

A RESOLUTION recognizing Refugee Day at the Capitol.

WHEREAS, more than 25,000 refugees have made Kentucky their new home over the last 10 years after fleeing persecution and violence in their homelands; and

WHEREAS, community and faith-based organizations in Louisville, Lexington, Bowling Green, and Owensboro continue to welcome refugees arriving in Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, refugees come to Kentucky with the promise of freedom, hope, and opportunity in a new country and become contributing members in our communities; and

WHEREAS, these new Kentuckians are workers, students, business owners, parents, neighbors, and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, refugees are able to become naturalized citizens and voters after living in the United States for five years; and

WHEREAS, no individuals should be discriminated against because of their natural origin; and

WHEREAS, all persons, including those new to our state, should be afforded the opportunity to participate in the democratic process;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The House of Representatives does hereby recognize March 16, 2016, as Refugee Day at the Capitol in order to promote an increased awareness of the refugee program and the contributions it makes to our state.

➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Representative Mary Lou Marzian for delivery.