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

September 29, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It has come to my attention that Dayton, Ohio Mayor Nan Whaley has recently sent a letter to you advocating for the placement of Syrian refugees in Dayton and the surrounding areas. While I am both sympathetic of the plight of these refugees and supportive of U.S. involvement during this difficult time, I am adamantly opposed to Mayor Whaley's proposal.

I am writing to express that Mayor Whaley does not speak for our community and to further express that our community does not have the necessary resources to support her proposal. In addition, Mayor Whaley does not have the authority to act unilaterally and to commit any community resources or to accept these refugees.

The City of Dayton and its surrounding communities are facing significant budgetary challenges due to a shifting economic landscape. The cost of providing for large numbers of refugees will have a severe negative impact on our ability to continue providing basic services to our community.

In my capacity as a Member of the House Armed Services Committee and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I have traveled to various countries impacted by the Syrian civil war and the Islamic State. While there, I witnessed firsthand the resources and security risks associated with the Syrian refugee crisis. While I am profoundly sensitive to the hardships of the Syrian people, my priorities remain with the safety and security of the citizens who reside in the Dayton community.

Given the financial burden and the unfortunate level of risk associated with these refugee groups, I strongly oppose Mayor Whaley's request that the Administration send these refugees to the Dayton region.

Sincerely,

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

Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress