

GERALD W. HOCKER
STATE SENATOR

Twentieth District



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STATE OF DELAWARE

LEGISLATIVE HALL

DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

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The Honorable Jack A. Markell , Governor
Tatnall Building, 2nd Floor
150 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, South
Dover, DE 19901

November 17, 2015

Dear Governor Markell,

I write to you today with grave concern about your recent comments about accepting Syrian refugees here in Delaware. While we can all acknowledge the difficult situation these people face, it is crystal clear that relocating them into the state of Delaware is a grave risk to the safety and security of Delawareans.

While the vast majority of refugees are good people simply seeking a better life away from their war-torn home, radical militant groups like ISIS have shown an ability to use migration as a tool to sneak their operatives into Western nations. Reports suggest that militants involved in the recent attacks in Paris may have come into Europe with Syrian refugees. And it bears mention that the Boston bombers were also refugees.

Another recent report states that according to the Governor of Texas, the FBI director has stated that “the agency had no way of screening the migrants because they have no records of them in their databases.” Despite the federal government’s best efforts, it would be incredibly hard to accurately screen refugees from a war-torn nation like Syria. The safety and security of our people simply aren’t worth the risk of a similar incident taking place here in Delaware.

The best way for America to help the Syrian refugees is to defeat ISIS in all its forms, so that the Syrian people can live where they want to – in Syria. My heart goes out to those affected, and I will pray for a day when they can return to their native soil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald W. Hocker".

Gerald W. Hocker