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Subject: Group Backs Ryan Bill to Pause Influx of Syrian Refugees

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For Immediate Release
Contact: Cort Rosholt, 609.354.8767
Don Adams, 215.620.3055

Group Backs Bi-Partisan Plan to Pause Admission of Syrian and Iraqi Refugees; Blasts President Obama for Veto Threat; Announces Support for Flake/Feinstein Senate Bill Restricting Visa Access to US

Philadelphia, PA (November 19, 2015) -- The Independence Hall Foundation backs the bi-partisan bill that passed the US House of Representatives, this afternoon, which would pause the flow of refugees from Syria and Iraq into the United States.

The bill would create rigorous standards for admitting refugees from the two Middle Eastern countries, in effect, temporarily halting such efforts.

"As Speaker Paul Ryan notes, House legislation would apply a security test--not a religious test--to Syrian and Iraqi refugees seeking asylum in the US," said Foundation spokesperson, Teri Adams.

"President Obama's veto threat is very disturbing to us because he does not seem concerned, at all, for the safety of American citizens whose safety would be put at greater risk if an immediate overhaul of our refugee admissions process were not put in place."

Since the House passed the bill by an overwhelming majority (289-137), it is possible that the President's promised veto could be overridden--depending, ultimately, on the bill's reception in the US Senate.

"While the President claims that over 2100 Syrian refugees have been

admitted to the US, without incident, since 9/11, we think the current situation warrants tougher scrutiny especially since ISIS officials have promised to place terrorists among Syrian asylum seekers," said Ms. Adams.

"Even the President's own FBI Director, James Comey, has admitted the difficulty of vetting a new wave of Syrian refugees in light of Syria's civil war which has made it almost impossible to confirm background checks of asylum seekers.

"The Foundation also support a bi-partisan bill being introduced in the Senate by Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) which would prevent Europeans, and others, from obtaining US visas if they have traveled to Syria and Iraq within the past five years.

"In these matters, we have got to consider the security of our nation and our citizens first," Ms. Adams added.

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The Independence Hall Foundation is a tri-state (DE, PA, NJ) regional non-partisan, non-profit organization seeking to promote the values embodied in the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

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