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**Subject:** We're at War!

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## We're At War!

Dear Friends:

Again this week, Islamic terrorists brought their fight to our homeland as evidenced in the horrific mass killings in California. Unlike the Obama administration, sensible Americans have come to the realization we are at war with a new type of enemy. These terrorists don't have the values shared by most Americans. They don't believe every life is precious. They believe in jihad. The battlefield lines of past wars are nearly non-existent. Today, the battlefield can be around the corner and present dangers to our everyday lives. There is no quick fix, but there are common sense steps to help keep us safe and I've just taken one.

### Controlling the Flow of Refugees

I'm one of three primary sponsors of legislation filed this week in the S.C. House of Representatives that would allow South Carolina to have more control over refugee settlements which the federal government believes is their sole authority. [The 'Refugee Absorptive Capacity Act' \(H.4396\)](#) would allow for a moratorium on new refugee settlements in our state under certain circumstances. The bill calls for close cooperation and input from local governments since it is primarily local and state governments that have to pay the price for refugees.

### What Must be Considered?

Before settling refugees in a community we need to ascertain the capacity of social service agencies, child welfare agencies, child care facilities, educational facilities, health care facilities, translation and interpreter services, and law enforcement agencies to meet the existing needs of the community's current residents considering budgetary and other restraints. Specific issues to be considered:

- The capacity to provide medical care to refugees and their medical conditions.
- The capacity to provide affordable housing, low cost housing, or both, considering existing waiting lists.
- The capacity of the local school districts to meet the needs of the existing or anticipated refugee population, including education of unaccompanied refugee children and provision of English language training;
- The capacity of the economy in local areas to absorb new workers without displacing existing local workers.
- The capacity of state and local law enforcement to assure that law and order can be maintained and the citizens can be protected from crime.

In my view, this is a sensible and prudent process to ascertain all these factors before accepting foreign refugees.

### Here's a Thought!

Let's consolidate the efforts of our religious groups and non-profits as well as other organizations to help the 50,000 American veterans who are homeless today in our country. Now, that would be true compassion shown

to people who have given so much.

#### Finding Education Solutions

It has been said that the failure of public education is the civil rights issue of today. I agree. This week, I witnessed first-hand the efforts in Memphis, Tennessee to turn failing public schools into achieving schools and prepare kids for life. The Memphis story is gaining national attention. I joined a few other legislators in seeing how they are succeeding through innovative leadership, inspired teachers, discipline and a strategy that helps every student learn. With SC's legal challenges brought on by the Abbeville court decision, we legislators are looking at best practices in other states to meet our school improvement challenges. You can get a

flavor of what we saw in this video.

#### Holiday Spirit Abounds

Tonight, community Christmas Trees will be lit in Aiken, Wagener and elsewhere. I look forward to participating in Wagener's Christmas parade tomorrow at 11am as well as the Windsor Christmas parade Sunday at 3pm. The following Sunday, December 13th, Donna & I will be wishing all of Aiken a "Merry Christmas" in the Aiken parade that kicks-off at 2pm. Hope to see you at one of these events or the many other local holiday festivities.

#### I'm Available

It is an honor and a privilege to serve you. If you need help navigating state government, or have any thoughts or concerns about what we are doing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In your Service,

**Bill Taylor**

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#### Photos of the Week

I joined former USCA  
Chancellor Tom Hallman and  
Atty. Clark McCants ringing the  
bell for the Salvation Army in  
front of the Richland Ave.  
Walmart in Aiken. We're  
Salvation Army board members.  
I'm grateful to all those  
generous folks who stuffed the  
bucket with cash and coins  
during our bell ringing.

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