

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest
Questions for the Record

**“Oversight of the Administration’s FY 2016 Refugee Resettlement Program:
Fiscal and Security Implications”**

HHS Witness: Robert Carey

October 1, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Sessions

Question 1: The draft report submitted to the Senate and House Judiciary Committees indicated that the Office of Refugee Resettlement would need approximately \$652.6 million in funding to provide resettlement services to 75,000 refugees. The final report indicated that the office of Refugee Resettlement would need the same amount of money to process and resettle 85,000 refugees.

- a. How much will this increase cost?**
- b. How much will it cost to provide resettlement services to the 100,000 refugees that the administration has targeted for Fiscal Year 2017?**
- c. Does the Office of Refugee Resettlement intend to ask Congress for additional funds? If so, how much, and when?**

Response: In light of the global displacement crisis, the Administration plans to admit 85,000 refugees in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, 15,000 more than in FY 2015. We had communicated prior to the enactment of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 that the President’s FY 2016 Budget request for the Refugee and Entrant Assistance account, which included a contingency fund, in combination with carryover funds, would be sufficient to support the increase in refugee admissions; higher projected levels of other entrants; and Unaccompanied Children program costs (assuming some margin to accommodate potential costs above FY 2015).

Regarding the budget for FY 2017, as the refugee situation continues to evolve, the Administration is assessing our capacity and resource needs. While serving more refugees will require additional resources for the Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) refugee programs, HHS is still evaluating those needs.

Question 2: Please list all federal and state benefits (by state) for which a refugee is eligible to receive after admission to the United States.

Response: Under federal law, refugees residing in the United States are eligible for federal public benefits to the same extent as citizens subject to certain limitations. In all states, refugees

may be eligible for federal and federal/state cash assistance programs, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) if they meet program eligibility criteria. Refugees who are determined not eligible for SSI or TANF are eligible for ORR-funded Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) for up to eight months after arrival. Typically ORR funds these programs through the state, however if a state has decided it does not wish to administer the program, ORR funding is passed through a private agency as part of a Wilson Fish program.¹ Some refugees participate in the ORR Matching Grant Program (MG) as an alternative to public cash assistance programs. This program provides housing, assistance with job placement, employment readiness, transportation, and case management to assist the refugee to reach self-sufficiency within 120-180 days. Self-sufficiency is defined as having income sufficient to be ineligible for public cash assistance. Refugees in all states may also be eligible for federal and federal/state health insurance programs, including Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Refugees who are determined not eligible for Medicaid or CHIP are eligible for ORR-funded Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) for up to eight months after arrival.

Refugees can access federal employment-related services including the ORR Refugee Social Services Program (RSS) and the ORR Targeted Assistance Program (TAG). RSS and TAG are available for up to five years and provide employment services, job training and preparation, assistance with job search, placement and retention, English language and vocational training, skills recertification, job-related day care, job-related transportation, translation and interpreter services, and case management.

Because under federal law refugees residing in the United States are eligible for federal public benefits to the same extent as citizens subject to certain limitations, refugees in all states may also be eligible for federal nutritional assistance programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as Food Stamps. Housing-related assistance is available through federal housing programs provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program provided by HHS. The U.S. Department of Education provides educational assistance through Federal Student Aid programs including grants, loans, and work-study programs.

State and local benefits and services vary by location and may include state-funded general assistance for refugees who do not qualify for federal benefits.

Despite experiencing unimaginable hardships, violence, and oppression, refugees arrive in this country seeking opportunities, rather than handouts, to re-establish their self-sufficiency and to become productive, integrated members of their communities. HHS' programs assist refugees and other vulnerable populations in doing just that.

Question 3: What is the estimated cost associated for admitting and resettling a single refugee over the average refugee's lifespan, including all federal benefits?

¹ Wyoming is the only state that does not have a refugee resettlement program. Therefore, RMA, RCA, RSS and TAG are not provided in that state. However, in instances when states withdraw from the refugee resettlement program, a Wilson Fish program may replace the state administered program.

Response: ORR programs serve a wide variety of individuals, from the very young to the very old; those with little formal education to those with advanced degrees; vulnerable populations who may be fleeing immediate violence to those who have been living in refugee camps for generations. Cash and medical assistance are administered at the state level and vary significantly from state to state. Cash assistance levels for the RCA Program are set at the level of assistance applicable to a family of that size in the state's TANF program. For instance, in Texas a refugee family of three would receive \$236 per month in cash assistance in TANF, where a family of three in Ohio would receive \$450 per month. Costs can also vary considerably based on individual refugees' needs. For example, one refugee may quickly find employment and only access one month of cash assistance, while another may take longer to secure employment and may need to access all eight months of assistance to which they are eligible. In addition, refugees are eligible for social services for up to five years, though the actual length of time most refugees access social services is much shorter. In FY 2014, 47 percent of refugees enrolled in social services programs were employed.²

Refugees are required to apply for lawful permanent resident status after they have been in the United States for one year and are eligible to apply for citizenship after they have been in permanent resident status in for a certain period (generally five years). Upon gaining citizenship, they would not be eligible for ORR services, but would be eligible for any federal benefits under the same terms as are applicable to citizens.

