

FOR REFUGEE ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES

1 MANY REFUGEE APPLICANTS IDENTIFY THEMSELVES TO THE U.N. REFUGEE AGENCY, UNHCR. UNHCR, THEN:

- Collects identifying documents
- Performs initial assessment
 - Collects biodata: name, address, birthday, place of birth, etc.
 - Collects biometrics: iris scans (for Syrians, and other refugee populations in the Middle East)
- Interviews applicants to confirm refugee status and the need for resettlement
 - Initial information checked again

Only applicants who are strong candidates for resettlement move forward (less than 1% of global refugee population).



2 APPLICANTS ARE RECEIVED BY A FEDERALLY-FUNDED REFUGEE SUPPORT CENTER (RSC):

- Collects identifying documents
- Creates an applicant file
- Compiles information to conduct biographic security checks

3 BIOGRAPHIC SECURITY CHECKS START WITH ENHANCED INTERAGENCY SECURITY CHECKS:

U.S. security agencies screen the candidate, including:

- National Counterterrorism Center/ Intelligence Community
- FBI
- Department of Homeland Security
- State Department

The screening looks for indicators, like:

- Information that the individual is a security risk
- Connections to known bad actors
- Outstanding warrants/immigration or criminal violations

DHS conducts an enhanced review of Syrian cases, which may be referred to USCIS Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate for review. Research that is used by the interviewing officer informs lines of question related to the applicant's eligibility and credibility.

This process is repeated any time new information is provided, such as a previously used name or different phone number. Otherwise, the process continues.

REFUGEES ARE SUBJECT TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SECURITY CHECKS of any category of traveler to the United States.



4 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)/USCIS INTERVIEW:

Interviews are conducted by USCIS Officers specially trained for interviews

Fingerprints are collected and submitted (biometric check)

Re-interviews can be conducted if fingerprint results or new information raises questions. If new biographic information is identified by USCIS at an interview, additional security checks on the information are conducted. USCIS may place a case on hold to do additional research or investigation. Otherwise, the process continues.

5 BIOMETRIC SECURITY CHECKS:

Applicant's fingerprints are taken by U.S. government employees

Fingerprints are screened against the FBI's biometric database

Fingerprints are screened against the DHS biometric database, containing watch-list information and previous immigration encounters in the U.S. and overseas.

Fingerprints are screened against the U.S. Department of Defense biometric database, which includes fingerprint records captured in Iraq and other locations

IF NOT ALREADY HALTED, THIS IS THE END POINT FOR CASES WITH SECURITY CONCERNS. Otherwise, the process continues.

6 MEDICAL CHECK:

The need for medical screening is determined

THIS IS THE END POINT FOR CASES DENIED DUE TO MEDICAL REASONS. Refugees may be provided medical treatment for communicable diseases such as tuberculosis.

7 CULTURAL ORIENTATION AND ASSIGNMENT TO DOMESTIC RESETTLEMENT LOCATIONS:

Applicants complete cultural orientation classes.

An assessment is made by a U.S.-based non-governmental organization to determine the best resettlement location for the candidate(s). Considerations include:

Family; candidates with family in a certain area may be placed in that area.

Health; a candidate with asthma may be matched to certain regions.

A location is chosen.

RECURRENT VETTING:

Throughout this process, pending applications continue to be checked against terrorist databases, to ensure new, relevant terrorism information has not come to light. If a match is found, that case is paused for further review.

IF THERE IS DOUBT about whether an applicant poses a security risk, they will not be admitted.

Applicants who continue to have no flags continue the process.

8

TRAVEL:

International Organization for Migration books travel

Prior to entry in the United States, applicants are subject to:

- Screening from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's National Targeting Center-Passenger
- The Transportation Security Administration's Secure Flight Program

THIS IS THE END POINT FOR SOME APPLICANTS.
Applicants who have no flags continue the process.

9

U.S. ARRIVAL:

All refugees are required to apply for a green card within a year of their arrival to the United States, which triggers:

- Another set of security procedures with the U.S. government.

REFUGEES ARE WOVEN INTO THE RICH FABRIC OF AMERICAN SOCIETY!

Refugee Resettlement Program Overview

1. **The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)** is the international agency that makes refugee referrals to countries. In the U.S., the President in consultation with Congress and the UNHCR, establishes the annual number of refugees that can be resettled in the U.S. A total of 70,000 refugees have been approved for the 2015 calendar year.
2. Refugees destined for the U.S. are referred to the State Department Admissions Program, **Bureau of Population, Refugee and Migration (PRM)**.

PRM works in conjunction with the **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** which conducts overseas interviews and security checks prior to travel.

Together DHS and PRM determine which individuals are cleared for resettlement in the U.S. Preference is given to family reunification and efforts are made to place refugees with family ties in the same city.

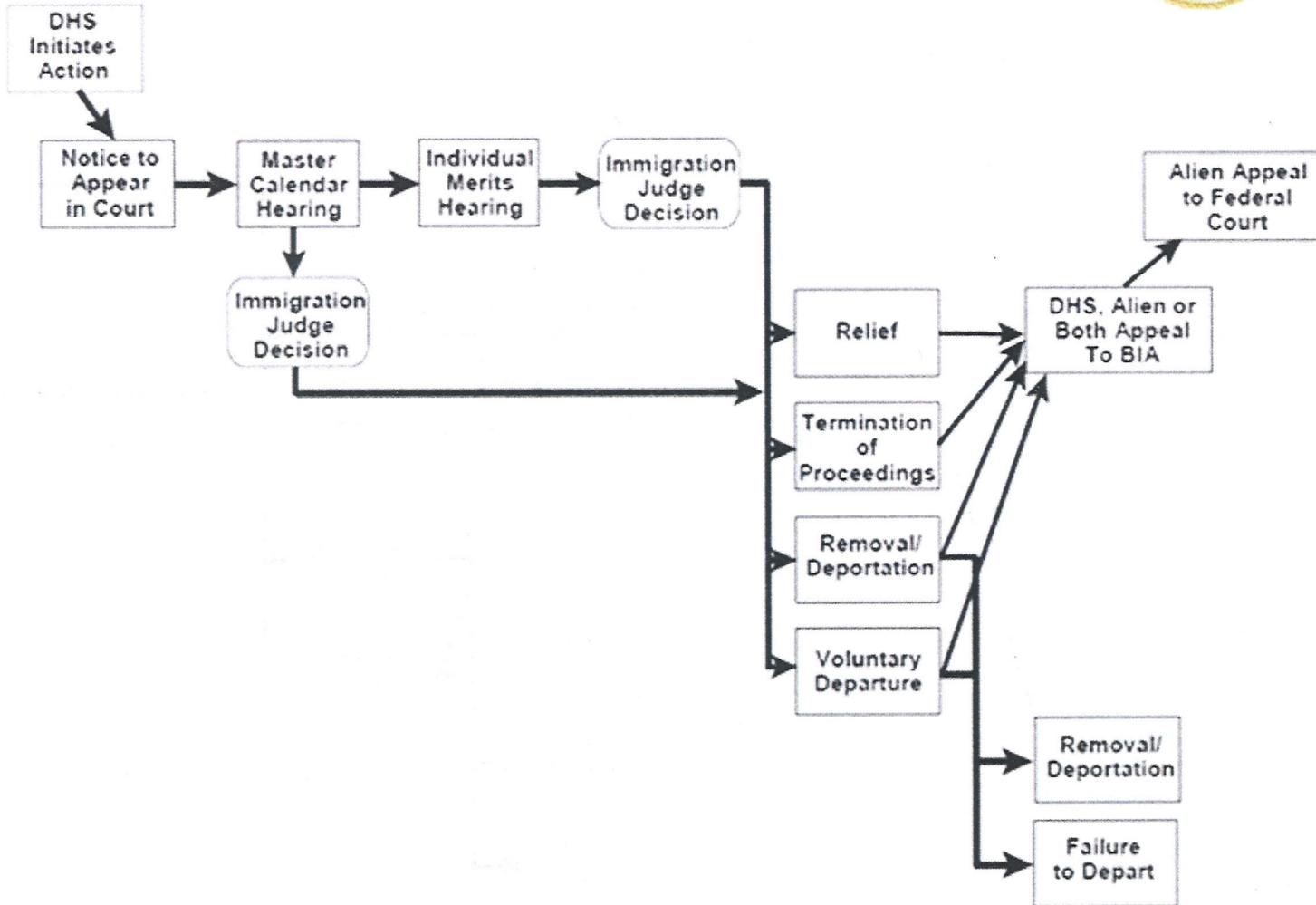
PRM also coordinates with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, **Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)**, to provide services once an individual relocates to the U.S.

