

Madam Chair, Committee Members, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to today about an issue that is of utmost importance to everyone here as well as every Kansas citizen.

Over the last several years we have seen an increased influx of immigration, both legal and illegal. The federal government has refused to utilize existing law, or develop new laws, to administer to the processing of people who are coming from desperate economic and social environments.

The United States government allows approximately 1 million immigrants every year to establish residence here legally. The illegal numbers, of course, are above and beyond that. Conservative estimates put "illegal immigration" numbers at 11 million. But that's just "immigration".

Then there are the refugees and asylee's. According to the HHS website there were 70,000 refugees admitted in both 2013 and 2014, up from nearly 60,000 in 2012. The asylee program admitted over 25,000 in 2013 (see attached figure 1 attached.)

In addition to these, are a plethora of additional special programs such as the "Special Immigrant Visa" (SIV- for those from Iraq and Afghanistan), "Follow to Join", and "Diversity Visa" programs.

Last year, the President announced his plan to receive an additional 10,000 new refugees from Syria in spite of the impossibility to screen for those who would seek to commit terrorist activity against Americans. But this 10,000 is just the tip of the iceberg. Hillary Clinton echoed that same number on a recent NBC program, calling 10,000 a "good start" and increasing to 65,000. Secretary of State John Kerry said the refugee cap would be raised to 100,000.

The US Government partners with non-governmental (NGO), non-profit organizations to settle immigrants and refugee's. There are 9 of the Volunteer Agencies (VOLAG's) which have lucrative contractual arrangements which net billions of tax dollars in direct payments and grants to resettle these refugees with no accountability to state or local governments.

These groups are also allowed to lobby Congress, and they do, to increase the numbers of refugees brought in. These organizations get paid billions in taxpayer money, with the two highest paid VOLAG, Catholic Charities and U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (Both nominally Catholic), netting over \$2 Billion direct payment plus another \$105 Million in government grants, accounting for 59% of their total funding. (Some groups receive nearly all their funding from the US Government. See Figure 2 attached)

But the main point here is not how lucrative the refugee resettlement business is. The point here today is that these organizations are not required to contact, work with, or even notify state and local governments of their intent to relocate people in the various placement areas. Sometimes this leads to great burdens on local communities, government offices, businesses, and even social unrest between different ethnic bases, such as has already been experienced in Southwest Kansas, and a few years ago, in the Emporia area. Many of these cultural groups do not assimilate, and some religions do not allow for assimilation into the host culture.

The State of Kansas and its communities must be able to monitor and control, much less be notified, as to any refugee populations, or immigrants being relocated by either federal government or NGO's.

HB 2612 will go a long way toward closing the communication gap, allowing citizens of Kansas to be more secure in their own communities. Please support the passage of HB 2612.

Thank You,

Kirk Sours
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References:

Figure 1

Refugees, Asylees and Other Special Categories			
	2011	2012	2013
Refugees	56,384	58,179	69,926
Asylees	24,904	29,367	25,199
Follow to Join	9,550	13,049	13,026
SIV	719	3,312	1,902
Diversity Visa	50,103	40,320	45,618
Total	141,660	144,227	155,671
Sources: DHS/State Dept. Refugee Processing Center			

Figure 2

VOLAGs for Dollars: Primary Refugee Resettlement Contractors									
(in millions of dollars)									
	CWS	ECDC	HIAS	IRC	LIRS	CC&USCCB	USCRI	EMM	WRI
2008	\$28.7	\$5.6	\$11.5	\$75.5	\$24.6	\$91.7	\$6.8	\$8.3	\$17.8
2009	\$26.3	\$6.8	\$13.4	\$101.0	\$31.5	\$127.0	\$8.6	\$10.5	\$21.6
2010	\$37.9	\$10.3	\$16.3	\$106.1	\$34.8	\$146.8	\$17.8	\$14.0	\$24.2
2011	\$32.9	\$11.4	\$14.3	\$101.7	\$30.5	\$220.4	\$17.9	\$12.1	\$26.3
2012	\$38.7	\$11.0	\$15.5	\$86.6	\$35.0	\$379.7	\$31.5	\$13.6	\$24.3
2013	\$41.1	\$13.1	\$16.5	\$84.1	\$49.2	\$360.0	\$38.6	\$14.9	\$26.4
2014	\$45.9	\$14.8	\$17.7	\$92.3	\$56.0	\$551.3	\$40.3	\$16.7	\$33.1
2015	\$38.7	\$12.8	\$15.3	\$57.2	\$36.0	\$145.0	\$31.7	\$15.2	\$22.4
TOTAL	\$290.1	\$85.6	\$120.6	\$704.5	\$297.5	\$2,022.1	\$193.1	\$105.2	\$196.2
Govt. Grants ²	\$45.4	\$16.3	\$16.3	\$305.5	\$46.4	\$104.7 ³	\$35.4	NA ⁴	\$41.2
Total Revenues ²	\$79.8	\$17.4	\$31.2	\$456.1	\$50.4	\$177.2 ³	\$39.2	NA ⁴	\$58.5
% Govt. Grants	57%	93%	52%	67%	92%	59%	90%	NA	70%

¹ Source: USASpending.gov

² The numbers in these line items are taken from the latest year's IRS Form 990 nonprofit tax returns provided by the VOLAG.

³ Amounts for CC & USCCB come from one 990 for Catholic Charities of Chicago as an example. Reviewing every one of the hundreds of Catholic institutions' 990s is beyond the scope of this paper.

⁴ Church ministries are not required to file 990s.