



Dear Senator:

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) urges you to VOTE NO on the Motion to Proceed on the American SAFE Act HR 4038.

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) **HR 4038 is an discriminatory and profiling bill that specifically singles out persons based upon national origin, and only endorses the improper, immoral, and wrongful position that particular individuals solely because of their national origin are more inherent to be or become terrorists;**
- 2) **HR 4038 will bring the refugee process to a grinding halt. The U.S. has only allowed in a little over 2,000 refugees, and there are over 11,000 UN recommended applications for refugee status still pending. So if we now put in place requirements of unanimous certification of each individual, it will drastically multiply the length the current 24 month vetting system. As a result, we will not even be able to address the 11,000 applications, let alone the Obama Administrations commitment to allow in 10,000 Syrian refugees this fiscal year;**
- 3) **HR 4038 is not operational, does not truly improve security or address increased communication between the three agencies. If that was the true intent and aim, then separate legislation would actually addresses overall cooperation, approval and implementation of measures, not singling out Syria and Iraq;**
- 4) **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 whom have lived inside UN refugee camps in Europe for years, 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; and**
- 5) **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 by VOTING NO on the Motion to Proceed:

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. 4038 is actually counterproductive to an already robust security vetting system.

H.R. 4038 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 Director 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.

The House vote for H.R. 4038 represents a vote for fear and xenophobia. Do not Vote for fear, stand up against fear and Vote No on the Motion to Proceed. Refugees are not the enemy.