



H.R. 4038, the American Security Against Foreign Enemies (SAFE) Act

- America has a proud tradition of welcoming refugees into our country, and we lead the world in humanitarian assistance. However, we also must put proper measures in place to ensure our country's safety.
- We have long feared that refugee flows might be exploited by ISIS to conduct attacks in the West, and the group has vowed to do so. Sadly, our fears appear to be confirmed with the news that at least two of the Paris attackers reportedly infiltrated Europe posing as Syrian refugees. Other ISIS operatives may have also done the same.
- Senior U.S. law enforcement and intelligence officials have expressed concern here at home that we do not have the information needed to confidently vet refugees from the conflict zone to make sure they do not have ties to terrorism.
- Indeed, two Iraqi refugees in the United States with ties to ISIS were arrested on terror-related charges already this year. And the intelligence community has confirmed that "...individuals with ties to terrorist groups in Syria [have attempted] to gain entry to the U.S. through the U.S. refugee program."
- Accordingly, this bill puts important measures in place to ensure our refugee process is not exploited by terrorists and foreign fighters while also facilitating the resettlement of individuals who are not a threat to the United States.
- This bill requires our nation's top security officials to certify the integrity of the refugee background checks and to provide individual certifications that refugees from the conflict zone in Iraq and Syria do not pose a threat to the United States.
- The bill effectively pauses refugee admissions from Iraq and Syria until the following conditions are met:
 - the FBI Director certifies the background investigation of each refugee; and
 - the Secretary of Homeland Security, along with the FBI Director and the Director of National Intelligence, certifies to Congress that each refugee is not a security threat to the U.S.
- It also creates an additional layer of protection by requiring the DHS Inspector General to independently assess the refugee approvals—making sure that high-risk individuals do not slip through the cracks.
- **Ultimately, this legislation would put in place the most robust national-security vetting process in history for any refugee population, and it gives the American people the assurances needed that we will do everything possible to prevent terrorists and foreign fighters from reaching our shores.**