



Pete Ricketts
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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Dear Resettlement Agencies:

I am writing to advise you that in light of the terrorist attacks in Paris my administration opposes efforts to resettle Syrian refugees in Nebraska until security concerns have been fully addressed. While it is my understanding that no Syrian refugees have been resettled in Nebraska to date, I am requesting that your organization and all refugee resettlement agencies in our state decline to participate in potential resettlement efforts.

Nebraska is a welcoming place for families seeking a home to live, work, and raise a family. My administration understands the danger and persecution many are facing in the Middle East, however, it is important that our state consider the safety and security of Nebraskans first in any refugee resettlement efforts. The terrorist attacks that occurred over the weekend in Paris are a solemn reminder of the reach and strength of ISIS and their agents. As ISIS has grown in strength in the Middle East, it appears that they have successfully recruited or dispatched members of their organization outside the region.

Subsequent news that at least one of the suicide bombers in Paris was a Syrian, who had traveled to France via Greece, has highlighted the necessity of taking every precaution to ensure that refugees originating from Syria do not have ties to ISIS or other terrorist organizations. Until the Department of Homeland Security has conducted a full review of security screening measures and taken every necessary step to strengthen them, my administration will oppose any effort to resettle Syrian refugees in our state.

Very shortly, I will be sharing a similar letter with President Obama urging him to end resettlement efforts until these concerns have been addressed. I have also instructed the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to oppose any potential resettlement efforts in our state.

Once again, I urge your organization not to pursue efforts to resettle Syrian refugees in the United States until our country has surveyed and addressed these concerns.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pete Ricketts".

Pete Ricketts
Governor