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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 17, 2015

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Nebraska Avenue Complex
3801 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretaries Kerry and Johnson:

I raised concerns with you in September about the complete inadequacy of the safeguards and methods of verifying refugee's information. We have now seen in the horrible Paris terrorist attacks what this can lead to. As you know, at least one of those terrorists got into France as a Syrian refugee.

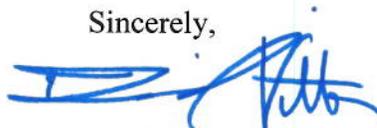
In Louisiana, we have yet another example of the danger. I received news today that a Syrian refugee placed just this week in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, has already gone missing. According to information I have received from Louisiana State Police, it is believed that the refugee in question has left Louisiana on his own and is travelling to Washington, D.C. Apparently, his actual whereabouts are completely unknown and there is no U.S. agency which is in contact with him or is tracking him despite his movements to an area that is already on high alert.

This case makes obvious the inadequacies in the current system tracking incoming refugees. It is especially alarming that your offices continue to claim that protocols are up to necessary standards and do not require further improvements for refugees once they arrive in the country even though monitoring is merely for a very short period of time and can be easily frustrated.

It is of the utmost importance to national security and the safety of the American people that the United States not allow any member of the Islamic State or any other terrorist organization enter under the guise of the Syrian refugee admission. Based on the fact that ISIS has a stronghold in Syria and surrounding areas where Syrian refugees have fled, I continue to have serious concerns about this real danger.

In my previous letter I asked that you provide written responses to questions related to these protocols and needed improvements to the overall verification system. I await your response.

Sincerely,



David Vitter
United States Senate

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