Question 4: What is the average income of a refugee admitted to the United States?

Response: At the time of their admission to the U.S., refugees generally have very limited income, or more commonly, no income at all. Most refugees are being referred from UNHCR to the program, and many come from refugee camps (30 percent) or large urban areas (50 percent), where, because of their status, prospects for working were minimal³. Initial access to time-limited public assistance programs combined with the refugees' own skills, talents, and resourcefulness put them on a path to self-sufficiency. In FY 2014, 76 percent of the 20,888 individuals reaching the end of their 180 day Matching Grant Program service period were determined to be economically self-sufficient through employment. In FY14, 47 percent of refugees enrolled in social services programs were employed. Refugees contribute to the communities into which they are resettled in vast and myriad ways – adding their unique hallmark to the diverse patchwork of our cities and towns and transforming the U.S. over the past 30 years. Refugees have contributed to the revitalization of entire cities such as Clarkston, GA; Lewiston, ME; and Utica, NY – opening businesses, buying homes, raising families, and becoming key members of the community.

² The Annual Outcome Goal Plans and Government Performance and Results Act report

³ <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4b0e4cba6.html>

Question 5: What types of retirement support programs, including medical care, do elderly refugees receive?

Response: Under federal law, elderly, blind, or disabled persons, including refugees who have limited income and resources, may access Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which provides cash assistance. For medical care, elderly and retired refugees may access Medicaid, RMA, or purchase health insurance on the Health Insurance Marketplace. Newly-arrived refugees would not be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits based on earnings from the country or countries they left, but once employed in the United States would be earning credits toward possible future eligibility for Social Security and Medicare (at age 65 and older).

Question 6: What percentage of refugees are currently participating in at least one means-tested federal or state program?

Response: Under federal law, refugees are eligible for federal public benefits to the same extent as citizens subject to certain limitations. Additionally, depending on state laws, refugees may be eligible for state public benefits. These programs are administered by a number of different federal and state agencies and are not reported to ORR. As with all populations, refugee participation rates in means-tested benefit programs are dynamic, and generally diminish over time as refugee employment rates and earnings increase. As they become employed and integrated members of the community, refugees contribute to the overall tax base of their new community, and such fiscal contributions are also not centrally measured or reported to ORR.

Each fiscal year ORR conducts a survey of a sample of refugees to track their progress over their initial five years in this country. The results of the survey are incorporated into an Annual Report to Congress. The FY 2013 survey reported utilization data on certain types of public assistance by selected refugee groups from 2008 to 2013 (covering an arrival period of five years). The types of public assistance reported were Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), general assistance (GA), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) or Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and public housing.

Respondents that arrived in the United States from 3/2012 to 2/2013 (i.e., after one year of residing in the U.S.) received the following benefits in the 12 months prior to the point of the survey⁴:

- TANF: 48 percent
- RCA: 44 percent
- SSI: 22 percent

⁴ The ORR Annual Report to Congress includes survey data on benefits provided to refugees that arrive in the United States. See https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/orr/arc_2013_508.pdf

- General assistance: 19 percent
- Medical Assistance or RMA: 93 percent
- SNAP: 99 percent
- Public Housing: 6 percent

(*The data provided is for respondents from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, and Yemen)

It should be noted that the survey statistics only reflect current utilization by refugees arriving in each time period and do not reflect a longitudinal analysis of all refugees or of continued benefit utilization over the five year period.

Question 7: When is the last time that the Office of Refugee Resettlement conducted a financial audit of the private contractors with which it works to provide refugee resettlement services?

Response: There are state plans, grants, and contracts in place with ORR’s partners that obligate them to follow uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements outlined in 2 CFR 200. Many ORR programs are administered through state programs. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) does not directly conduct financial audits of state contractors who provide refugee services. However, the single audit requirements in 2 CFR 200 subpart F sets forth standards for obtaining consistency and uniformity among federal agencies for the audit of non-federal entities expending federal awards. In accordance with OMB Circular A-133, ORR directs discretionary grantees who expend \$750,000 or more during the grantee’s fiscal year in federal awards that they must have a Single Audit conducted for that year.

