



AILA recommends VOTE NO on H.R. 4038, the “American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act of 2015”

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- **H.R. 4038 would effectively end the U.S. refugee resettlement program in both Syria and Iraq**, and prevent our nation from protecting victims of exactly the kind of terror which unfolded on the streets of Paris and Beirut at the end of last year. The U.S. cannot turn its back on these refugees that are fleeing war and violence, and deserve international protection.
- **H.R. 4038 seeks to impose unnecessary burdens on the US refugee program.** Already the US refugee program applies rigorous security and background checks to screen all refugees before they are cleared for resettlement. The Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Defense, and intelligence agencies subject each individual to rigorous and multi-layered biometric and biographic security checks. The whole process takes 2 years and often more before a refugee can even set foot in the U.S.
- **H.R. 4038 establishes the costly and completely unworkable standards** of requiring agreement by three federal agencies and reporting to 13 congressional committees on every refugee considered for resettlement who is from Iraq or Syria, or anyone who has set foot in those countries in the past four years. These requirements would effectively stop any resettlement of refugees from those countries.
- **H.R. 4038 would require the creation of a certification process that can never be operational.** Refugees, some of which have families in the U.S., who have already been waiting for months in refugee camps will be held indefinitely.
- **H.R. 4038 would block the resettlement of 58,000 Iraqi refugees who have family in the U.S., served as interpreters for the U.S. military, or have other close U.S. affiliations, and have been waiting months for resettlement.**
- On 12/1/15, a bipartisan group of national policy experts, including former Secretaries of State Madeline Albright and Henry Kissinger, [expressed opposition](#) to measures that would end the refugee resettlement program for Syrians and Iraqis.
- Former Secretary of State Madeline Albright – a refugee herself who fled Czechoslovakia – [has said that ISIS wants us to think that refugees are the problem](#). “By making Syrian refugees the enemy, we are playing into their hands,” she said. If the U.S. does not live up to its proud tradition as the global humanitarian leader and continue to resettle Syrian refugees, “we will squander our moral authority and hurt our international credibility,” said Secretary Albright.