Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Our thoughts and prayers remain with victims of the November 13, 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris, and we support your efforts to assist the French people during their time of need.

Nonetheless, we cannot ignore that, despite your claims, the recent attacks in Paris and the suspected bombing of a Russian airliner, demonstrate that the threat of ISIS is not contained to Syria and Iraq.

Disturbingly, media reports indicate one terrorist killed during the Paris attacks may have arrived in Europe from Syria under the guise of a refugee. These events coincide with your Administration's plan to raise the United States' refugee ceiling in order to admit thousands of additional Syrians onto U.S. soil.

The United States has a proud tradition of opening its arms to those in need. However, the current conflict raging in the Middle East is unique and we cannot be certain that all individuals seeking refuge from the conflicts in Syria and Iraq pose no threat to Americans. Our first priority must be to protect our own citizens from harm.

Consequently, we urge you to immediately halt admissions of refugees from Syria and Iraq onto American soil. We ask that these admissions remain suspended until your Administration creates both a truly thorough vetting process to identify individuals who pose a security threat and an extensive monitoring process for all relocated refugees that ensures Americans are safe from potential threats. In order to meet this standard for effective security screening and monitoring, your Administration must first notify Congress of all policy changes, provide all information used to justify admission for each refugee to the House and Senate Intelligence, Judiciary, and Homeland Security Committees and satisfy the concerns of all Committees.

We urge your immediate action to suspend these admissions until effective vetting and monitoring processes are established that ensures the safety of the American people. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Steve Stivers	Kristi Noem	John Mica
Member of Congress	Member of Congress	Member of Congress

Cc Secretary John Kerry; Secretary Jeh Johnson; U.S. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch

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