

and foremost concern is for the safety and security of my constituents in western Pennsylvania.

To put it simply, the safety and security of the American people are non-negotiable. Right now we simply do not have the mechanisms in place to ensure that the 10,000 Syrian refugees that the President would have come into this country over the next year and other refugees from terrorist-controlled areas are properly vetted.

FBI Director James Comey has said as much: "If someone has never made a ripple in the pond in Syria in a way that would get their identity or their interest reflected in our database, we can query our database until the cows come home, but there will be nothing show up because we have no record of them."

The Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Homeland Security have said the same. It is both reasonable and prudent to insist that we know exactly who these individuals are before they settle into our towns and cities.

Currently, we have neither the capability nor the capacity to do this. The recent attacks have awakened us to the reality that Islamic State terrorists have the worst of intentions not only for Christians and other religious minorities in their own region, but for the entire Western world. They are not, as the President has claimed, merely a setback. They are acts of war by a terrorist scourge against decency and humanity and freedom and everything that we as Americans stand for.

It comes as no surprise, then, that ISIS has already stated it intends to attack the heart of the United States here in Washington, D.C., and it is not impossible that ISIS terrorists could enter the country by posing as Syrian refugees. In fact, reports indicate that a Syrian passport was found next to the body of 25-year-old Ahmad al-Mohammad, one of the suicide bombers in Paris. He was born in Idlib, a city in northwest Syria, and the Paris prosecutor's office said his fingerprints matched those of a person who traveled through Greece last month.

So the security concerns that the American people are raising are not, as the President and others have suggested, without merit. They are completely legitimate, especially as the number of refugees is set to increase to 85,000 in 2016 and 100,000 in 2017, a significant increase from the average 70,000 per year over the past several years.

The truth is that the American people are an incredibly compassionate and generous people. We have a rich history of assisting people in other nations around the globe when they are suffering from a humanitarian crisis, poverty, oppression, or war. Since September 11, 2001, the United States has resettled 748,000 refugees from around the world. The American people have also assisted innocent Syrian refugees fleeing from violence in search of a bet-

ter life, providing \$4.5 billion in humanitarian aid since the start of the crisis in Syria to help them relocate in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt, and other nations.

While we desire to assist those who need help around the globe, we have a solemn duty to protect our citizens. The bottom line is we need to put the safety and security of Americans first. The solution I am proposing today is indefinite, but not necessarily permanent. It is the only responsible thing to do under these circumstances.

We need time to review and implement policies that will ensure that those who seek refuge in the United States are properly vetted.

I also urge my colleagues in the Senate to act boldly and promptly to ensure the security concerns of the American people are addressed.

Mr. WALKER. Thank you, Representative ROTHFUS.

Our second People's Night was scheduled weeks ago before the terrorists struck Paris.

I believe it is appropriate this evening to send out our sincerest thoughts and prayers to the Parisian families and others whose lives have been changed forever by these cowardly attacks. Though my heart is heavy, my discontentment with this administration has reached a new level of frustration.

Last year President Obama stated that ISIS was not a serious threat. In fact, many of us remember him referring to them as the JV squad. Just hours before this barbaric attack, the President emphatically expressed that ISIS had been contained and they were no longer expanding.

As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I couldn't disagree more. According to the FBI, there are more than 1,000 open investigations that are ISIS or terrorist related. ISIS is a clear and present danger to the American people.

Earlier today, in a joint hearing with the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Homeland Security, General Jack Keane shared these words:

ISIS is the most successful terrorist organization of our time. The world does not believe that our country is serious about taking on ISIS.

The general added:

ISIS is not contained, and they are at war with us, but we are not at war with them.

While President Obama plays down the threat, other world leaders are leading and exhibiting and showing strength. Even the Pope has been warning us that these attacks and others could be the beginning of world war III.

After reviewing the evidence and testimony, I am convinced that it is only by the grace of God and the diligent work of our local, State, and national law enforcement that we haven't been hurt in the same manner that played out just last weekend in Paris. Sadly, President Obama has yet to offer any plan, any strategy, or any solution to slow down these sons from hell.

There is more evidence, continuing evidence of the disastrous Obama doctrine. The words of the President this past weekend sounded more like a spokesperson for the United Nations than America's Commander in Chief.

This is more of the same flawed foreign policy that we have experienced, just like we did in the recent Iran deal. May I remind us that 25 Democrats stood with Republicans, rebuking such a deal. Even more are calling on the President to speak with clarity and with boldness. The American people have grown weary of the constant swag and condescending responses.

Mr. Speaker, how much longer can we afford to wait on a President who stubbornly refuses to identify these devils as radical Islamist extremists? I would hope and pray that all Members of this House would band together, demanding the President deliver a definitive course of action. It is time, Mr. Speaker, for the President to settle up.

I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4038, AMERICAN SECURITY AGAINST FOREIGN ENEMIES ACT OF 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (during the Special Order of Mr. WALKER), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-342) on the resolution (H. Res. 531) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4038) to require that supplemental certifications and background investigations be completed prior to the admission of certain aliens as refugees, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ISIS CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, Will and Ariel Durant, perhaps the most renowned recorders of the history of mankind, wrote shortly after their landmark 40-year multivolume work was completed:

"Civilization is not inherited; it has to be learned and earned by each generation anew; if the transmission should be interrupted . . . civilization would die, and we should be savages again."

It is a warning we must heed. For all of our advancement in self-governance, the rule of law, and the betterment of people's lives, the world stands in crisis. Our actions toward evil, twisted brands of militant Islamic jihadism in the coming months will determine how humanity navigates the coming century. As Will Durant correctly predicts, we must either prevent the death of civilized life or become savages again.