

1 2015 RES-291
2 SUPPORTING THE WELCOME OF SYRIAN REFUGEES
3 TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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5 The world is facing a refugee crisis of enormous proportions as a consequence of the armed
6 conflicts in the Middle East. Over nine million Syrians have reportedly been displaced, nearly
7 half to other countries. The United States of America has received 1,500 refugees and intends
8 to receive an additional 10,000, but this pales to the number of refugees. This also pales in
9 comparison to what other countries are doing. Germany is predicted to take in up to 800,000
10 refugees. Surrounding countries like Egypt and Turkey have taken in millions. The national
11 government can do more than it has done, and is doing, to help ameliorate this crisis.
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13 The Statue of Liberty states, at its base, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses
14 yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the
15 homeless, tempest-tossed to me." Accepting refugees is in line with past United States policies.
16 The U.S. has accepted hundreds of thousands of refugees in the past from countries like Iraq,
17 Vietnam, and Kosovo.
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19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors calls upon
20 the Federal Government to accept a significant number of refugees from the conflicts in the
21 Middle East, and calls upon the President and the Congress to take all actions necessary to
22 help alleviate the present humanitarian crisis.
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors states its support for
25 Syrian refugees and all refugees of war and violence to call Dane County their home.
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27 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be given to United States
28 Representative Mark Pocan, United States Senator Tammy Baldwin, and United States Senator
29 Ron Johnson.