

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**BLOOMFIELD REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB AND BIRMINGHAM WOMEN'S
REPUBLICAN CLUB APPLAUD SENSIBLE MEASURES TAKEN BY COUNTY
EXECUTIVE AND WATERFORD TOWNSHIP**

Bloomfield Hills, MI/USA
October 31, 2016

The Bloomfield Republican Women's Club and the Birmingham Women's Republican Club applaud the recent actions of Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and the Waterford Township Board of Trustees to help assure the integrity and transparency of the federal government's refugee resettlement system and to insist that rigorous vetting measures properly safeguard the citizenry of our county.

We fully support Mr. Patterson's efforts to make sure the federal refugee resettlement office complies with its own requirements that local governments be fully consulted and engaged before refugee placements are made. Without such coordination, there can be no assurance that the receiving communities have the capacity and resources to successfully absorb the refugees. As scores of news reports demonstrate, cities and towns across Europe and increasingly here in the US are reeling under the economic, social and security strains of recent waves of refugee influxes.

We also stand behind the Waterford Township board of trustees passage of a resolution refusing participation in the refugee resettlement program until there can be guarantees the vetting system is sufficiently robust and until Congressional reforms are in place satisfying security, financial, medical, and educational concerns among others. Further, given recent disclosures that the federal government kept in the dark the officials and residents of at least one community as it was resettling refugees there, it is imperative that the officials and citizens of Oakland County be fully and timely apprised of the federal government's plans to move refugees here.

The members of our organizations greatly appreciate the leadership shown by Mr. Patterson and the trustees of Waterford in exercising their first and foremost responsibility to protect the safety and welfare of the citizens of our community.

Earlier this year, the Bloomfield Republican Women's Club passed a resolution supporting the declaration of Michigan Governor Rick Snyder and a similar resolution unanimously adopted by our state party calling for a temporary suspension of refugee resettlement into our state.

We take seriously the warnings of our nation's top intelligence and security officials on this matter.

Michigan's US Rep. Candice Miller, vice chair of the House Homeland Security Committee and Chair of the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, challenged the Administration's claims that the vetting process is sufficiently stringent:

“Specifically, we raised concerns over our country’s ability to vet these migrants and stop those with ties to terrorist organizations from exploiting our hospitality... the reality is, there is no database on Syria making it impossible to adequately screen these refugees. It concerns me that this Administration is underestimating the capabilities of ISIS...The United States has a long history of helping refugees from across the globe – one we should be proud of – and we will continue to help. However, in doing so, we must make certain we are not jeopardizing the safety of our Homeland and this nation’s citizens.”

Bloomfield Republican Women’s Club

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