

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President;

We write to you today with great concern regarding the Administration's plan to vet Syrian refugees entering into the United States. America has always been, and should remain a compassionate nation. We have a long and proud tradition of sheltering those fleeing violence and devastation in their home nations. However, we should not risk our national security to superficially expedite the processing of admitting Syrian refugees.

As we know, abusing the refugee process in order to infiltrate western nations is not a new tactic for terrorist groups. In fact, in 2009, two terrorists associated with the Islamic State's (IS) predecessor, Al-Qaeda in Iraq, successfully entered the United States through the refugee resettlement program and settled in Kentucky. Thankfully, several years later, these individuals' true identities were discovered and they were taken into federal custody. Further, IS has displayed its ability and intention to abuse the refugee crisis to plant cells into western nations. Islamic State operatives have publicly proclaimed to have smuggled upwards of 4,000 "gunmen" into Western Europe disguised as refugees.

It is clear the refugee resettlement program is vulnerable to infiltration by terrorist and extremists. Deputy Assistant Director of the FBI's counter terrorism unit, Michael Steinbach, declared in a House Homeland Security Committee hearing on February 11 that the United States does not have the resources in place to stop Islamic radicals from entering the United States through the refugee process. The Islamic State and Al-Qaeda have clearly shown their willingness to abuse our generosity towards refugees. Without the databases and on the ground intelligence to combat this threat, we should move cautiously with Syrian refugee admittance to ensure proper scrutinizing.

For this reason, we respectfully request your prompt reply to the following questions:

1. What nations and refugee communities are most susceptible to infiltration by extremists, thus warranting greater risks to the United States?

2. What is the current state of the refugee resettlement process for those nations?
3. What is the Administration's plan to address security and intelligence gaps existing in refugee screening processing?
4. What degree of notification is provided to state officials when refugees are resettled in their states and communities?
5. Once resettled, what process is in place to monitor and detect extremist behavior by Syrian refugees admitted into the United States?

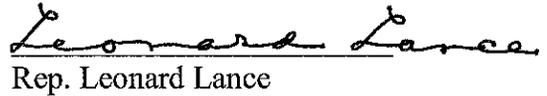
We greatly appreciate your attention to these questions and look forward to working with your administration. It is important we respond to the refugee crisis in a humane manner that is in line with our traditional goodwill while also protecting American communities.

Most sincerely,


Rep. David Schweikert


Rep. Trent Franks


Rep. Walter Jones


Rep. Leonard Lance

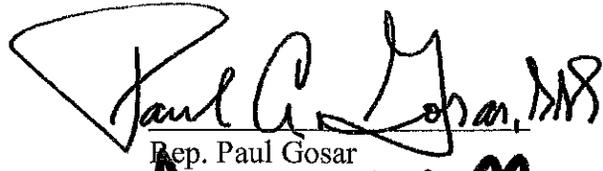

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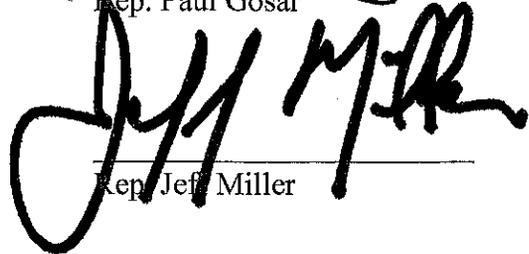

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