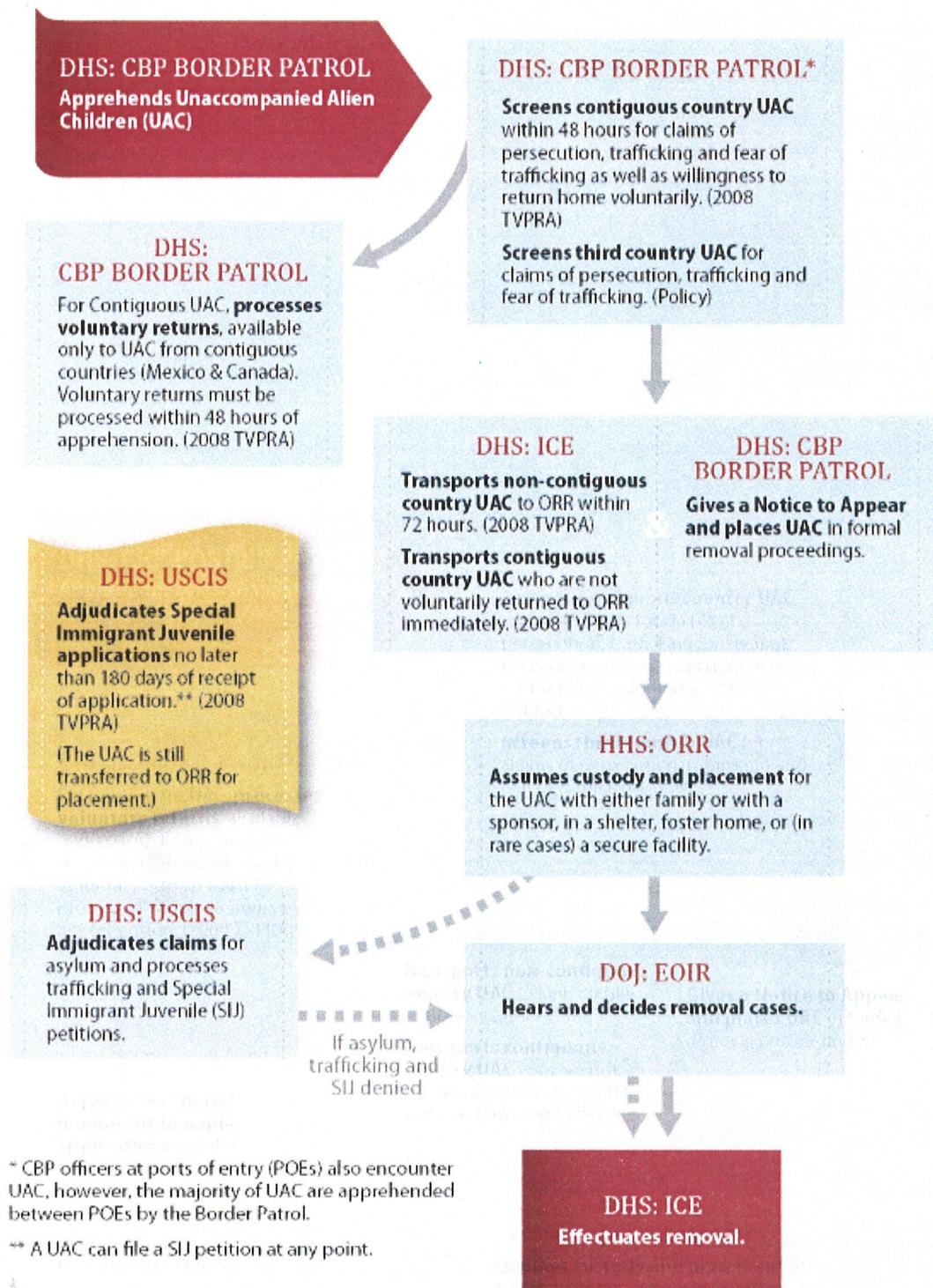
3. U.S. refugee services are provided through a public/private partnership between federal agencies, states, and nine national volunteer agencies called **Volunteer Agencies (VolAgs)**. National VolAgs implement their work across U.S. cities through approximately 350 separate local VolAg affiliates.

Arrival numbers are managed in Texas through 19 local VolAgs affiliates in coordination with the Department of State and discussion with the 9 national VolAgs.

- Family reunification is a primary goal of the program. Other factors considered in making placements include: employment opportunities, cost of housing, and other social service needs.
- States are apprised of projected arrivals and may offer input; however, final placement decisions are made by PRM.
- Initial reception and placement services for a refugee's first 30-90 days in the U.S. are funded by the State Department through the national VolAg to provide housing, food, and other basic needs. All refugees are also given a medical health screening funded by the federal government.
- Local VolAg affiliates assist refugees in accessing, if eligible, federal time limited refugee cash assistance and medical assistance for a period of 8 months from the date of arrival.

EOIR Removal Proceedings Process





* CBP officers at ports of entry (POEs) also encounter UAC, however, the majority of UAC are apprehended between POEs by the Border Patrol.
 ** A UAC can file a SIJ petition at any point.

- Acronyms used in the flow chart:**
- CBP**—Customs and Border Protection
 - DHS**—Department of Homeland Security
 - DOJ**—Department of Justice
 - EOIR**—Executive Office for Immigration Review

HHS—Department of Health and Human Services

ICE—Immigration and Customs Enforcement

ORR—Office of Refugee Resettlement

SIJ—Special Immigrant Visa

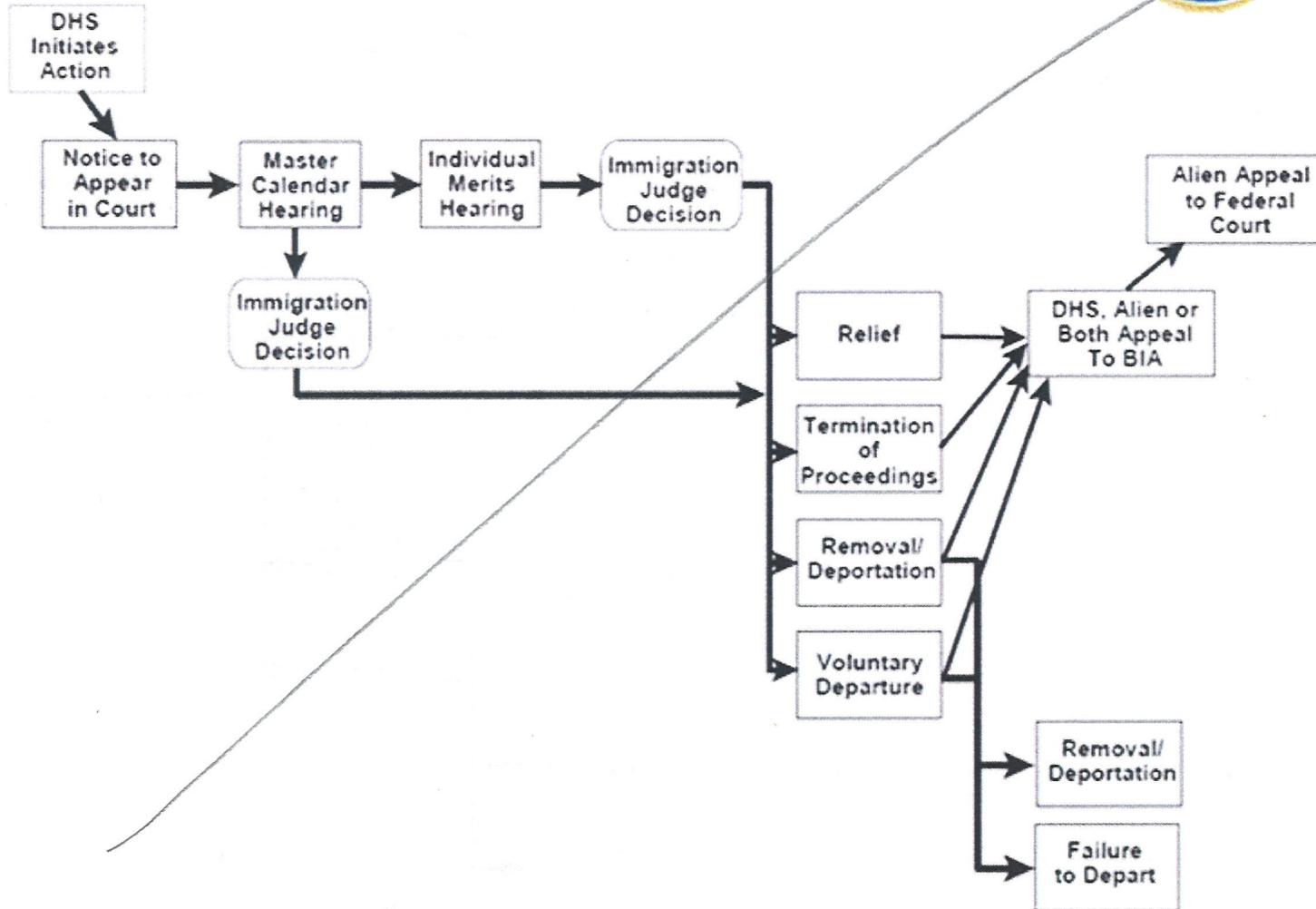
TVPRA 2008—Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 ([P.L. 110-457](#))

UAC—Unaccompanied Alien Children

USCIS—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USRAP—U.S. Refugees Admissions Program

EOIR Removal Proceedings Process





GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

November 17, 2015

Mr. Chris Traylor
Executive Commissioner
Texas Health and Human Services Commission
4900 North Lamar Boulevard, 4th Floor
Austin, Texas 78751-3247

Colonel Steven C. McCraw
Director
Texas Department of Public Safety
P.O. Box 4087
Austin, Texas 78773-4087

Dear Commissioner Traylor and Colonel McCraw:

As you are aware, I sent a letter to President Obama yesterday informing him that the State of Texas will not participate in the resettlement of Syrian refugees in the wake of recent deadly terrorist attacks in Paris. I direct your agencies to use your full authority to comply with this direction.

In addition, I direct both agencies to communicate this directive to all local volunteer agencies and organizations that participate in the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program. I further direct Texas Health and Human Services Commission to immediately submit to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services all necessary amendments to Texas' Refugee Resettlement State Plan.

Additionally, I direct the Texas Department of Public Safety to work with federal and local officials to ensure any refugees already in this state do not pose a risk to public safety.

