

1 HJR28  
2 173286-1  
3 By Representative Rowe  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 09-FEB-16

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8 URGING CONGRESS TO AMEND THE REFUGEE ACT OF 1980 AND  
9 TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO STRENGTHEN REFUGEE VETTING AND  
10 RESETTLEMENT.  
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12 WHEREAS, since 2011, armed and doctrinal conflict in  
13 the Syrian Arab Republic has caused the displacement of  
14 millions of Syrian nationals; and

15 WHEREAS, the President of the United States has  
16 recently announced a policy initiative to admit 10,000 Syrian  
17 refugees in fiscal year 2016; and

18 WHEREAS, on Friday, November 13, 2015, more than 120  
19 people were killed and 350 others wounded in a coordinated  
20 series of terrorist attacks in Paris, France; and

21 WHEREAS, these attacks were conducted by Islamic  
22 extremists, at least one of them a recent Syrian refugee, and  
23 the radical terrorist group, Islamic State (ISIS), claimed  
24 responsibility; and

1           WHEREAS, subsequent to these attacks, additional  
2 terrorist attacks have been committed or attempted by  
3 terrorists posing as refugees; and

4           WHEREAS, it is reasonably possible that members of  
5 the Islamic States of Iran, Iraq, and Syria, or another  
6 radical extremist terrorist organization, may seek to exploit  
7 the historical policy of the United States in welcoming  
8 refugees in our borders by claiming refugee status as a means  
9 to enter and infiltrate the country for the unlawful purpose  
10 of committing terrorist acts and harming U.S. citizens and  
11 property; and

12           WHEREAS, current databases do not allow for  
13 meaningful advanced screening of Syrian refugees, as  
14 demonstrated by the Director of the FBI, who testified to  
15 Congress that the federal government does not have the  
16 necessary background information to effectively conduct  
17 security checks on Syrian nationals; and

18           WHEREAS, the infiltration of radical terrorist  
19 organizations in the refugee process could result in a threat  
20 to the life, safety, and property of American citizens and the  
21 United States; and

22           WHEREAS, when the threat to United States citizens  
23 is foreseeable, it is prudent to implement common sense and  
24 precautionary measures, as well as to strengthen our state and  
25 federal laws, to prevent the occurrence of an emergency which

1       threatens the life, safety, and property of American citizens;  
2       and

3               WHEREAS, changes in federal law, including the  
4       Refugee Resettlement Act of 1980, as amended, to strengthen  
5       the refugee vetting process, to mandate meaningful advance  
6       security and health screenings of refugees prior to  
7       resettlement in the states, or other security measures,  
8       including follow-up monitoring of resettled refugees, as well  
9       as to provide for the substantive involvement of the states in  
10      the refugee resettlement process, both in advance of and upon  
11      arrival, are necessary to provide for the safety and  
12      protection of United States citizens; and

13              WHEREAS, until there is a verifiable means to vet  
14      refugees and certify the results, the states should be  
15      authorized and empowered to reject refugees until adequate  
16      vetting and certification is complete; now therefore,

17              BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
18      HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That by copy of this resolution,  
19      the United States Congress and the President are urged to  
20      amend the Refugee Resettlement Act of 1980 and pass federal  
21      legislation to mandate meaningful advance security and health  
22      screenings of refugees prior to resettlement in the states, or  
23      other security measures, including follow-up monitoring of  
24      resettled refugees, as well as to provide for the substantive  
25      involvement of the states in the refugee resettlement process,

1 both in advance of and upon arrival, in order to provide for  
2 the safety and protection of United States citizens.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the United States  
4 Congress and the President are urged to enact legislation  
5 authorizing and empowering the United States and its states to  
6 reject refugees from resettlement in the event that, for any  
7 reason, the vetting process for a refugee is not adequately  
8 and completely conducted.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That duly authenticated  
10 copies of this resolution be provided to the President of the  
11 United States, to United States Secretary of Homeland  
12 Security, the Director of the United States Citizenship and  
13 Immigration Services, the Speaker and Clerk of the United  
14 States House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore  
15 and the Secretary of the United States Senate.