



STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

November 24, 2015

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Kerry and Secretary Johnson:

Thank you for your replies to my letter and for our ongoing dialogue related to security protocol for refugee applicants. I have appreciated your willingness to share details related to the process and your attempts to address a number of concerns that I and a number of other governors share. I believe this open and honest conversation will yield positive results as it relates to our mutual desires to provide for the safety of all Michiganders, while also creating a welcoming atmosphere for all of those who aspire to become Michiganders.

While I appreciate your clarification of the security vetting process and understand that it is both extensive and rigorous, I believe the best path forward is a bipartisan coalition of state and federal authorities working together to ensure the concerns of many Americans are addressed. As such, I recommend that you engage the Council of Governors to discuss this topic in depth. The Council of Governors has been successful in promoting a robust dialogue between the states and the federal government on issues related to national security, and I believe this would be a natural forum in which to share expertise and best practices related to the security of all Americans.

I understand there is a meeting of the Council of Governors in early December. I request that this topic be added to the agenda and that governors be allowed to bring experts from our respective homeland security apparatus, such as the State Police. With these experts in the room, I am confident that we can engage in a deep dialogue on the effectiveness of the vetting process. Further, I would like to expand the discussion to include enhanced communication between federal, state, and local government officials to ensure the public is well informed about the fidelity of the screening process for all individuals who wish to come to America.

Thank you for your steadfast commitment to the security of all Americans and for your willingness to accept feedback from those of us on the ground in the states. I look forward to continuing our dialogue and remain hopeful that we can resolve any additional concerns expeditiously.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Snyder".

Rick Snyder
Governor