

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

September 17, 2015

Ms. Anne C. Richard  
Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Richard:

I write today seeking more information about the United States Refugee Admissions Program and an effort to increase the number of refugees from the Middle East.

As you are aware, President Barack Obama recently announced his intentions to permit at least 10,000 Syrian refugees into the United States in response to the migrant crisis in the Middle East and Europe. As a member of the House Committee on Armed Services, I have a great appreciation of the challenges facing the region, but I also have an understanding of the wide array of security challenges this decision could pose.

There is an affiliate of the Refugee Processing Center in Mobile, Alabama, located in my Congressional district. Given this information, I have legitimate concerns about the safety and security of my constituents in Southwest Alabama and people across the United States. I would like to know what precautions are being made to ensure these refugees are not affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or other terrorist organizations.

Recently, National Intelligence Director James Clapper said that his agency would not “put it past the likes of ISIL to infiltrate operatives among these refugees.” These terrorist groups have made clear they intend to use the refugee process to infiltrate our country, and I have serious concerns about increasing the number of allowed refugees.

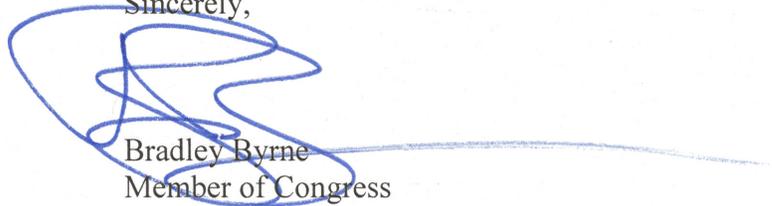
I would like answers to the following questions, and I understand some answers may be classified. If that is the case, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the information in a classified setting.

1. What kind of vetting process must the applicants go through?
2. What types of security screenings must the applicants go through and which federal agencies or departments are involved in the screenings?
3. What are some of the specific findings that could lead to an application being denied?

4. What efforts will be made to monitor the status of these individuals while they are in the United States?
5. What safeguards are in place to ensure our national security remains a priority while admitting refugees?
6. Will this increase in refugees require additional funding from Congress?

While I understand the serious challenges facing the Middle East, we must never lose sight of our top priority: to ensure the American people remain safe. If you have any questions about this request, my staff and I stand ready to assist. I encourage you to contact Miriam Fry in my office at 202-225-4931 or by email at [miriam.fry@mail.house.gov](mailto:miriam.fry@mail.house.gov). I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Bradley Byrne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bradley Byrne  
Member of Congress