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November 19, 2015

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown,

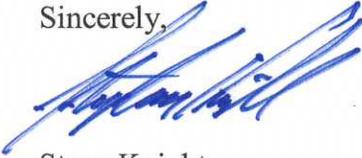
As the Obama Administration moves forward with its plan to allow 10,000 Syrian refugees into the United States, I write to urge you to consider the great risk this poses to public safety and to request that you reconsider the relocation of Syrian nationals to California.

In recent weeks, we have seen ISIL launch and assist in attacks far beyond its base in Iraq and Syria. While we are fortunate that no such attack has occurred on American soil, we can be sure that the group and its followers do have ambitions to lead new plots against our homeland. Our intelligence agencies have repeatedly indicated that ISIL and other terrorist organizations in the Middle East have embraced the strategy of sending combat-trained operatives to our country to build and coordinate home-grown cells in order to commit acts of terrorism.

The intelligence community and federal law enforcement agencies have delivered consistent warnings that the government refugee screening process is not able to sufficiently vet refugees from the war zone in Iraq and Syria. The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) is reliant on information generated from a refugee candidate's country of origin and stored in an intelligence database. Due to the lack of a U.S. footprint on the ground in the Syrian conflict zone, we have not gathered the data needed to screen for individuals with terrorist ties. FBI Director James Comey explained our inability to manage the risks of accepting Syrian refugees: "We can query our database [on refugee candidates] until the cows come home, but there will be nothing show up because we have no record of them."

The only option left to the Administration, should it pursue the planned expansion of USRAP in Syria, is a program of blind admission that terrorist organizations would likely seek to exploit. Such an action would neglect the fundamental responsibilities of our government, to support public safety and stability, and would fail to address the drivers and causes of the humanitarian crisis. I urge you to join the majority of governors in opposing the resettlement of Syrian refugees in the United States and take all necessary actions to prevent their relocation to California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Knight", written in a cursive style.

Steve Knight
Member of Congress