Finally, in accordance with Section 752.003 of the Texas Government Code and 45 C.F.R. § 400.5, I appoint Cecile Young as the State Refugee Coordinator for Texas, to serve a term at the pleasure of the governor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:EEK



November 20, 2015

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor
State of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78771

Dear Governor Abbott:

In response to ongoing discussions by governors across the country regarding our refugee resettlement program, we would like to describe for you in detail the rigorous security vetting process refugee applicants undergo, particularly as it pertains to the population of refugees fleeing from the conflict in Syria.

In short, the security vetting for this population—the most vulnerable of individuals—is extraordinarily thorough and comprehensive. It is the most robust screening process for any category of individuals seeking admission into the United States. The process is multi-layered and intensive, involving multiple law enforcement, national security, and intelligence agencies across the Federal Government. Additional precautions have been added with regard to Syrian refugees. We continually evaluate whether more precautions are necessary.

Today, the world faces an unprecedented outpouring of more than four million refugees from Syria, presently in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Europe, and beyond. A number of nations, including our closest allies, have pledged to share some of this responsibility and accept Syrian refugees into their borders. For example, the new government of our neighbor to the north, Canada, has pledged to accept 25,000 Syrian refugees this calendar year. President Hollande of France, while his country reels from the terrorist attacks of last week, subsequently reiterated his nation's commitment to accepting Syrian refugees.

Meanwhile, our Government has pledged to increase the number of Syrian refugees we will accept, from approximately 1,682 last fiscal year to at least 10,000 this fiscal year. This represents a modest commitment by our Government to accept less than one percent of the approximately four million Syrian refugees in the world.

Further, it is important to note that the overwhelming majority of Syrian refugees we have accepted and will accept are families, victims of torture, and children. We have prioritized the most vulnerable of Syrian refugees for resettlement—which means those who are the principal victims of the violence perpetrated by both the Assad regime and ISIL in Syria. A very small proportion of these refugees have been or will be adult males who are not accompanied by children nor joining family in the U.S., and those adult males who are accepted will generally be especially vulnerable individuals, such as survivors of torture, LGBT individuals, or those with disabilities.

A refugee applicant cannot be approved for travel and admission to the United States until all required security checks have been completed and cleared. Bottom line—under the current system, if there is doubt about whether an applicant would pose a security risk, that individual will not be admitted to the United States as a refugee. Below is a detailed description of the process for vetting refugees.

First, many candidates for refugee resettlement in the United States are interviewed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to determine whether they meet the definition of refugee—i.e., persons who have been persecuted, or have a well-founded fear of persecution, based on political opinion, social group, race, religion, or nationality.

In the interview, UNHCR identifies any “red flags” which would render individuals ineligible for resettlement under our laws and security protocols. UNHCR also screens applicants to determine whether they fall within the priorities the United States has established for resettlement—those refugees who are deemed most vulnerable. Examples of priority profiles include families, unaccompanied children, victims of torture, and individuals with family ties in the United States.

Second, a refugee applicant is referred by the UNHCR to the United States along with a package of information. At that point, the State Department takes over the process. Resettlement support centers, operated by faith-based and international organizations contracting with the State Department, first interview the applicant to confirm information about the case and collect any identification documents and aliases used by the refugee applicants and initiate security checks, which are exclusively conducted by the U.S. Government. These interviews provide the U.S. Government a very useful tool for gathering information about a potential refugee that may not already exist in a database.

For every single refugee applicant, the Department of State conducts biographic checks of the refugee's primary name and any aliases against its Consular Lookout and Support System database (CLASS). CLASS includes watchlist information from the Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB), the Drug Enforcement Agency, the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center and Interpol, including criminal history, immigration history, and records of any prior visa applications submitted by the applicants. Significantly, for individuals meeting certain criteria, the Department of State also requests a Security Advisory Opinion name check against law enforcement and intelligence databases. In addition, the Department of State initiates an interagency check against intelligence community holdings, including the National Counterterrorism Center. These enhanced biographic checks are conducted for all refugee applicants within a designated age range, regardless of nationality. This vetting occurs throughout the process.

Third, refugee applicants screened by the Department of State are then referred to the United States Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), where USCIS oversees rigorous refugee status interviews and additional security vetting. Security checks are an integral part of this process.

USCIS collects biometric information, consisting of fingerprints, for each refugee applicant, ages 14 to 79. USCIS coordinates the screening of refugee applicant fingerprints against the vast biometric holdings of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Next Generation Identification system, and DHS's Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT). Through IDENT, applicant fingerprints are screened not only against watchlist information, but also for previous immigration encounters in the United States and overseas—including, for example, cases in which the applicant previously applied for a visa at a U.S. embassy.

Working with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense augments biometric screening on refugee applicants of all nationalities who fall within the prescribed age ranges by checking the fingerprints of refugee applicants against their own database.

At the same time, a team of highly-trained USCIS refugee officers is responsible for personally conducting the refugee status interviews. These officers undergo five weeks of specialized and extensive training that includes comprehensive instruction on all aspects of the job, including refugee law, grounds of inadmissibility, fraud detection and prevention, security protocols, interviewing techniques, credibility analysis, and country conditions research.

Before deploying overseas, officers also receive additional weeks of pre-departure training, which focuses on the specific population that they will be interviewing, detailed country of origin information, and updates on any fraud trends or security issues that

have been identified. Officers conducting interviews of Syrian applicants now undergo an additional one-week training focusing on Syria-specific topics, including classified intelligence briefings.

USCIS has officers providing intelligence-driven support to adjudicators to identify threats and lines of inquiry, as well as watchlisting and dissemination of intelligence information reports on applicants determined to present national security threats. Every officer's decision, whether it is to approve or deny a refugee's application, is reviewed by a supervisor. Refugee status is granted by USCIS only after supervisory review, once the application is deemed complete. Applications are often placed on hold until supplemental information is obtained.

Fourth, before an approved refugee arrives in the United States, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at DHS receives a manifest of all refugees who have prior approval to travel to the United States. CBP receives this manifest eight days before a refugee's scheduled travel. The agency performs initial vetting before they arrival at a Port of Entry, then conducts additional background checks of these subjects upon arrival.

Fifth, and finally, the Department of State and the Department of Health and Human Services work together to determine an appropriate resettlement site in the United States, transport the refugee, and provide services to help the refugee make the transition to self-sufficiency and become contributing members of the community.

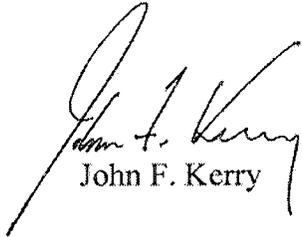
We want to emphasize that no one has a right to be resettled in the United States as a refugee. All refugees, including Syrians, may only be admitted the United States after USCIS receives all the security checks run by the intelligence and law enforcement communities and all issues are resolved. With every refugee application, the burden of proof is on the applicant—the refugee must show that he or she qualifies for refugee status. The law requires the applicant to provide information that establishes their identity and allows us to assess whether they present a security risk to the country. If the expert screener fails to be satisfied on either score, the applicant will not be resettled in the United States.

Our multi-agency system for vetting refugees is strong, and it has been significantly enhanced over the past few years. Indeed, applicants for refugee admission are screened more carefully than any other type of traveler to the United States. We have tremendous faith in this system's ability to detect, investigate, and disrupt terrorist plotting in this country, as it has done repeatedly. With these measures in place, we believe that we are able to both protect the American people and maintain this Nation's long standing position as the world's beacon of hope and freedom.

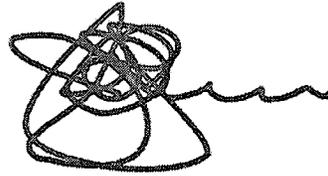
The Honorable Greg Abbott
Page 5

Our highest priority is the protection of the American people. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure our Nation lives up to its humanitarian heritage while keeping the American people safe.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry



Jeh Charles Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 30, 2015

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor
State of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

As part of our ongoing conversation with Governors across the country regarding the refugee resettlement program, I am writing today to follow up on a Governors call I hosted on November 17.

On the call and in follow up conversations and correspondence, we have provided Governors a detailed description of the process for vetting refugees and we continue to believe the security vetting for this population is extraordinarily thorough and comprehensive. It is the most robust screening process for any category of individuals seeking admission into the United States. The process is multi-layered and intensive, involving multiple law enforcement, national security, and intelligence agencies across the Federal Government. Additional precautions have been added with regard to Syrian refugees and we continually evaluate whether more precautions are necessary.

Notwithstanding this thorough vetting process, I wanted to follow up on requests from Governors for more consistent and official communication from the Administration about the placement process.

To that end and given NGA's role as the collective voice of the nation's Governors on matters related to national policy, I am proposing establishing a new process through the NGA for the U.S. Department of State to accept individualized requests from Governors for more regular access to refugee resettlement information.

Upon receipt of a Governor's request, the State Department would compile a tailored report for the individual state submitting the request. The report would include information on refugees resettled during the prior month and fiscal year-to-date.

In addition, at the request of the Governor, the State Department would provide this information on a monthly recurring basis via a password protected website. The monthly report would include the total number of refugees resettled in the state broken down by nationality, age range and gender.

This proposal responds to Governors' input while protecting the privacy of refugee families.

Furthermore, the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are prepared to brief Governors on the refugee resettlement process and to discuss working together to improve the program at NGA's next convening. Additionally, the Secretary of Homeland Security is prepared to work with NGA to provide further information to Governors on the refugee vetting process and to discuss options for enhanced collaboration.

