

Questions for the Record Submitted to
Acting Assistant Secretary Simon Henshaw by
Representative Andy Biggs (#1 to #2)
House Committee on the Judiciary,
Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security
October 26, 2017

Question 1:

In reviewing refugee arrivals for fiscal year 2016, the five states with the highest percentage of refugee arrivals are some of the states with the highest populations. But the state receiving the sixth highest percentage of refugees is my home state of Arizona. Our state receives 4.84% of the total, while much larger states like Ohio and Michigan receive 4.93% and 5.01% respectively.

What goes in to determining where refugees are placed?

Answer 1:

Family reunification has long been a priority of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). The USRAP aims to place refugees in a community where the refugee has family and/or close friends living nearby. Other factors determining placement are those that contribute to the success of each refugee and family: affordable housing, jobs, availability of English language studies, public transit, and a welcoming community.

PRM requires an annual, formal consultation process in each current and potential resettlement site, which includes the participation of the state refugee coordinator, state refugee health coordinator, local governance, local and/or county public health, welfare and social services, public education, and public safety. One of these consultations must occur prior to the submission of annual proposals to the Department of State/PRM which include the estimated number of refugees to be placed.

In addition, PRM consults with state refugee coordinators each year before placement numbers for each state and community are finalized. The feedback PRM receives from state refugee coordinators directly informs placement plans. With specific regard to Arizona, Bureau

of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark Storella visited the state in November 2016 to consult with state and local officials and other stakeholders regarding the resettlement of refugees in Arizona.

Question 2:

Is the current disparity in location considered in the placement of future refugees?

Answer 2:

PRM does not approve placement based on parity with existing populations or among cities or states. PRM approves placement based on proposals which include local and state consultations, an assessment of family reunion, and factors that contribute to the success of each refugee and family: affordable housing, jobs, English language study opportunities, public transit, and a welcoming community.

House Judiciary Committee
Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security
Oversight of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program
October 26, 2017

Questions for the Record From Subcommittee Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren

Questions for Simon Henshaw – DOS

HHS Report on the Economic Contributions of Refugees

An HHS draft report (as found at the web address listed in the below footnote)¹ provided to the media concluded that refugees made a net-positive contribution of \$63 billion to the United States over a ten-year period.² Accounts indicate that the final version of that report omitted any evidence of refugees' economic contributions, instead focusing exclusively on costs associated with refugees.³

1. Please provide:
 - a. All drafts of the report, including the final version reportedly completed in September 2017.
 - b. All communications referring or relating to any draft of this report, its contents, or its findings, including but not limited to communications between or among any federal officials, including officials at DOS, HHS, the White House, or any other federal agency, as well as communications between or among non-governmental entities or individuals.
2. Please identify:
 - a. The findings in early versions of the report that were omitted in later versions.
 - b. The criteria guiding those omissions.
 - c. The offices and officials involved in producing the report, including any officials at DOS, HHS, the White House, or any other federal agency, as well as any political staff that participated in any way in this process.
 - d. The methodology underlying the report.
 - e. The specific rationale for excluding from the final report the economic benefits of refugees.
3. Does the Administration believe that it is important to consider not only any costs associated with refugees, but also any benefits associated with them?

P-2 Iraqis

¹ *Rejected Report Shows Revenue Brought In by Refugees*, New York Times (Sept. 19, 2017) (online at <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/09/19/us/politics/document-Refugee-Report.html>)

² *Trump Administration Rejects Study Showing Positive Impact of Refugees*, New York Times (Sept. 18, 2017) (online at www.nytimes.com/2017/09/18/us/politics/refugees-revenue-cost-report-trump.html?_r=0).

³ *Id.*

Under the Refugee Crisis in Iraq Act, Iraqis who face danger on account of service to the United States' mission in Iraq may qualify for P-2 refugee resettlement. Today, some 60,000 such Iraqi allies await U.S. refugee processing. As a consequence of the Administration's FY 2018 45,000 refugee admissions ceiling, as well as the 90-day SAO protocol review, only a small portion of these allies, many of whom face continued persecution, will be eligible for resettlement this year.

1. How will the Administration ensure the safety of Iraqi allies who are not eligible for resettlement in FY 2018 as a result of the noted policies?
2. Please provide copies of any agency documents and communications referring or relating to the Administration's plans to ensure the safety of these ineligible Iraqi allies.

Refugee Admissions Ceiling Determination Process

1. The media has indicated that the State Department favored an FY 2018 refugee admissions ceiling higher than the one set by President Trump.⁴ What specific ceiling(s) did State propose and to which entity or entities (such as the White House, USCIS, etc.) did State propose the ceiling(s)? If State proposed multiple ceilings (for example, at different stages of the ceiling determination process), please identify all such proposals, all entities to which the proposals were made, and the dates associated with each.
2. Please provide copies of any agency documents and communications referring or relating to State's proposed ceiling(s).

⁴ E.g., *How Stephen Miller Single-Handedly Got the U.S. to Accept Fewer Refugees*, The New Yorker (Oct. 13, 2017) (online at <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/how-stephen-miller-single-handedly-got-the-us-to-accept-fewer-refugees>).