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November 16, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Governor of South Carolina  
State House, First Floor  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

In light of the increase in terrorism throughout the world, South Carolinians have genuine concerns that some persons believed to be seeking refuge within our borders may have direct ties with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or the group commonly known as ISIS.

According to multiple reports, at least one of the terrorists responsible for the Paris attacks disguised himself as a refugee to gain access into Europe. As more information emerges, it is unquestionably clear that these terrorists will execute whatever means necessary to infiltrate and murder innocent civilians.

In order to keep our citizens safe, we urge you to reconsider your recent approval of the federal government's State Plan Certification. As the executive of this State, you are the only person vested with the authority to establish or change the plan for a Refugee Resettlement Program in South Carolina.

Although the FBI and Department of Homeland Security intend to conduct a thorough vetting process, there is no proof that these efforts will be successful. Without proper assurances for vetting any refugees, we do not believe it is a safe or wise policy for South Carolina to assist with this process. At least six other governors are rejecting the federal government's plans to relocate refugees within their borders with more to follow. We urge you to do the same as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Greg Delleney



The Honorable Eric Bedingfield



The Honorable Mike Burns



The Honorable Craig Gagnon



The Honorable Alan Clemmons



The Honorable Ralph Kennedy



The Honorable Dwight Loftis



The Honorable Dennis Moss



The Honorable Tommy Pope



The Honorable Mike Pitts



The Honorable Gary Simrill



The Honorable Garry Smith



The Honorable Anne Thayer