



DANIEL G. STEC
Assemblyman 114th District

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November 17, 2015

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York
New York State Capitol Building, Second Floor
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

Last weekend, horrific terrorist attacks took place across Europe, with the deadliest occurring in Paris, France. I am as shocked as you are, and I keep the victims and their families in my thoughts and prayers. Unfortunately, terrorists are beginning to target unarmed civilians as the security at major transportation centers and high-profile events has been increased in recent years. Because of this, as state leaders, we have an obligation to take all necessary precautions to protect New Yorkers.

It was recently reported that European authorities are investigating a Syrian Passport found outside one of the French bombing sites. Many now believe that most, if not all, of the terrorists responsible for the attacks are Syrian refugees who entered through the Greek Islands. This is deeply troubling, as New York is a major destination for immigrants with easy access through New York City and Long Island's coastline.

In light of these facts, I am asking for you to cease the influx of Syrian refugees entering New York State immediately. I am taking this matter very seriously, as any continued border crossings directly compromise our citizens' safety and well-being.

As of Tuesday morning, 25 governors from across the nation vowed to refuse any further immigration from Syria. Moderate presidential candidates, including other governors, are even citing the lack of resources to properly address safety and security concerns as the main reason for closing the borders.

I am a proponent of immigration and understand its role in the formation of our nation and our state. As a veteran, I realize our top priority should be to protect the well-being of New Yorkers until security threats can be neutralized. In our current world paradigm, we must act unilaterally to do what is in the best interest of our state, and that is to temporarily ban Syrian refugees until we can be certain who they are and that they are not ISIS operatives.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. I look forward to speaking with you further.

Sincerely,

Dan Stec
114th Assembly District