

2022 -- H 8242

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

THANKING AND COMMENDING THE AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND GENEROUS  
RHODE ISLANDERS WHO ARE ASSISTING THE HUMANITARIAN AFGHAN RELIEF  
EFFORTS IN RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Craven, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, McEntee, Tanzi,  
Ajello, Shallcross Smith, and Cortvriend

Date Introduced: May 11, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan has left thousands of civilians dead  
2 and hundreds of thousands forced to flee their homes, with families, communities, and livelihoods  
3 in constant peril; and

4           WHEREAS, Globally, humanitarian assistance began in an effort to provide for the wave  
5 of internal displacement and evacuations as Afghan people with no access to safe water, shelter,  
6 or food, sought safety for themselves and their families; and

7           WHEREAS, In October of 2021, Rhode Island welcomed its first family of Afghan  
8 refugees and continued preparations in anticipation of the need to resettle approximately 250  
9 evacuees; and

10           WHEREAS, A growing list of agencies and organizations have contributed to these  
11 altruistic efforts including Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island, Catholic Social Services  
12 through the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence, and the Rhode Island Foundation, who in  
13 partnership with the Governor's Office, established Afghan Relief RI to help meet the most urgent  
14 needs of newly-arrived evacuees; and

15           WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Foundation has raised nearly \$1.5 million to provide for  
16 Afghan evacuees via the Refugee Relief Fund which is distributed to the resettlement agencies,  
17 Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island and Catholic Social Services, to provide housing,  
18 food and transportation; and

19           WHEREAS, This year, in addition to its extraordinary efforts on behalf of Afghan

1 evacuees, Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island is marking one hundred years of work  
2 "to empower the most vulnerable among us through wraparound programs and services helping  
3 those in need overcome educational, cultural, economic, and language barriers" with its  
4 Centennial Celebration; and

5 WHEREAS, In addition, the Governor's Office and the Rhode Island Department of  
6 Human Services is working to support the efforts of local individuals and groups such as Task  
7 Force Kingston who have assisted the Jelani Family and Task Force Wickford who have been  
8 working with the Noori Family and have volunteered myriad time and effort to helping these  
9 families; and

10 WHEREAS, To date, Rhode Island's collaborative efforts have helped to welcome,  
11 resettle, and support over 300 Afghan refugees; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
13 thanks the agencies, organizations, and generous Rhode Islanders who have and continue to assist  
14 the humanitarian Afghan relief efforts in our State; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
16 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Kathy Cloutier, Executive Director, Dorcas  
17 International Institute of Rhode Island, James Jahnz, Catholic Charities and Social Ministry, Neil  
18 Steinberg, Director of the Rhode Island Foundation, Task Force Kingston, and Task Force  
19 Wickford.

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