

General Assembly
State of Colorado
Denver

November 18, 2015

Governor John W. Hickenlooper
State Capitol, Room 100
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Governor Hickenlooper,

As representatives for the citizens of Colorado, we strongly believe that our single most important job is ensuring the safety of our friends, families, and neighbors.

Therefore, given the recent tragic events in Paris, we call on you to inform the federal government that you are joining hands with twenty-nine other Governors from both parties to call for a suspension of Syrian refugee resettlement until Congress has, by joint resolution, affirmed the adequacy of the vetting process for all refugees.

In your statement on Monday, you rightly voiced concern regarding adequate vetting of refugees. We ask you stand behind that statement and call for bipartisan congressional review and approval of the vetting process. To protect our citizens, we must identify and reject terrorists hiding their true identities, motives and plans.

In 2014 Colorado accepted 1,813 refugees or two and one-half percent of the total of 69,987 refugees resettled in the United States. If only two and one-half percent of the 10,000 Syrian refugees slated for 2017 are resettled in Colorado, it would be 250 Syrians. Even if we believe vetting achieves a stunning 95% success rate, it would still mean twelve terrorists could slip through and settle in our state.

Yet, as a matter of public record, the FBI believes that success in vetting Syrian refugees is very problematical. The assistant director of the FBI testified in February before the Homeland Security Committee of the House of Representatives that the FBI has neither the tools nor the resources to conduct effective background checks on the Syrian refugees.

Understandably, this has caused great concern among many in Colorado, and we are hearing from our constituents. We believe you, as governor for all the citizens of Colorado, have a duty to honor those concerns and convey a strong message of caution to the federal government.

We elected officials must protect the safety and security of our neighbors, our friends, our seniors and our children. We must do all we can to protect our citizens, and we call on you to join with us in this vital effort.

Respectfully,



Senator Laura Woods



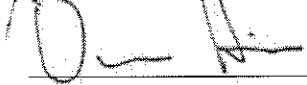
Senator David Balmer



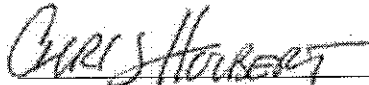
Senator Randy Baumgardner



Senator John Cooke



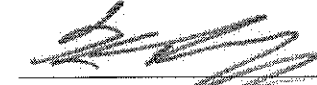
Senator Owen J. Hill



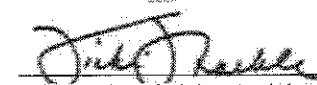
Senator Chris Holbert



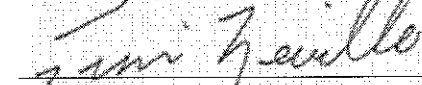
Senator Kent Lambert



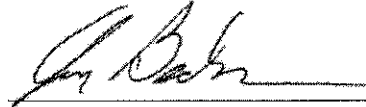
Senator Kevin Lundberg



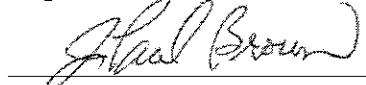
Senator Vicki Marble



Senator Tim Neville



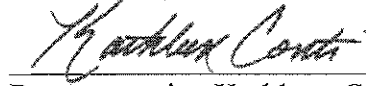
Representative Jon Becker



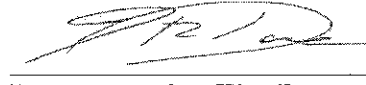
Representative J. Paul Brown



Representative Perry Buck



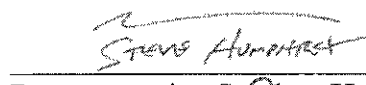
Representative Kathleen Conti



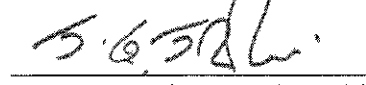
Representative Tim Dore



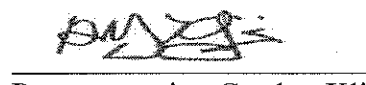
Representative Justin Everett



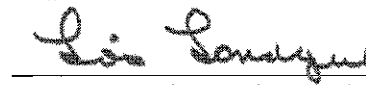
Representative Stephen Humphrey



Representative Janak Joshi



Representative Gordon Klingenschmitt



Representative Lois Landgraf



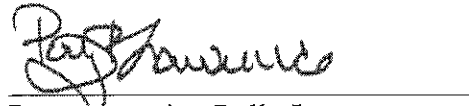
Senator Mark Scheffel



Senator Ray Scott



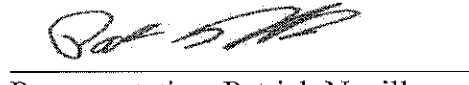
Senator Jerry Sonnenberg



Representative Polly Lawrence



Representative Paul Lundeen



Representative Patrick Neville




Representative Dan Nordberg



Representative Kevin Priola



Representative Bob Rankin



Representative Kim Ransom




Representative Kit Roupe



Representative Lori Saine



Representative Lang Sias



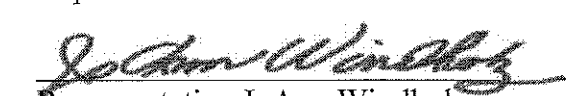
Representative Jack Tate



Representative Kevin VanWinkle



Representative Yeulin Willett



Representative JoAnn Windholz