

From: Donna Townsend  
Sent: 11/24/2015 10:42:40 AM  
To: Haley, Nikki  
Cc:  
Subject: Syrian Refugees

Dear Governor:

I am writing to express my deepest disappointment in the political representatives' recent vote to refuse resettlement of refugees to South Carolina. Every citizen of South Carolina believes safety is of the utmost importance. However, your vote is not about safety. It is about fear of Muslims, and perhaps fear of an electorate that is entrenched in Islamophobia. As a Muslim who calls South Carolina my home, I want you to know that you are doing a very poor job of representing me and other Muslims here.

It is perplexing to me that you think people who are fleeing a war torn country and terrorist groups like ISIS would themselves seek to hurt others in our community. These people need and deserve help and compassion, as does any refugee. Instead, you, with your vote, have said to them: "We don't care about you." It is during difficult times when true, visionary leadership is needed. It's just too bad that you couldn't lead South Carolinians toward compassion, toward humanity, but instead have catered toward exaggerated fears that only serve to divide us.

With deep disappointment,

Donna Townsend