Finally, enclosed with this letter is a brief overview of the resettlement process here in the United States, as well as contact information for points of contact within the key Federal agencies responsible for administering and supporting the refugee resettlement program,

We look forward to continuing to work with you to maintain this successful program that over the last four decades has made the United States a leader in welcoming refugees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. McDonough", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Denis R. McDonough
Assistant to the President
and White House Chief of Staff

Overview of Domestic Resettlement Through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program

Since 1975, Americans have welcomed over 3 million refugees from all over the world. Refugees have built new lives, homes and communities in towns and cities in all 50 states.

For refugees in the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program approved to be admitted to the United States, the International Organization for Migration, a State Department partner organization, arranges air travel to the United States. The Department of State works with nine domestic non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to facilitate the initial placement of refugees into U.S. communities and provide transitional assistance to each refugee or refugee family. Every week, representatives from these NGOs use information on refugees approved for admission to the United States, which is sent by U.S.-funded Resettlement Support Centers abroad, to determine where within the United States to resettle each refugee or refugee family.

In making this determination, the NGOs work to match the particular needs of each incoming refugee with the specific resources available in a local community. For instance, if a refugee has relatives in the United States, he/she is likely to be resettled near or with them. The nine NGOs, which maintain a nationwide network of 304 affiliated offices in 173 locations, also take into account factors such as language abilities in the community, and housing and labor market conditions in their areas of operation. In addition, the NGOs take into account views expressed in regular consultations with officials such as State Refugee Coordinators, State Refugee Health Coordinators, public health, school, social welfare and other service representatives. These officials are able to receive information on the resettlement program through these consultations, and basic data on refugee arrivals is also provided through the public website, www.wrapsnet.org.

As concerns support for resettled refugees, federal government funds, from the Department of State and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), supplemented by funds and in-kind contributions from private sources help to cover transitional assistance for the initial months after arrival in the United States. Additionally, representatives of the non-governmental organizations welcome refugees at the airport, find safe and affordable housing, and provide a variety of other services to promote early self-sufficiency and cultural adjustment. This includes providing basic furnishings, clothing, food, assistance in applying for social security cards, registering children in school, helping refugees learn how to access public transportation and grocery stores, arranging medical appointments, and connecting refugees with employment, English language classes, and other services. HHS also works through the states and with NGOs to provide longer-term cash and medical assistance, as well as English language, employment, and social services.

Through the collaborative effort of several components of the federal government, a range of NGOs, including faith-based NGOs, countless everyday Americans, and state and local leaders all over the country, the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program has sustained decades of success in ensuring that refugees achieve their potential in the United States and become integrated members of our communities. Inquiries from state and local officials about the program and related procedures can be directed to Lawrence Bartlett, Director of Admissions in the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BartlettLE@state.gov) or to Robert Carey, Director for the Office of Refugee Resettlement in the Department of Health and Human Service's Administration for Children and Families (Robert.Carey@acf.hhs.gov).

Ashley Morgan

From: Jo Kathryn Quinn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 5:39 PM
To: Ashley Morgan; Kara Crawford; Craig Bean
Cc: Jay Dyer
Subject: Thank you for meeting

Ashley, Kara and Craig,

Thank you for making time to meet with me Monday regarding the Governor's safety/security concerns related to resettling Syrian refugees. I appreciate the information and clarification you provided; it is very helpful. Surely I recognize the challenges you face as this situation evolves. As well, I completely appreciate the complexities of the Governor's leadership position in the current political and security environment. On some issues we will agree to disagree, but I am willing to keep an open line of communication with you. Please contact me if I can provide any information or support for your efforts.

Gratefully,



Jo Kathryn Quinn | Executive Director
Caritas of Austin
Direct: 512.646.1252 | Mobile: 512-466-7080 | Fax: 512.735.2006
611 Neches Street | PO Box 1947, Austin TX 78767
www.caritasofaustin.org

Follow Caritas of Austin on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Libby Elliott

From: Constance Allison
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 10:34 AM
To: Libby Elliott
Subject: refugees

Have you heard anything about this item on the House Human Svcs. cmtee. Agenda for Tuesday 12/15?

The committee will also receive an update on Governor Greg Abbott's directive to Health and Human Services Commission Executive Commissioner Chris Traylor and Texas Department of Public Safety Director Steve McCraw regarding Syrian Refugee resettlement. Invited testimony only.

KC/32469

Capitol Office:
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711
Phone: (512) 463-0102
Fax: (512) 463-7202

Rockwall Office:
Alliance Building #2
6537 Horizon Road, Suite B-1
Rockwall, Texas 75032
Phone: (972) 722-3131
Fax: (972) 722-3132



SENATOR BOB HALL
DISTRICT 2

November 24, 2015

Governor Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott,

The majority of United States Governors have joined with you in publicly declaring that their states will refuse to accept new Syrian refugees. I would suggest that an Interstate Compact among the states would give the governors an additional tool to administer authority over refugee resettlement programs.

Specifically, an Interstate Compact for Refugee Resettlement Management in the United States would give states the ability to manage refugee resettlement programs within their state borders. This proposed compact solution is in line with existing interstate compacts dealing with tracking and resettlement of aliens entering Texas both legally and illegally. Two such compacts are the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision and the Uniform Interstate Compact on Juveniles. Interstate compacts are constitutionally sound mechanisms, which allow sovereign states to cooperate in order to solve difficult issues with a minimum of federal interference.

It will take a courageous champion to lead our country out of the dangers we see today. Only recently you successfully led a 25 state coalition to shut down Obama's executive amnesty. I am asking you to consider leading a national coalition to stop the reckless behavior of the Obama administration and allow Texas to control and manage aliens in our state for the safety and protection of our citizens. Creating an Interstate Compact for Refugee Resettlement would give all participating Governors solid constitutional authority to supervise the entrance and stay of refugees receiving taxpayer subsidies.

Sincerely,

Bob Hall
Texas State Senator

RECEIVED
NOV 24 2015
GOVERNOR'S BUDGET OFFICE



cc: Lt. Governor Dan Patrick

Senate Committees:

Veteran Affairs & Military Installations - Subcommittee on Border Security Vice-Chair, Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs
Natural Resources & Economic Development, Transportation, Veteran Affairs & Military Installations



[REDACTED]

Written testimony of USCIS Director Leon Rodriguez for a House Committee on the Judiciary,
Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security hearing titled "The Syrian Refugee Crisis
and Its Impact on the Security of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program"

Release Date:
November 19, 2015

As the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), my team works in close partnership with colleagues at the Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), with other components within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and with colleagues in the law enforcement and intelligence communities to meet the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program's (USRAP) mission to offer resettlement opportunities to eligible refugees while safeguarding the integrity of the program and our national security.

USCIS remains dedicated to fulfilling this mission, in partnership with PRM, and continuing the United States' leadership role in humanitarian protection. An integral part of this mission is to ensure that refugee resettlement opportunities go to those who are eligible for such protection and who do not present a risk to the safety and security of our country. Accordingly, we are committed to deterring and detecting fraud among those seeking to resettle in the United States, and we continue to employ the highest security measures to protect against risks to our national security.

My testimony will describe USCIS's role in refugee resettlement generally, and I will discuss the screening measures and safeguards that have been developed by the USRAP and enhanced over time. While many of these enhancements were first deployed in connection with the Iraqi refugee resettlement program, they are now being applied more broadly to applicants of all nationalities, including Syrians who now represent a growing portion of our caseload.

Refugee Resettlement Case Processing

As I mentioned above, the USRAP is a shared operational responsibility of the State Department and USCIS, among other agencies. The State Department is responsible for the overarching coordination and management of the USRAP, including the decision on which refugees around the world are granted access to the USRAP for resettlement consideration. As contemplated by section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, this work is guided each year by a Presidential determination, which sets the refugee admissions ceiling following consultations with Congress. USCIS is responsible for conducting individual, in-person interviews with applicants to determine their eligibility for refugee status, including whether they meet the refugee definition and are otherwise admissible to the United States under U.S. law.

To maximize flexibility and program integrity, in 2005 USCIS created the Refugee Corps, a cadre of specially-trained USCIS officers who are dedicated to adjudicating applications for refugee status overseas. These officers are based in Washington, D.C., but they travel to multiple locations around the world. In addition, USCIS has a small number of officers posted at

against the State Department's Consular Lookout and Support System (CLASS) – which includes watchlist information – are initiated at the time of prescreening by the State Department's Resettlement Support Center (RSC) staff. In addition, the RSC request Security Advisory Opinions (SAOs) from the law enforcement and intelligence communities for those cases meeting certain criteria.

In the fall of 2008, USCIS launched a third biographic check with the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), which we now refer to as **Interagency Checks or "IAC's."** Initially the IAC was required only for Iraqi applicants, but the IAC is now required for all refugee applicants within a designated age range, regardless of nationality. In addition, expanded intelligence community support was added to the IAC process in July 2010. In 2015, all partners coordinated to launch IAC recurrent vetting. With recurrent vetting, any intervening derogatory information that is identified after the initial check has cleared but before the applicant has traveled to the United States will be shared with USCIS without the need for a subsequent query.

In addition to these biographic checks, biometric checks against three sets of data are coordinated by USCIS, using mobile fingerprint equipment and photographs which are typically collected at the time of the USCIS interview. These fingerprints are screened against the vast biometric holdings of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Next Generation Identification system, and they are screened and enrolled in DHS's Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT). Through IDENT, applicant fingerprints are screened not only against watchlist information, but also for previous immigration encounters in the United States and overseas – including, for example, cases in which the applicant previously applied for a visa at a U.S. embassy.

