

NOW is a critical time in our state house regarding the refugee issue because S997 has passed the Senate and is on the way to the House. Remember we have so much more influence at the state level than at the federal level, that is why it is so important to form a good, friendly relationship with your state representatives. Your influence on them can make a difference. If you don't know who your rep. is here is the link to find them <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php>.

SC is taking the lead on this issue, IN FACT THE NEWS ABOUT OUR SENATE BILL MADE THE LONDON TIMES. Unfortunately, a provision that would have barred the expenditure of state funds on refugee resettlement was stripped from the bill (S997) at the last minute. We hope the house will consider reinstating this important provision. Our state representatives will need the support from their constituents to find the courage to support this ground breaking bill. PLEASE contact your house representative and help him or her to stand strong with the Senate and pass this bill with the provision reinserted.

In addition to 997, there are 5 other bills in Columbia dealing with refugees. The citizens of Secure South Carolina have taken the time to research all of the bills and we have two others that we believe deserve citizen support. H4396 and H4488. H4396 is the Refugee Absorptive Capacity Act (RACA) modeled on a similar Tennessee law, which addresses the impact of refugees on local communities and provides a mechanism for local input. We also support H4488, which contains a prohibition against state participation in planning for refugee resettlement or accepting funds for that purpose. While we don't disagree with the three remaining bills, we think they are duplicative in nature or feel they could be challenged by on federal supremacy grounds. All of these bills can be viewed on-line at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/legislation.php>

While we all want to help those who are suffering unimaginable horrors we would like to explore all options in how best to help the refugees. At the current time the US will only use a very corrupt UN/State Dept. program administered via non-profit "religious" organizations funded through our tax dollars of over 1 billion/year. Many of these administrators have personal financial gain and are therefore unwilling to look at other ways we could help the refugees. As you probably know because we are only allowed to accept refugees through the UN we are resettling very few Christians, less than 3%. This UN program is very expensive, secretive risky and unfair, not to mention the added costs to our state from the unfunded mandates we will incur. It is time for the good people of SC to take a stand and do what we can to not participate in this risky and bloated UN/State Dept. program.

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