

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 30, 2023

The Honorable Greg Gianforte
Governor
State of Montana
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I am writing to ask for your support in petitioning the federal government to suspend sending Afghan migrants to Billings. The city of Billings, its people, businesses, and schools are not prepared to accept large numbers of foreign migrants. The federal government should substantially reduce or zero-out the number of migrants they are sending to Billings and ensure that Montanans are prepared and willing before relocating any migrants. As Governor of Montana, I believe you are uniquely suited to voice these concerns.

In early October, I sent a letter to Robin Dunn Marcos, the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement. My letter notes the report that at least 115 refugees from Afghanistan, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Honduras will be placed in Billings. As you know, the decision was not made by you or the State Legislature but instead by unelected bureaucrats in the Biden Administration working in cahoots with left-wing Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The people of Montana had no opportunity to weigh in and raise justified concerns. The last time migrants were resettled in Montana, an Afghan man raped a young woman.¹ This is yet another example of the Biden Administration disrespecting the people of Montana. When my office spoke with local officials this Fall, even those who were supportive of welcoming these migrants said they didn't know how many migrants were coming, where they were coming from, and noted that the schools are already at capacity.

I am sure you agree that such decisions should be made by the people of Montana, not unelected officials in the Biden Administration and ideologically driven NGOs. Recently, you showed great leadership in leading Republican governors in demanding that President Biden provide accurate information on who is entering the country illegally, where they are relocating, the status of their asylum application, and whether they are being deported.² I welcome any support you can lend in the issue at hand now. Anything you can do to help me in the fight to protect the people of Montana is greatly needed and appreciated.

Sincerely,



Matthew M. Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress

¹ <https://montanataalks.com/afghani-humanitarian-parolee-pleads-not-guilty-to-rape-charge/>

² https://governor.mt.gov/_docs/Joint-Governors-Letter-to-President-Biden-on-the-Impact-of-the-Border-Crisis-9-19-23.pdf