



Washington State Senate

November 18, 2015

Governor Jay Inslee
200 Legislative Building
Olympia, Washington 98504

RE: Syrian Refugees

Dear Governor Inslee:

The world has been shocked by the depravity and violence of the recent terrorist massacre in the city of Paris. These monstrous acts horrified people of every civilized nation and every religion. Rightly so, this event has forced greater scrutiny of federal policy permitting access to this country by people from Syria. And yet, President Obama announced that 10,000 Syrian refugees will be admitted to the United States in the next few months with potentially hundreds of thousands more to follow. Most of those seeking refugee status in the United States deserve our compassion and help. But some may not. We know that at least one of the Paris murderers, and perhaps others, ostensibly from Syria, used the cover of refugee status to gain access to France. How many lives would have been saved if French officials had more carefully examined this terrorist's background and detained him?

Vigilant governors of 30 states have sent letters to the President urging him to pause the resettlement of Syrian refugees in their states until a competent and reliable vetting process can be established to ensure that the citizens of their states will not be the next victims of terrorism.

According to recent media reports, and statements you have made, Washington State will receive many of those refugees. Other than conclusory assurances, we have not seen a detailed description of the vetting process the federal government says it intends to employ to prevent terrorists from entering the US. Until we learn of the steps the President is taking to guarantee none of the refugees is a would-be terrorist, we urge you to notify the federal government that Washington must pause before it will take Syrian refugees.

We, like you, consider Washington State to be welcoming and gracious, especially to those who come here, legally, from war-torn regions. But not at the expense of the safety of the citizens of the state.

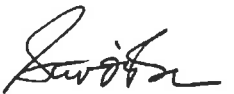
Please, Governor Inslee, pause, and take the time to assure the people of this state that the federal government is carefully vetting all who enter this nation to ensure that the bloodshed of Paris will not happen in the concert halls and cafes of our cities and towns. Perhaps there was a day when the public had confidence in the federal government to effectively vet and prevent

Page Two
Governor Jay Inslee
November 18, 2015

terrorists from entering this country. But no longer. Tough questions need to be asked. It is not enough for federal officials to talk of screening fingerprint and biometric information against law enforcement databases when this group of refugees is coming from a country without a functioning government and without any such database.

Winston Churchill once said, "I never worry about action but only inaction." We ask that you do not simply acquiesce to a policy that in light of recent events in Paris may constitute a clear and present threat to the safety of our people.

Sincerely,



Senator Steve O'Ban



Senator Jim Honeyford



Senator Curtis King



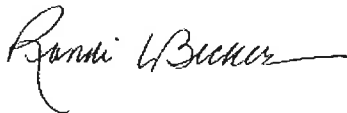
Senator Judy Warnick



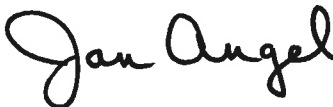
Senator Doug Ericksen



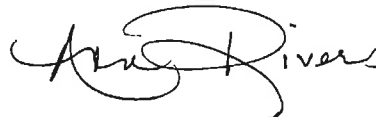
Senator Barbara Bailey



Senator Randy Becker



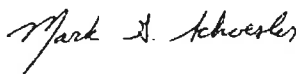
Senator Jan Angel



Senator Ann Rivers



Senator Don Benton



Senator Mark Schoesler



Senator Bruce Dammeier



Senator Kirk Pearson



Senator Mike Padden