Starting in 2007, USCIS began to work with the Department of Defense (DoD) to augment biometric screening by checking against the DoD Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS). ABIS contains a variety of records, including fingerprint records captured in theatre in Iraq, and it is a valuable resource to identify a wide array of relevant information. Today, ABIS screening has been expanded to refugee applicants of all nationalities who fall within the prescribed age ranges.

In addition to the existing suite of biometric and biographic checks that are applied to refugees regardless of nationality, USCIS has instituted an additional layer of review for Syrian refugee applications, taking into account the myriad actors and dynamic nature of the conflict in Syria. Before being scheduled for interview by a USCIS officer in the field, Syrian cases are reviewed at USCIS headquarters by a Refugee Affairs Division officer. All cases that meet certain criteria are referred to the USCIS' **Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate (FDNS)** for additional review and research. FDNS conducts open-source and classified research on referred cases and synthesizes an assessment for use by the interviewing officer. This information provides case-specific context relating to country conditions and regional activity, and it is used by the interviewing officer to inform lines of inquiry related to the applicant's eligibility and credibility.

Throughout the review process of Syrian refugee applicants, FDNS engages with law enforcement and intelligence community members for assistance with identity verification, acquisition of additional information, or deconfliction to ensure USCIS activities will not

USCIS is prepared to work closely with the State Department and other interagency partners to support a larger refugee admissions program of 85,000 arrivals in FY 2016, including at least 10,000 Syrian refugees, while assiduously maintaining the integrity of the program and our national security.

Review Date:
November 18, 2015

the WHITE HOUSE PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA



Infographic: The Screening Process for Refugee Entry into the United States

NOVEMBER 20, 2015 AT 7:09 PM ET BY AMY POPE

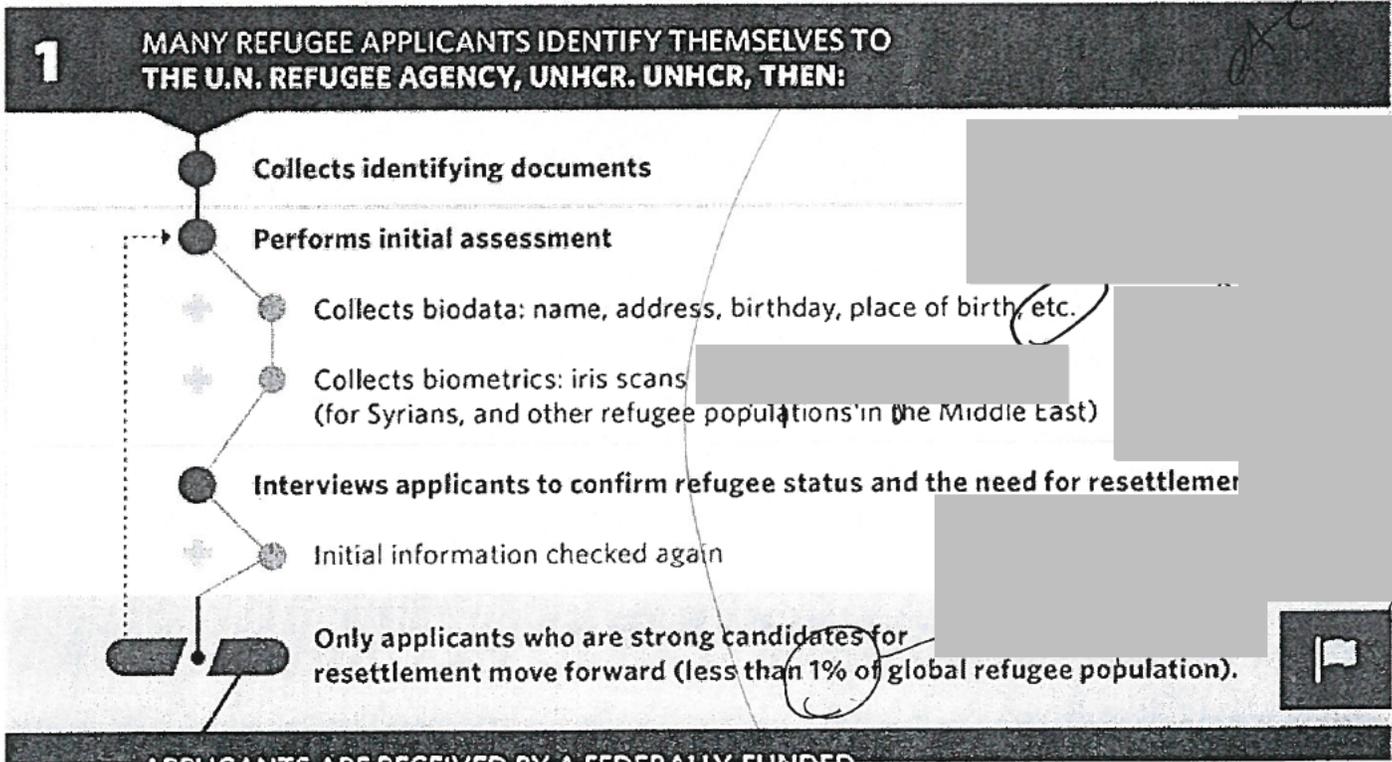


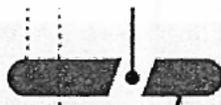
Summary: A step-by-step guide to the rigorous process for refugee entry into the U.S.

Refugees undergo more rigorous screening than anyone else we allow into the United States. Here's what the screening process looks like for them:

THE SCREENING PROCESS

FOR REFUGEE ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES





Re-interviews can be conducted if fingerprint results or new information raises questions. If new biographic information is identified by USCIS at an interview, additional security checks on the information are conducted. USCIS may place a case on hold to do additional research or investigation. Otherwise, the process continues.



5

BIOMETRIC SECURITY CHECKS:

● Applicant's fingerprints are taken by U.S. government employees

✦ ● Fingerprints are screened against the FBI's biometric database

✦ ● Fingerprints are screened against the DHS biometric database, containing watch-list information and previous immigration encounters in the U.S. and overseas.

✦ ● Fingerprints are screened against the U.S. Department of Defense biometric database, which includes fingerprint records captured in Iraq and other locations.



IF NOT ALREADY HALTED, THIS IS THE END POINT FOR CASES WITH SECURITY CONCERNS.
Otherwise, the process continues.



6

MEDICAL CHECK:

● The need for medical screening is determined



THIS IS THE END POINT FOR CASES DENIED DUE TO MEDICAL REASONS.
Refugees may be provided medical treatment for communicable diseases such as tuberculosis.



7

CULTURAL ORIENTATION AND ASSIGNMENT TO DOMESTIC RESETTLEMENT LOCATIONS:

● Applicants complete cultural orientation classes.

● An assessment is made by a U.S.-based non-governmental organization to determine the best resettlement location for the candidate(s). Considerations include:

✦ ● Family; candidates with family in a certain area may be placed

The Full Text of the Graphic:

The Screening Process for Refugee Entry Into the United States

1. Many refugee applicants identify themselves to the U.N. Refugee Agency, UNHCR. UNHCR, then:

- Collects identifying documents
- Performs initial assessment
 - Collects biodata: name, address, birthday, place of birth, etc.
 - Collects biometrics: iris scans (for Syrians, and other refugee populations in the Middle East)
- Interviews applicants to confirm refugee status and the need for resettlement
 - Initial information checked again
- Only applicants who are strong candidates for resettlement move forward (less than 1% of global refugee population).

Recurrent vetting: Throughout this process, pending applications continue to be checked against terrorist databases, to ensure new, relevant terrorism information has not come to light. If a match is found, that case is paused for further review. Applicants who continue to have no flags continue the process. If there is doubt about whether an applicant poses a security risk, they will not be admitted.

2. Applicants are received by a federally-funded Refugee Support Center (RSC):

- Collects identifying documents
- Creates an applicant file
- Compiles information to conduct biographic security checks

3. Biographic security checks start with enhanced interagency security checks

- U.S. security agencies screen the candidate, including:
 - National Counterterrorism Center/Intelligence Community
 - FBI
 - Department of Homeland Security

Refugees are subject to the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States.

- This is the end point for cases denied due to medical reasons. Refugees may be provided medical treatment for communicable diseases such as tuberculosis.

7. Cultural orientation and assignment to domestic resettlement locations:

- Applicants complete cultural orientation classes.
- An assessment is made by a U.S.-based non-governmental organization to determine the best resettlement location for the candidate(s). Considerations include:
 - Family; candidates with family in a certain area may be placed in that area.
 - Health; a candidate with asthma may be matched to certain regions.
- A location is chosen.

8. Travel:

- International Organization for Migration books travel
- Prior to entry in the United States, applicants are subject to:
 - Screening from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's National Targeting Center-Passenger
 - The Transportation Security Administration's Secure Flight Program
- This is the end point for some applicants. Applicants who have no flags continue the process.

9. U.S. Arrival:

- All refugees are required to apply for a green card within a year of their arrival to the United States, which triggers:
 - Another set of security procedures with the U.S. government.
- **Refugees are woven into the rich fabric of American society!**

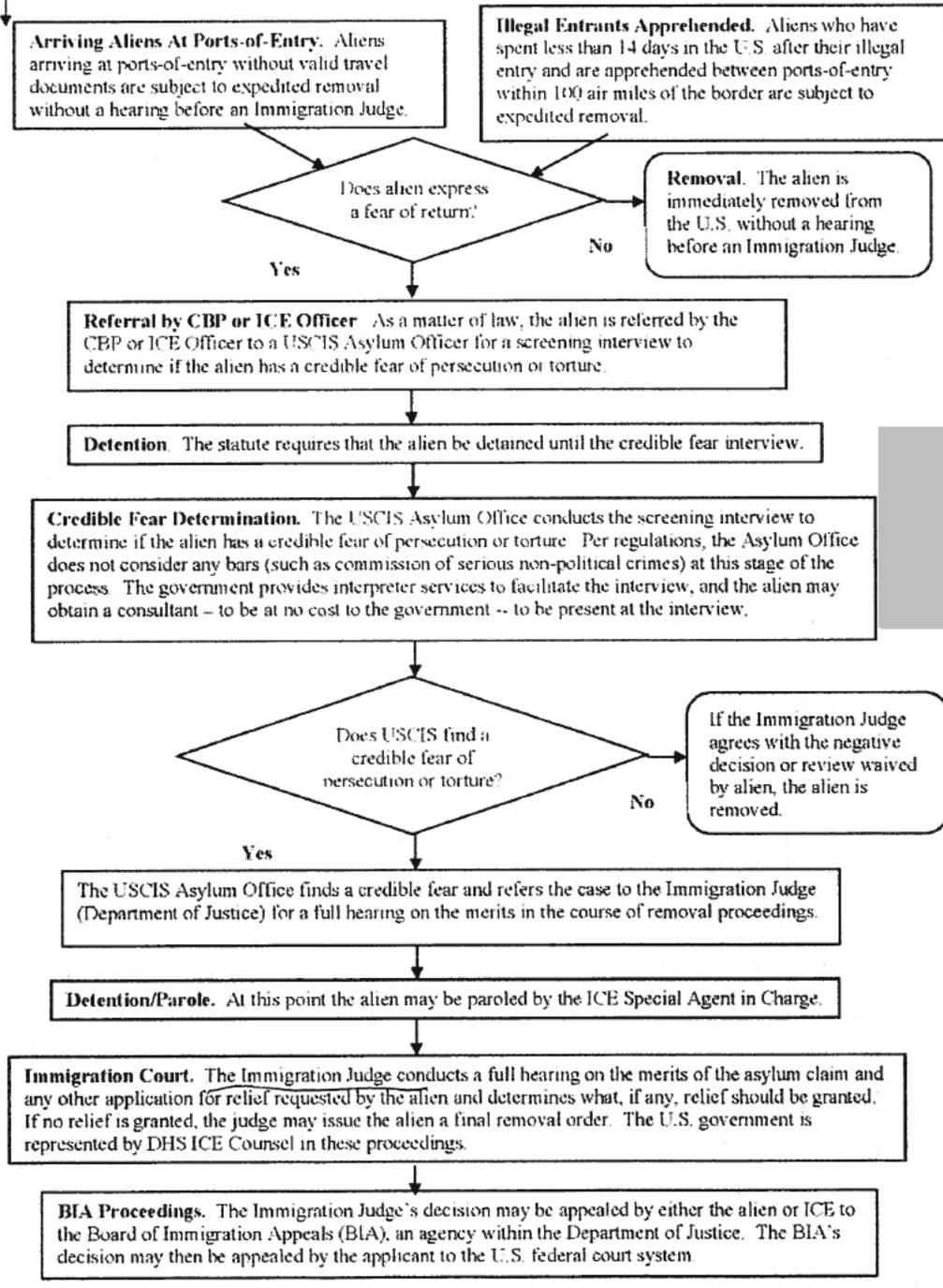
Amy Pope is Deputy Assistant to the President for Homeland Security



U.S. ASYLUM PROCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS ARRIVING AT PORTS-OF-ENTRY AND CERTAIN ILLEGAL ENTRANTS APPREHENDED WITHIN 100 AIR MILES OF U.S. INTERNATIONAL LAND BORDER

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Ana Vargas

From: Jerry Strickland
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 12:13 PM
To: Daniel Hodge; Robert Allen; Julia Rathgeber; Reed Clay; Drew DeBerry; Kara Belew; Matt Hirsch
Cc: Wes Hambrick
Subject: DRAFT: Letter to McConnell and Ryan on Refugees
Attachments: Refugee Letter to House Senate 1.4.2016.docx

Here is the latest version of the refugee legislation letter for sending on January 4 or 5. It currently includes five states, with one more state (LA) a possibility.

Please look through this letter and let me know if you have any issues.

Thank you.
Jerry

>
>

Libby Elliott

From: Drew DeBerry
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2015 11:03 AM
To: Libby Elliott; Kara Crawford
Subject: Fwd: WASHINGTON POST: Among Flood Fleeing Syria, A Trickle Crosses Ocean To Brave Central American Smuggling Routes

See below. I don't remember the VolAgs having ANY role with screening. Do y'all? Also, do either of you have

Drew DeBerry
Policy Director
Texas Governor Greg Abbott

Begin forwarded message:

[Redacted content]

THE SCREENING PROCESS

FOR REFUGEE ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES

1 MANY REFUGEE APPLICANTS IDENTIFY THEMSELVES TO THE U.N. REFUGEE AGENCY, UNHCR, THEN:

- Collects identifying documents
 - Performs initial assessment
 - Collects biodata: name, address, birthday, place of birth, etc.
 - Collects biometrics: iris scans (for Syrians, and other refugee populations in the Middle East)
 - Interviews applicants to confirm refugee status and the need for resettlement
 - Initial information checked again
- Only applicants who are strong candidates for resettlement move forward (less than 1% of global refugee population).

2 APPLICANTS ARE RECEIVED BY A FEDERALLY-FUNDED REFUGEE SUPPORT CENTER (RSC):

- Collects identifying documents
- Creates an applicant file
- Compiles information to conduct biographic security checks

The Screening Process for Refugee Entry into the United States
 Recurrent vetting: Throughout this process, pending applications continue to be checked against terrorist databases, to ensure new, relevant terrorism information has not come to light. If a match is found, that case is paused for further review. Applicants who continue to have no flags continue the process. If there is doubt about whether an applicant poses a security risk, they will not be admitted.

1. Many refugee applicants identify themselves to the U.N. Refugee Agency, UNHCR, then:

- Collects identifying documents
- Performs initial assessment
 - Collects biodata: name, address, birthday, place of birth, etc.
 - Collects biometrics: iris scans (for Syrians, and other refugee populations in the Middle East)
- Interviews applicants to confirm refugee status and the need for resettlement
 - Initial information checked again
- Only applicants who are strong candidates for resettlement move forward (less than 1% of global refugee population).

2. Applicants are received by a federally-funded Refugee Support Center (RSC):

- Collects identifying documents
- Creates an applicant file

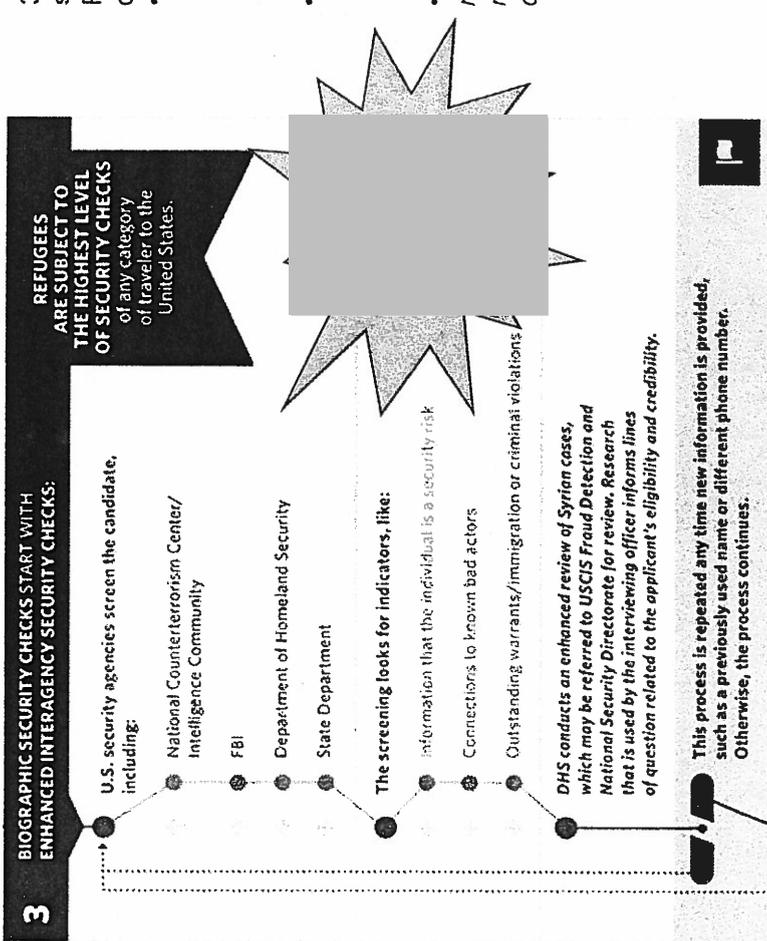
MASTER

Vol Agency TX
Vol Agency - Chantier, etc.
Vol Agency - Ca

11/23/2015 ** DRAFT**

SOURCE: WHITE HOUSE.GOV (11/20/15)

19 Vol Agency TX



3. Biographic security checks start with enhanced interagency security checks

Refugees are subject to the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States.

- U.S. security agencies screen the candidate, including:
 - National Counterterrorism Center/Intelligence Community
 - FBI
 - Department of Homeland Security
 - State Department
- The screening looks for indicators, like:
 - Information that the individual is a security risk
 - Connections to known bad actors
 - Outstanding warrants/immigration or criminal violations
- DHS conducts an enhanced review of Syrian cases, which may be referred to USCIS Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate for review. Research that is used by the interviewing officer informs lines of question related to the applicant's eligibility and credibility.

