



## ORR Update Letter - Resettlement of Syrian Refugees

ORR has just released a [letter regarding the Resettlement of Syrian Refugees](#). Please read the letter, which reinforces ORR's commitment to ensuring that assistance and services are delivered without regard to race, religion, nationality, sex, or political opinion. Here is an excerpt below:

*The Refugee Act of 1980 requires states to provide "assistance and services ... to refugees without regard to race, religion, nationality, sex, or political opinion." 8 U.S.C. §1522(a)(5). Through the state plan process, states and ORR agree on the resettlement activities in each state. Consistent with the Refugee Act, state plans must include an assurance that "assistance and services funded under the plan will be provided to refugees without regard to race, religion, nationality, sex, or political opinion." 45 CFR §400.5(g). States must certify that their state plan is current and continues in effect each fiscal year. See 45 CFR §400.4.*

*States that continue to use ORR funding must ensure that assistance and services are delivered without regard to race, religion, nationality, sex, or political opinion. States may not deny ORR-funded benefits and services to refugees based on a refugee's country of origin or religious affiliation. Accordingly, states may not categorically deny ORR-funded benefits and services to Syrian refugees. Any state with such a policy would not be in compliance with the State Plan requirements, applicable statutes, and their own assurances, and could be subject to enforcement action, including suspension or termination. In addition to these authorities, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000d, prohibits discrimination on the bases of race and national origin in all programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. Thus, it is not permissible to deny federally funded benefits such as Medicaid or TANF to refugees who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements."*



## Wed. Senate Anti-Refugee Vote: Have Your Networks Signed On & Called?

We know there is so much going, but we wanted to send this simple message first - if you haven't already sent an [action alert](#) to your networks about the need to welcome Syrian refugees, now is the time!

Have you called your Senators, Representative and Governor? 1-866-961-4293

- › Are you signed onto the [LiftMyLamp petition](#) for individuals?
- › Is your organization signed onto the [Refugee Council USA Sign on Letter?](#) Sign [HERE.](#)
- › Are all faith leaders you know signed onto the [religious leaders letter to welcome Syrians of all faiths](#)? Sign on [HERE.](#)
- › People of faith can also sign this [Groundswell petition to welcome Syrian refugees.](#)

We are also compiling events, op eds, and media hits that lift up the faith voice and other supportive voices state by state. Please send Will Haney ([whaney@cwsglobal.org](mailto:whaney@cwsglobal.org)) links to photos, press releases, event footage, local petitions and sign on letters, and media hits that you'd like to see included by COB Monday, November 30th.

We need all hands on deck - the Senate is likely to vote on a companion to HR 4038, which passed in the House with a veto-proof majority, including 47 Democrat votes. We can't take anyone for granted, and need to make sure ALL Senators hear from us.