



To: Senator Warner
From: American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
Re: VOTE NO on Senate anti-refugee bill

Background: The U.S. House of Representatives voted 289 to 137 to pass an anti-Refugee bill called the “American Security Against Foreign Enemies (SAFE) Act.” ADC is deeply troubled that many American politicians have used the tragic terror attacks in Paris, France as a justification to promote xenophobia against Syrian and Iraqi refugees. ADC urges elected officials to remember that the vast majority of Americans are the descendants of immigrants and refugees. The United States must not give in to fear or hate motivated bias by turning our back on our nation’s fundamental commitment to refugee protection and human rights.

- 1) the refugees with pending applications to the United States had nothing to do with the Paris attacks;**
- 2) the U.S. is not France and the U.S. has an extensive rigorous security vetting security system, and the U.S. is in an entirely different position regarding security than Europe overall; as the U.S. selects refugees that are living outside of Syria, mainly women, children, and torture victims living inside UN refugee camps, whom have undergone the United Nations Refugee Agency vetting process, and undergone the multiple rigorous security checks by all our federal immigration and intelligence agencies prior to entry into the U.S. (Europe is forced largely due to geographical location to process refugees after entry and must process as asylum seekers;**
- 3) zero Syrian refugees that have resettled in the U.S. have been arrested or removed on terrorism charges; and**
- 4) Syrian refugees are fleeing precisely the same terrorism and violent extremism that was inflicted in Paris (many have lived under a state of terrorism, witnessed and/or suffered persecution based on their identity).**

Oppose anti-refugee bill H.R. 4038:

We must not sacrifice our American values of being a safe haven for victims, defending human rights, prohibiting discrimination, and welcoming immigrants and embracing diversity. We must also acknowledge that the SAFE Act H.R. 4083 is actually counterproductive to an already robust security vetting system.

H.R. 4083 specifically signals out refugees coming from Syria or Iraq and requires unanimous certification by the Secretary of DHS, the Director of the FBI, and the Direction of National Intelligence to congressional committees that the refugee accepted by the federal agencies are not a threat to the security of the U.S. This is clearly an attempt by Congressional members to add additional burdens to elongate, and prevent refugee resettlement, and to create more bureaucratic loopholes and hurdles. As the requested federal intelligence and government agencies are already required to and enforce through their respective strict policies and procedures multiple cross-security checks to verify and assess the national security risk of each refugee.

In addition, U.S. immigration law bars entry from the U.S. for any person “who is believed to be seeking to enter the U.S. to engage in unlawful activity” and “people who have been associated with a terrorist organization and intend to engage in activities in the U.S. that could endanger the welfare, safety, or security of the U.S.

The House vote for H.R. 4038 represents a vote for fear and xenophobia. It also discriminates against Syrians and Iraqis on the basis of their national origin. The effect of this bill is to block refugees from coming to the U.S. by creating more hurdles to an already stringent process. There is already a vigorous 18-24 month vetting process for refugees.

Ask: Vote NO to the Senate version of the anti-refugee bill passed by the House - H.R. 4038, American SAFE Act of 2015.