

The Members of
Bethany Presbyterian Church
3 Howe St.
Seattle, WA 98109

Dear *Governor Haley*,

There are many who seek to destroy the ideals that our country was built upon—freedom, justice, and the blessings of life and liberty. These terrorists seek to divide us, to distract us with fear tactics, but we will not be ruled by fear. I know that refugees coming to America already go through tremendously long vetting processes and slowing that process further would be denying them justice and compassion. I ask that you do your part to fight for their rights and their lives, knowing that doing so does not compromise the safety of your constituents.

As a person of faith, I write to urge you to protect all vulnerable people seeking safety, particularly those fleeing persecution in Syria who are especially at risk. Our faith calls us to care for those in need. As a nation that has proudly stood as a beacon of hope for those in need, we are defined by our commitment to compassion for the vulnerable and justice for all. I ask that you stand with people of faith in welcoming Syrian refugees into the United States.

The greatest act of defiance against terrorism is to refuse to be afraid, to refuse to be so ruled by our fear that we compromise our most important values.

As an American, I am proud that my country has served the needs of refugees and become a leader in protecting vulnerable populations worldwide. The United States has a strong tradition of welcoming those who are fleeing persecution and supporting Refugee Resettlement would further that tradition. I ask that you support legislation that allows for quicker processing abroad while still maintaining safety for Americans, and help refugees to integrate.

We are compelled and prepared to provide the welcome these refugees need to successfully resettle in our communities. We are ready to do our part to protect, embrace, and empower them as they begin their new lives in the United States -- people of faith throughout the United States are here, standing for welcoming refugees.

Sincerely,

Laura J. H. Middle School Youth Pastor



Refugees

