

MICHAEL R. TURNER

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GOVERNMENT REFORM

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

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

November 16, 2015

The Honorable Nan Whaley
Mayor of the City of Dayton
101 W. Third Street
Second Floor
Dayton, Ohio 45402

Dear Mayor Whaley:

The deadly November 13, 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris, France took the lives of over one hundred innocent civilians and severely injured hundreds more. The series of brutal, coordinated attacks appear to have been perpetrated by at least one individual who may have traveled to Europe under the guise of seeking asylum as a Syrian refugee. The Governor of Michigan, Rick Snyder, rescinded his previous invitation to accept Syrian refugees in light of the most recent terror attacks. In addition to Michigan, Governors from Alabama and Texas have listened to the facts and institutional warnings and have already stated they will not resettle refugees in their states due to "gaping holes" in the United States' screening process. I am urging you to listen to the concerns of the community and suspend your efforts to encourage the Obama Administration to resettle Syrian refugees in Dayton, Ohio.

The absence of an effective screening process and necessary safeguards may have allowed this terrorist, and potentially others, to migrate from Syria to Greece and ultimately to gain entry into Paris to commit heinous acts of violence. Moreover, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) testified before Congress and expressed grave and warranted concerns that the United States is unable to perform proper and thorough background checks of all individuals hoping to enter the United States as refugees.

While Dayton is a welcoming city, in the wake of these deadly attacks and the tragic loss of lives, I urge you to prioritize the safety and security of our community and rescind your invitation to the Obama Administration to send Syrian refugees for relocation in Dayton, Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael R. Turner".

Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress