

# Refugee Resettlement

## An Important Issue for Citizens and Lawmakers

In the midst of international, national, and local media coverage of refugees migrating from areas in the middle east to both Europe and the U.S., Americans have recently become much more aware of a program that actually started decades ago, by the Refugee Resettlement Act of 1980. The program, though, has been steeped in secrecy for the majority of its 35 year history and has contributed an immense burden to the nation.

In Theory, “refugees” are supposed to be able to prove they were personally persecuted, but for more than a decade that definition is being increasingly watered down. For instance, under the current refugee policy climate, a Somali individual may receive refugee status simply because of his/her nationality. The Obama Administration has further weakened the definition by claiming that “those escaping poverty” (economic migrants) from Mexico and Central America are also refugees.

Because refugees access welfare on the same basis as a U.S. citizen, the **program has become a global magnet**. Federal programs available to refugees include:

- *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)*
- *Medicaid*
- *Food Stamps*
- *Public Housing*
- *Supplemental Security Income (SSI)*
- *Social Security Disability Insurance*
- *Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) (direct svcs only)*
- *Child Care and Development Fund*
- *Independent Living Program*
- *Job Opportunities for Low Income Individuals (JOLI)*
- *Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)*
- *Postsecondary Education Loans and Grants*
- *Refugee Assistance Programs*
- *Title IV Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Payments (if parents are qualified immigrants – refugees, asylees, etc)*
- *Title XX Social Services Block Grant Funds*

It’s no wonder, then that The Center for Immigration Studies has projected that a family of four “refugees” would cost U.S. taxpayers \$257,482 over the next five years.

At the same time, FBI Director James Comey has repeatedly warned that the U.S. government cannot properly screen Syrian refugees entering the country. Meanwhile a Clarion Project poll revealed that 13% of Syrian refugees support the Islamic State. This underscores the security implications of President Obama’s plan to raise the number of Syrian refugees admitted to the U.S. to at least 10,000 in Fiscal Year 2016.

### What Can YOU Do?

1. Educate yourself on this important issue. Start by watching Ann Corcoran’s [short video](#), reading her monograph [“Refugee Resettlement and the Hijra to America.”](#) and reading Jim Simpson’s monograph [“The Red-Green Axis.”](#)
2. Ask your fellow citizens and your state lawmakers to contact your state’s Senators and Congressional delegates to have them support legislation to bring more transparency and accountability to the Refugee Resettlement program. Summaries of two such pieces of legislation are provided below.

### H.R.3314 - Resettlement Accountability National Security Act of 2015

#### **Legislation:**

[Resettlement Accountability National Security Act of 2015](#)

#### **Sponsor:**

[Rep. Babin, Brian \[R-TX-36\]](#)

#### **Summary:**

This bill prohibits the admission of refugees into the United States until Congress passes a joint resolution giving the Department of Homeland Security authority to resume admitting refugees. It also requires the Government Accountability Office to report to Congress on refugees who received benefits under any of the following programs:

- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Disability insurance under title II of the Social Security Act
- The supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP, formerly the food stamp program)
- Section 8 rental assistance

### H.R.3573 - Refugee Resettlement Oversight and Security Act of 2015

#### **Legislation:**

[Refugee Resettlement Oversight and Security Act of 2015](#)

#### **Sponsor:**

[Rep. McCaul, Michael T. \[R-TX-10\]](#)

#### **Summary:**

This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the President, after appropriate consultation with certain congressional committees, to recommend to Congress the number of refugees who may be admitted into the United States in a fiscal year.

Except in the case of an unforeseen emergency refugee situation, no refugees may be admitted in a fiscal year until Congress enacts a joint resolution setting the number of refugees who may be admitted in that fiscal year.

In determining an alien's admissibility on security and related grounds the Department of Homeland Security shall consult with the Director of National Intelligence and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Beginning in FY2016 and ending in FY2020, the President, when considering the admission of refugees who are nationals or citizens of Iraq or Syria, shall give priority to members of a persecuted religious minority.

The Government Accountability Office shall report to Congress on the effectiveness of the refugee screening process in protecting U.S. security.