

MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION NO. 88-82

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
REFUGEE ACT OF 1980 REAUTHORIZATION

WHEREAS, Public Law 96-212, "The Refugee Act of 1980" as amended revised procedures for the admission of refugees into the United States, and, provided the basis for the provision of assistance to refugees to enable resettlement; and,

WHEREAS, the law provided uniform federal program of cash and medical assistance to eligible refugees, and amendments have identified specific states and counties which are most highly impacted by federal refugee resettlement policies and have thus been provided targeted federal assistance to offset local costs of the federal resettlement policy; and,

WHEREAS, the federal government in exercising its humanitarian concern to respond to the needs of people subject to persecution in their homelands, continues to make resettlement decisions resulting in continued relocation of refugees to specific localities in our country; and the states and counties have accepted these federal decisions and taken responsibility for the integration of refugees into society; and,

WHEREAS, recent federal Gramm-Rudman/Continuing Resolution budgetary decisions have resulted in the transfer of costs of health, welfare, educational, job preparation, and social adjustment services for refugees from the federal government to states and counties; and,

WHEREAS, Public Law 96-212, "The Refugee Act", as amended now expires September 30, 1988, which would result in states and counties being responsible for costs associated with provision of essential services required by refugees.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mariposa County, California, does call on Congress to reauthorize the Refugee Act and continue the federal funding obligation for national cash and medical assistance, and continue to provide impacted counties with social services and targeted assistance funding which will enable resettlement adjustment and promote self-sufficiency for refugees.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mariposa County makes specific request: That the federal government continue responsibility for funding service programs for as long as the federal government resettles Southeast Asian refugees; that cash and medical assistance eligibility (including the Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) program) be thirty-six (36) months; that Refugee Employment Services (RESS) and Targeted Assistance Programs (TAP) be continued indefinitely; that CMA, RESS and TAP appropriation limit language be deleted; that federal fiscal year 1986 funding commitment levels be maintained; that formulas for distribution of funds should allocate to highly impacted counties, considering the number of refugees on all public assistance programs; that maximum local flexibility be built into planning, service delivery and utilization of funds within the Refugee Act; and that ongoing coordination occur between the Federal State Department, Health and Human Services Agency and impacted states and counties.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of March, 1988, by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, a political subdivision of the State of California, by the following vote:

AYES: BAGGETT, DALTON, ERICKSON, RADANOVICH, TABER

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAINED: NONE

ATTEST: 
ERIC J. ERICKSON, Chairman
Board of Supervisors


MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:


JEFFREY G. GREEN, County Counsel