

# Press Release

## Statement on Refugees

I support the decision of Governor Mead to join “other governors in demanding the refugee process be halted until it is guaranteed to provide the security demanded by Wyoming and United States citizens.” In addition, it is my obligation as an elected Representative to give serious consideration to certain facts that cause great concern regarding refugee resettlement in general.

**1. Cost of Government Services for Refugees:** “Although we do not consider all costs, our best estimate is that in their first five years in the United States each refugee from the Middle East costs taxpayers \$64,370 — 12 times what the UN estimates it costs to care for one refugee in neighboring Middle Eastern countries. The cost of resettlement includes heavy welfare use by Middle Eastern refugees; 91 percent receive food stamps and 68 percent receive cash assistance. Costs also include processing refugees, assistance given to new refugees, and aid to refugee-receiving communities. Given the high costs of resettling refugees in the United States, providing for them in neighboring countries in the Middle East may be a more cost-effective way to help them.” Center for Immigration Studies: The High Cost of Resettling Middle Eastern Refugees By Karen Zeigler, Steven A. Camarota November 2015

**2. Lack of employment opportunities for Refugees:** With the economic downturn Wyoming is experiencing, it is unrealistic to expect job opportunities to exist for refugees who tend toward jobs requiring only limited education, and limited skills, entry level jobs which are key first jobs for our young people, or second income jobs for cash-strapped families. These and other costs add unnecessary burdens to Wyoming taxpayers while increasing impacts of competition in a weak job market. Finally, this issue of receiving foreign refugees comes on top of thirty years of massive, uncontrolled illegal immigration.

**3. Threat to Public Welfare:** Most disturbing of all the facts surrounding refugee resettlement is the proposed surge of Syrian refugees. European authorities estimate that this 'immigrant' population includes infiltrated jihadist terrorists at a ratio of 1 to 10. Since the Obama administration plans to import 10,000 Syrian refugees by the end of 2015 and another 100,000 in 2016, this means we are at risk of importing **11,000 terrorists** into the United States of America within the next 13 months. One is too many! I would point out there is no way to vet these refugees, no reliable evidence available to prove who they are. Wyoming should not take this risk. As has clearly been shown in past years, most recently in Paris last Friday, there is a deliberate infiltration of Middle Eastern masses surging into Europe with Islamic jihadists determined to carry out the vision of leaders of the new caliphate set up by ISIS and other sworn enemies of the United States and western civilization. **This is an invasion, not a migration.**

**4. Wyoming Refugee Resettlement:** My constituents want to know why Wyoming considered implementing a Refugee Resettlement program. What is the current status of that effort? I have requested information in writing on this subject.

I stand with the Governor in defense the Citizens of the State of Wyoming and the Nation. May God grant us wisdom and courage as we, a free people, stand together to resist and defeat our enemies.