States outside of ports of entry;

23                   WHEREAS, the effects of this policy have been costly, unnecessarily punitive, and  
24 harmful to family units;

25                   WHEREAS, on June 19, 2018, officials confirmed, in compliance with this policy, that  
26 2,342 children had been separated from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border between May 5  
27 and June 9, 2018 (an average of 65 children each day);



28 WHEREAS, it has been reported that children have been held at the U.S.-Mexico  
29 border in unsanitary and overcrowded conditions beyond the legally mandated 72-hour period;

30 WHEREAS, many of the affected families are fleeing violence in their home countries  
31 and it is inhumane to punish them for seeking asylum in the United States;

32 WHEREAS, immigrants claiming refugee status have a right under U.S. law to due  
33 process and the United Nations has taken a position that the zero tolerance policy violates  
34 international law;

35 WHEREAS, the zero tolerance policy that has separated children from their families  
36 has threatened the moral core of our nation;

37 WHEREAS, forced family separation and the intentional infliction of injury on children  
38 are reprehensible and contrary to American values;

39 WHEREAS, Utah supports, values, and respects immigrants regardless of their  
40 immigration status;

41 WHEREAS, Utah believes that families, including immigrant families, are a core and  
42 vital building block of the community;

43 WHEREAS, Utah believes in the words of Emma Lazarus, etched on a plaque at the  
44 Statue of Liberty, Mother of Exiles, "Give me your tired, your poor... Your huddled masses  
45 yearning to breathe free... Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me...";

46 WHEREAS, Utah is a state founded and populated by individuals fleeing violence and  
47 persecution, and consequently has a rich history of being a place of refuge;

48 WHEREAS, Utah recognizes that children growing up without their parents suffer  
49 lasting negative impacts on their development and future success;

50 WHEREAS, the long-term negative psychological effects of family separation have  
51 significant and long-term consequences;

52 WHEREAS, various private, public, and faith communities have a long standing  
53 commitment to supporting policies that encourage keeping families whole; and

54 WHEREAS, Utah has a long and rich history of prioritizing policies that keep families  
55 intact and healthy;

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representative of the state  
57 of Utah recognizes with great concern and compassion the plight of millions of people around  
58 the world who have fled their homes seeking relief from civil conflict or other hardships.

59           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Utah supports a humane response to the  
60 immigration crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border.

61           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Utah affirms the rights of all families, regardless of  
62 immigration status to be together and strongly opposes separating children from their families  
63 at the U.S.-Mexico border.

64           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to members of the  
65 Utah congressional delegation, the President of the United States, U.S. Department of Justice,  
66 U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Governor of this state.