"Secure Refugee Processing Act of 2015"
Thompson-Lofgren

The former head of the National Counterterrorism Center, Matthew Olsen, has said that: "No refugee program in the world as extensive as what the U.S. does." Our process puts an emphasis is on admitting the most vulnerable, typically women and children. The vast majority applicants to the U.S. are in refugee camps in countries neighboring Syria (principally, Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon) and have been referred to the U.S. by the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees. Each applicant is subjected to the highest level of security checks, which take between 18 to 24 months to complete, **before** ever allowing the applicant to step foot in the United States.

Nevertheless, in light of the terrorist attacks in Paris, France nearly one week ago, it is necessary to reevaluate our refugee process for potential vulnerabilities and to make existing processes even stronger and more robust. Accordingly, I have introduced the "Secure Refugee Processing Act of 2015," which is described below.

Before an applicant could set foot in the U.S., the "Secure Refugee Process Act" would:

REQUIRE the Secretary of Homeland Security to verify the identity of **ALL** refugee applicants**.** Any application that contains insufficient, conflicting, or unreliable information would be **DENIED**.

REQUIRE at least **five** federal agencies - the Department of Homeland Security, the Attorney General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence – to check **ALL** refugee applications against their records. Any application that indicates a national security or criminal threat would be **DENIED**.

REQUIRE the Secretary of Homeland Security to certify that the all relevant Federal immigration laws have been complied with and that the applicant has not been resettled in a safe third-party country and has the DHS IG review a sample of the certifications.

REQUIRE the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General to submit monthly reports to Congress on refugee applications from Syrians and Iraqis.

The "Secure Refugee Process Act of 2015" is a **pro-security, pro-compassion bill** that would ensure the U.S. continues to maintain the most extensive interagency security screening process in the world to vet all people who seek safe harbor in our great nation.

As Prepared by the Committee on Homeland Security Democratic Staff