4 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)/USCIS INTERVIEW:

Interviews are conducted by USCIS Officers specially trained for interviews

Fingerprints are collected and submitted (biometric check)

Re-interviews can be conducted if fingerprint results or new information raises questions. If new biographic information is identified by USCIS at an interview, additional security checks on the information are conducted. USCIS may place a case on hold to do additional research or investigation. Otherwise, the process continues.

5 BIOMETRIC SECURITY CHECKS:

Applicant's fingerprints are taken by U.S. government employees

Fingerprints are screened against the FBI's biometric database
Fingerprints are screened against the DHS biometric database, containing watch-list information and previous immigration encounters in the U.S. and overseas

Fingerprints are screened against the U.S. Department of Defense biometric database, which includes fingerprint records captured in Iraq and other locations.

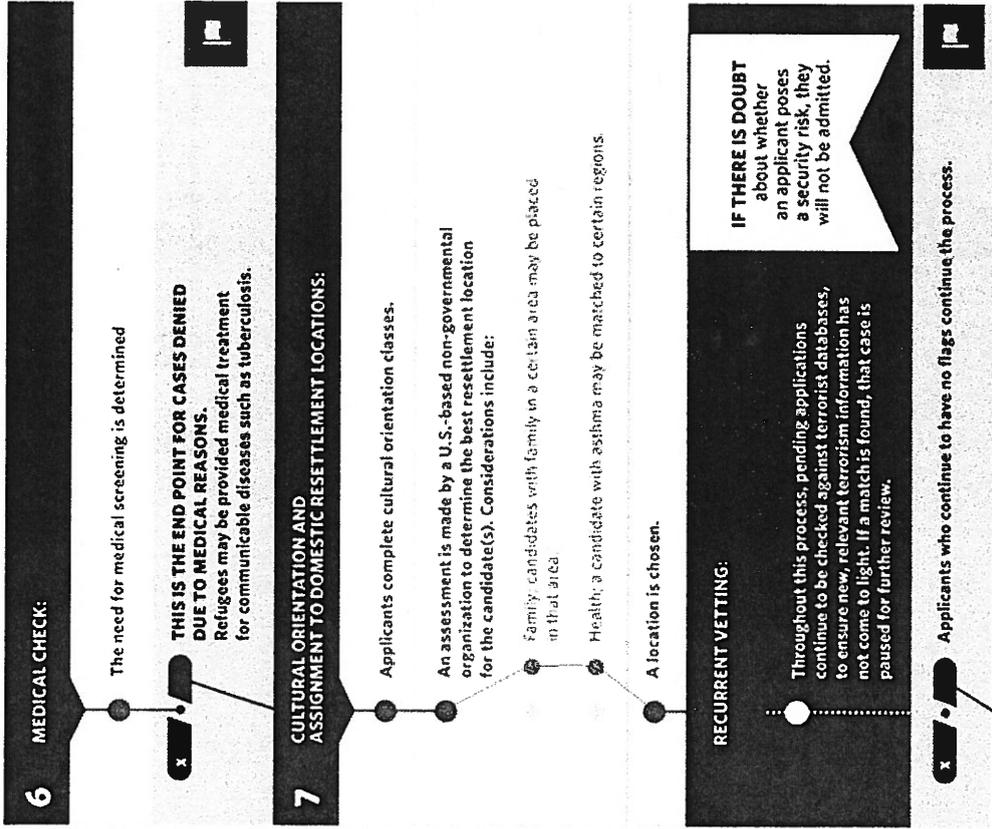
IF NOT ALREADY HALTED, THIS IS THE END POINT FOR CASES WITH SECURITY CONCERNS.
Otherwise, the process continues.

4. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/USCIS interview:

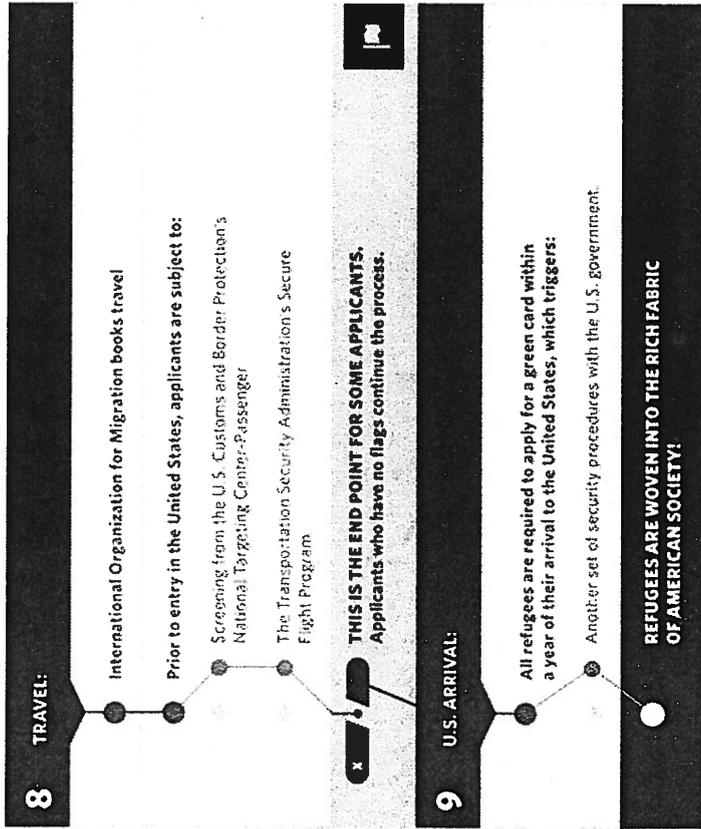
1. Interviews are conducted by USCIS Officers specially trained for interviews
2. Fingerprints are collected and submitted (biometric check)
3. Re-interviews can be conducted if fingerprint results or new information raises questions. If new biographic information is identified by USCIS at an interview, additional security checks on the information are conducted. USCIS may place a case on hold to do additional research or investigation. Otherwise, the process continues

5. Biometric security checks:

1. Applicant's fingerprints are taken by U.S. government employees
 1. Fingerprints are screened against the FBI's biometric database.
 2. Fingerprints are screened against the DHS biometric database, containing watch-list information and previous immigration encounters in the U.S. and overseas.
 3. Fingerprints are screened against the U.S. Department of Defense biometric database, which includes fingerprint records captured in Iraq and other locations.
2. If not already halted, this is the end point for cases with security concerns. Otherwise, the process continues.



- 6. Medical check:**
- The need for medical screening is determined
 - This is the end point for cases denied due to medical reasons. Refugees may be provided medical treatment for communicable diseases such as tuberculosis.
- 7. Cultural orientation and assignment to domestic resettlement locations:**
- Applicants complete cultural orientation classes.
 - An assessment is made by a U.S.-based non-governmental organization to determine the best resettlement location for the candidate(s). Considerations include:
 - Family; candidates with family in a certain area may be placed in that area.
 - Health; a candidate with asthma may be matched to certain regions.
 - A location is chosen.



11/23/15

8. Travel:

1. International Organization for Migration books travel
2. Prior to entry in the United States, applicants are subject to:
 1. Screening from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's National Targeting Center-Passenger
 2. The Transportation Security Administration's Secure Flight Program
3. This is the end point for some applicants. Applicants who have no flags continue the process.

9. U.S. Arrival:

1. All refugees are required to apply for a green card within a year of their arrival to the United States, which triggers:
 1. Another set of security procedures with the U.S. government.
 2. Refugees are woven into the rich fabric of American society!

Libby Elliott

From: Drew DeBerry
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 4:00 PM
To: Libby Elliott; Kara Crawford; Mike Goldmar
Cc: Jerry Strickland
Subject: FW: White House Blog: How We're Welcoming Syrian Refugees While Ensuring Our Safety

FYI

*Drew DeBerry
Policy Director
Governor Greg Abbott*

From: Kim Snyder
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 3:53 PM
To: Daniel Hodge <dth@gov.texas.gov>; Robert Allen <rea@gov.texas.gov>; Drew DeBerry <Drew.DeBerry@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: FW: White House Blog: How We're Welcoming Syrian Refugees While Ensuring Our Safety

From: White House Intergovernmental Affairs [<mailto:IGA@who.eop.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 3:48 PM
Subject: White House Blog: How We're Welcoming Syrian Refugees While Ensuring Our Safety

Please see below for a blog post by Deputy National Security Advisor Amy Pope regarding the United States' response to the Syrian refugee crisis. You can read the blog post [HERE](#).

How We're Welcoming Syrian Refugees While Ensuring Our Safety
by Deputy National Security Advisor Amy Pope
Posted November 17, 2015 at 3:16 PM ET

Summary: Get the details on how the United States is responding to the Syrian refugee crisis.

The President's number one priority -- and my focus every day -- is the safety and security of the American people. At the President's direction, bolstered by a global coalition of 65 partners, we are taking the fight to ISIL -- working together to degrade and ultimately destroy the terrorist group.

The tragic event in Paris last week was a horrific attack on humanity, but we have always said that defeating an enemy as dangerous and determined as ISIL will be a long fight. Now, even as we intensify our efforts in coordination with our partners to take ISIL out, we cannot turn our backs on those most threatened by the terrorist group.

The refugees that have captivated so much attention in the wake of Friday's attack are fleeing precisely the type of senseless slaughter that occurred in Paris. To slam the door in their faces -- to decide not to help when we know that we can help -- would be a betrayal of our values. It would be un-American.

