



Written by [John F. McManus](#) on November 24, 2015

## House Votes to Keep Syrians From Entering U.S.

On November 19, the House of Representatives voted 289 to 137 to block Syrians seeking entry into the United States. The bill requires that [the FBI chief, the head of the Department of Homeland Security](#), and the national intelligence director confirm that any Syrian seeking entry is no threat to our country or its citizens. Approximately 50 Democrats supported the measure despite the president's strong opposition.



The Senate will consider the matter in early December where it faces more opposition among those loyal to President Obama. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) told fellow Democrats, "Don't worry. It won't get passed." He appeared more concerned about defending President Obama's oft-repeated desire to open the gates to 10,000 Syrians than he is concerned that any might be terrorists who would do harm to Americans.

The president has repeatedly stated his desire to welcome as many as 10,000 refugees even though the vetting process for incoming refugees is questionable. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) claimed that the president would veto the bill if it ever reached his desk.

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In a televised interview, Congressman Peter King (R-N.Y.), a member of the House Intelligence committee, forcefully declared, "There is no vetting as a practical matter. What the President is telling us is not true. We can't vet the refugees. Unless we know who they are, we cannot allow them in." Even while travelling in Asia, President Obama took to Twitter to repeat to his 5.1 million followers his determination to "provide refuge to at least 10,000" who are fleeing the war in Syria.

Meanwhile, the [governors of more than half of the United States](#) have declared that they would not admit Syrian refugees. They have expressed a lack of confidence in the screening system, saying it would not sufficiently detect and bar entry to potential terrorists. Their defiance could end up as a struggle between the growing power of the president and the shrinking power of states' rights.

While the matter is high on the list of concerns facing Congress, officials in Honduras arrested five Syrian men who had arrived in their capital city via a commercial airline. The five possessed bogus Greek passports. The Honduran officials noted that these men intended to enter the United States through our country's porous border.

While the United States continues its military offensive of "spreading democracy" across the world, the threat of terrorism continues. And with the threat comes the opportunity for the federal government to take away further freedom from its citizens in what Benjamin Franklin called trading liberty for temporary security.

*John F. McManus is president of [The John Birch Society](#) and publisher of The New American. This column appeared originally at the [insideJBS](#) blog and is reprinted here with permission.*



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