MARK KIRK
ILLINOIS

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING, HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR & PENSIONS
AGING

United States Senate

December 10, 2015

The Honorable James B. Comey, Jr.
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary of Homeland Security
Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Director Comey, Secretary Johnson, and Secretary Kerry:

In 2009, a failure to screen Iraqi refugees allowed two al Qaeda-linked terrorists to settle in Bowling Green, KY. *ABC News* reported that these arrests led to a 6-month suspension of the Iraqi refugee program and an FBI investigation of dozens of suspected terrorists.

An *ABC News* investigation in 2013 reported that a "flawed system of U.S. background checks" allowed Waad Ramadan Alwan and Mohanad Shareef Hammadi, two al Qaeda in Iraq (now called ISIS) terrorists who were part of a bomb-making group responsible for dozens of roadside bombs, one of which killed four members of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

After a tip led the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to begin investigating Alwan and Hammadi, the FBI's Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center (TEDAC) managed to match Alwan's fingerprints to those found on an unexploded roadside bomb discovered by U.S. troops in Iraq in years earlier. Alwan and Hammadi were arrested two years later in an FBI sting operation attempting to send arms and explosives, including Stinger missiles, to insurgents in Iraq. Our law enforcement and intelligence communities deserve great praise for stopping these terrorists from killing more Americans. Yet the terrorists should have never been given the chance.

(1) Were there recommendations made to the refugee program as a result of this incident?
(2) What are the findings from the FBI investigation on the other dozens of suspected terrorists?
(3) Are there former or current known terrorists in the U.S. as part of the refugee program?

We look forward to a timely response that we can share with the American people.

Sincerely,

Mark Kirk
United States Senator

John Cornyn
United States Senator

CHICAGO OFFICE
230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST.
SUITE 3900
CHICAGO, IL 60604
312-886-3506

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE
607 EAST ADAMS ST.
SUITE 1520
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701
217-492-5089

WASHINGTON OFFICE
524 HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
202-224-2854

www.kirk.senate.gov

David Vitter
United States Senator

Thom Tillis
United States Senator

Johnny Isakson
United States Senator

Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator

John Boozman
United States Senator

Michael S. Lee
United States Senator

Jerry Moran
United States Senator

Tim Scott
United States Senator

Cory Gardner
United States Senator