That's why, once it was concluded that we can do it safely, the President announced a plan to resettle at least 10,000 Syrian refugees in the United States next year. We remain steadfastly committed to that plan because it is consistent with our values and our national security.

Libby Elliott

From: Bodisch, Robert <Robert.Bodisch@dps.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 7:25 AM
To: Daniel Hodge; Julia Rathgeber; Robert Allen; McCraw, Steven; Libby Elliott; Bodisch, Robert
Subject: Sen. Sessions Reveals 12 Refugee-Jihadis Charged this Year, Hopes to Shrink Obama's 2016 Refugee Budget

.and these are just 2015.

Sen. Sessions Reveals 12 Refugee-Jihadis Charged this Year, Hopes to Shrink Obama's 2016 Refugee Budget

AFP PHOTO / SITE INTELLIGENCE GROUP

by Neil Munro 24 Nov 2015 1944

Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL) is out with a list of 12 vetted refugees who quickly joined jihad plots to attack the United States.

He's spotlighting the refugees-turned-jihadis because he's trying to prod GOP leaders into halting Congress normal practice of giving the president huge leeway to import foreign migrants and refugees into the United States.

This year, Obama is promising to bring in an extra 10,000 low-skill, potentially difficult-to-integrate Syrian migrants into the United States. Sessions and other critics fear he'll use his many powers — and Congress' autopilot funding for refugee programs — to bring in far more than 10,000 migrants.

In fact, from 2010 to 2015, Obama has allowed more than 200,000 low-skill migrants from Central American to enter the United States, and then disappear into the nation's growing population of at least 11 million illegal immigrants.

Obama says the new refugees will be vetted. But top security officials say the Syrians can't be vetted because the U.S doesn't know what they were doing in Syria before they applied for refugee status.

Besides, many of the jihad attempts in the United States are launched by the children of Muslim refugees and migrants. That list include the two Chechen brothers who bombed the Boston Marathon, and Anwar al-Awlaki who was killed by a U.S missile strike when he fled to Yemen after the 9/11 atrocity. That means the Americans' federal government is actively importing national-security problems that will eventually cost billions of dollars to manage, but cannot be eliminated.

Congressional leaders will set funding levels, and possible curbs, during the December appropriations debate.

- On February 5, 2015, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, **Ramiz Zijad Hodzic** – a native of Bosnia, and a purported Bosnian war hero who came to the United States as a refugee – was charged with conspiring to provide material support and resources to terrorists, with providing material support to terrorists, and conspiring to kill and maim persons in a foreign country. According to the indictment, among other things, Hodzic obtained money that he used to, “purchase materials and supplies including: United States military uniforms, tactical combat boots, military surplus goods, tactical gear and clothing, firearms accessories, optical equipment and range finders, rifle scopes, equipment, and supplies . . . intending that the materials and supplies would thereafter be transferred to, and used to support” Abdullah Ramo Pazara and ISIS. Indictment
- On February 5, 2015, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, **Sedina Unkić Hodzic** – the wife of Ramiz Zijad Hodzic, and a native of Bosnia who came to the United States as a refugee – was charged with conspiring to provide material support and resources to terrorists, and providing material support to terrorists. According to the indictment, Sedina, along with her husband, collected money from third parties and wired it to terrorists abroad. Also according to the indictment, Sedina shipped six boxes of U.S. military uniforms, combat boots, tactical clothing and gear, military surplus items, firearms accessories, rifle scopes, optical equipment, first aid supplies, and other equipment to terrorists abroad. Indictment
- On February 5, 2015, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, **Armin Harcevic** – a native of Bosnia who came to the United States as a refugee, and subsequently adjusted to Lawful Permanent Resident status – was charged with conspiring to provide material support and resources to terrorists, and with providing material support to terrorists. According to the Indictment Harcevic collected money from third parties and wired it and his own funds to terrorists abroad. Indictment
- On February 5, 2015, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, **Nihad Rosic** – a native of Bosnia who sources indicate came to the United States as a refugee, adjusted to Lawful Permanent Resident status, and subsequently applied for and received citizenship – was charged with conspiring to provide material support and resources to terrorists, providing material support to terrorists, and conspiring to kill and maim persons in a foreign country. According to the indictment, Rosic sent funds to terrorists abroad, and attempted to travel to Syria to join terrorists in Syria and Iraq. According to press accounts, Rosic was a truck driver and former mixed martial arts fighter who had previously been charged with endangering the welfare of a child after punching a woman in the face while she held a child, and in a separate incident, was charged with assault after allegedly beating his girlfriend with a belt. Indictment
- On February 5, 2015, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, **Mediha Medy Salkicevic** – a native of Bosnia who sources indicate came to the United States as a refugee, adjusted to Lawful Permanent Resident status, and subsequently applied for and received citizenship – was charged with conspiring to provide material support and resources to terrorists, and providing material support to terrorists. According to press accounts, Salkicevic was formerly an employee with a cargo company that deals with items coming in and out of Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport. According to the indictment, Salkicevic collected money from third parties and wired it and her own funds to terrorists abroad. Indictment

Ana Vargas

From: Drew DeBerry
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 8:55 PM
To: Jerry Strickland
Cc: Daniel Hodge; Robert Allen; Julia Rathgeber; Reed Clay; Kara Belew; Matt Hirsch; Wes Hambrick
Subject: Re: DRAFT: Letter to McConnell and Ryan on Refugees

Two minor observations

Drew DeBerry
Policy Director
Texas Governor Greg Abbott

> On Dec 31, 2015, at 12:13 PM, Jerry Strickland <Jerry.Strickland@gov.texas.gov> wrote:
>
> Here is the latest version of the refugee legislation letter for sending on January 4 or 5. It currently includes five states, with one more state (LA) a possibility.
>
> Please look through this letter and let me know if you have any issues.
>
> Thank you.
> Jerry
>
> <Refugee Letter to House Senate 1.4.2016.docx>

[REDACTED]

With regard to Syrian refugees already in Texas, Drew wanted to know

[REDACTED]

Optimum data would include the following at a minimum:

- Complete name and any name changes
 - Photo
 - 10-prints
 - DNA swab
 - Historical records/documents regarding country/city of origin, etc.
 - General occupation
 - Current address
 - Info on relatives/friends in U. S.
 - Sunni/Shia/Christian/Other
- [REDACTED]



Ana Vargas

From: Kara Belew
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 11:21 AM
To: Ky Ash; John Hryhorchuk
Subject: FW: Report for your review EOD Friday
Attachments: Report Proof 01042016.pdf

Please review and provide me your edits.

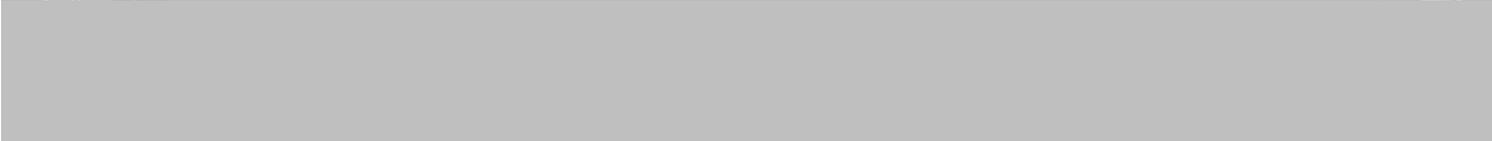
From: Anna Marie Thompson
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 11:08 AM
To: Daniel Hodge <dth@gov.texas.gov>; Drew DeBerry <Drew.DeBerry@gov.texas.gov>; Erin Hodges <Erin.Hodges@gov.texas.gov>; Julia Rathgeber <Julia.Rathgeber@gov.texas.gov>; Matt Hirsch <Matt.Hirsch@gov.texas.gov>; Reed Clay <Reed.Clay@gov.texas.gov>; Robert Allen <rea@gov.texas.gov>; Bryan Daniel <Bryan.Daniel@gov.texas.gov>; Kara Belew <Kara.Belew@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: Report for your review EOD Friday

Team: Welcome back and Happy New Year. Attached for your review by end of day Friday is a proposed **Report to the People of Texas from the Governor**. We hope to publish this online Jan. 25ish.

Background:

The Governor provides a biennial State of the State address to the people of Texas in the odd-numbered legislative years. In these public remarks to a joint session of the Texas House and Senate, the Governor offers an overview of the economic health of the state, his vision for the future of Texas and his priorities for the legislators in the session ahead.

Objective:



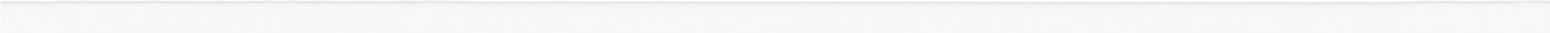
Notes:

- All:**
- [Redacted]
 - A few small items in red I am updating.
 - You may make your edits in the pdf using the sticky note function, or just send me an email with edits or questions.
 - [Redacted]
 - The Report is not exhaustive but should be fairly representative.

Drew: [Redacted]
Bryan: [Redacted]
Kara: [Redacted]

Format:

- [Redacted] the Report will be posted in a pdf format on the OOG website and pushed out to the media.
- [Redacted] the Report will be posted in several sections over the course of a week.
- A social media campaign, including video shorts, will precede the launch [Redacted]



- An op ed from the Governor with a customized lede will be sent to the smaller regional media markets
- A long-form montage video, and perhaps a small-town Texas tour, will mark the completion of the Report posting.

Many thanks.

Anna Marie Thompson
Media & Communications | Office of the Governor
512.936.3386