



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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November 15, 2015

The Honorable Robert Carey
Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
901 D Street, SW
ORR/8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20447

Secretary Johnson:

In the wake of the horrific terrorist attack in France, we would like to request that the state of Wisconsin would not be considered as a location for the resettlement of Syrian refugees. According to news reports, since the conflict in that region began several years ago, less than 2,000 Syrian refugees have been admitted to our country, but some have reportedly been placed in Wisconsin. It is not a time to open our doors to individuals who may pose a security risk or instill an unnerving sense of fear in our citizens.

Wisconsin is a generous state with residents who are willing to assist others in times of need. We have excellent schools and take care of our most vulnerable citizens, while encouraging self-reliance. The federal government should not prioritize the needs of others over our own residents. As elected officials in Wisconsin, it is frustrating to hear that there are discussions concerning the resettlement of Syrian refugees. With no guarantee that a refugee does not have an association with radical Islamic terrorists, as a country and a state we cannot take any chances.

In the Wisconsin State Assembly, our main focus has been moving our state forward by training workers for high demand skilled positions and preparing our children for higher education and the workforce. As representatives of the people of Wisconsin, our job is to be good stewards of our state tax dollars. Our decisions are based on what is best for all of Wisconsin and we do not welcome any additional strain by the federal government on our state budget.

We urge you to take the necessary steps to ensure the safety of our citizens and refuse to resettle any Syrian refugees within the borders of our state.

Sincerely,

Speaker Robin J. Vos
63rd Assembly District