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar

Question 8: I think it is important to recognize that, although refugees may have arrived in the United States as the result of trauma in their homelands, these populations have added greatly to the fabric of our society and are an important part of our community. My home state of Minnesota has a proud tradition of providing a home to those fleeing war and repression, including Somalis, Liberians, and the Hmong from Southeast Asia.

- **Can you describe how the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) works with voluntary organizations and the private sector to help connect refugees with career opportunities that contribute to the communities in which they are placed?**
- **Can you comment on how many of these refugees, particularly from Syria, have professional skills that are useful to American companies?**

Response: ORR’s refugee and entrant assistance programs help refugees to become employed as quickly as possible. Some newly arrived refugees participate in the ORR Matching Grant (MG) Program, which provides grants for employability services that are administered by resettlement

agencies with the goal of achieving self-sufficiency within four to six months. The ORR Refugee Social Services (RSS) and Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG) Programs provide grants for employability services and are administered primarily by state agencies. These programs assist refugees to exit public assistance and move toward employment as soon as possible. These programs are employment focused and develop on-going relationships with local employers to support the program. In addition, many providers develop connections to the local Workforce Investment Offices (One-Stop Career Centers) to facilitate career opportunities. In some locations, services are coordinated with TANF social service providers, further broadening the scope of employment opportunities.

Newly-arriving refugees, including Syrians, have varying levels of knowledge, education, experience, and skills that are individually assessed by the ORR RSS, TAG, and MG Programs as part of employability services designed to facilitate early connections to employment. Some refugees have high levels of education and training, including professional degrees and licenses. ORR grantees assist these refugees to use their training and skills, and where feasible connect them with agencies that can help them to become U.S. certified in their occupational fields or disciplines.

Question 9: I noted that in your testimony you acknowledged the special challenges faced by refugees who are victims of torture. Along with Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) in the House, I have introduced the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act, which is also co-sponsored by Senators Franken and Durbin on this Committee. This bill authorizes increased funding for the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to support treatment centers and services for torture victims. The Center for Victims of Torture, based in Saint Paul, has been a pioneer in providing support to victims of torture who are resettled in the United States.

- **Your testimony noted that “increasingly, recent arrivals are survivors of torture.” Can you give us some idea of the numbers of refugees who are torture survivors and where they are coming from?**
- **Can you comment on the importance of funding the Survivors of Torture Program? Would the increased funding levels recommended by the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act (\$25 million each for FY 2016 and 2017) be useful in supporting these efforts?**

Response: New research from the Center for Victims of Torture, based on a weighted average from studies published in the literature, has shown that the estimated prevalence of torture in refugees and asylees is 44 percent.⁵ The study reflects the populations who have been resettled in the U.S. from all over the world. Specifically, from Iraq, the percentage of refugees admitted as survivors of violence and/or torture has increased from 36 percent in 2014 to 49 percent in 2015. ORR anticipates that the percentage of refugees submitted for resettlement under the

⁵ <http://www.cvt.org/what-we-do/research> Center for Victims of Torture September 2015, *Torture Survivor Estimate in the United States*

survivors of violence and/or torture category will continue to increase, given the regions of the world from which many come. For example, the U.S. is resettling an increasing number of refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Syria. Refugees from these countries have endured years of extreme violence and torture is reported to be widespread.

Torture is designed to break a person down, causing physical and mental health repercussions that can be long-lasting. Torture survivors benefit from the services of specialized torture treatment centers to reclaim their health and rebuild their lives. ORR's Survivors of Torture program funds the majority of specialized torture rehabilitation centers across the nation.

The FY 2016 budget for Survivors of Torture is \$10,735,000. This funding will maintain medical and psychological treatment, social and legal services, and other rehabilitative services for victims of torture. The need for additional funding for the Survivors of Torture program must be balanced against the need for additional funding for other programs also serving refugees, as well as the needs of other vulnerable populations ACF serves.

The Honorable David Vitter

Question 10: In your testimony to this subcommittee hearing on October 1, 2015, you testified that state governments and non-profit organizations administer the grants and various services ORR provides.

- **How often do refugees become dissatisfied with their original placement location within the United States?**
- **If these individuals choose to move locations, does this prevent them from receiving refugee benefits such as cash and medical assistance?**
- **If you cannot track refugees, does this not pose a threat to national security?**

Response: The resettlement process begins with the work of our federal agency partners in screening and vetting refugees. Refugees are subject to the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States, a multi-layered and intensive screening and vetting process involving multiple law enforcement, national security, and intelligence agencies, including the National Counterterrorism Center, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Terrorist Screening Center, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of State and the Department of Defense. All refugees, including Syrians, are admitted only after successful completion of this stringent security screening regime.

- Security checks are an integral part of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) for applicants of all nationalities, and coordinating these checks is a shared responsibility between the State Department and DHS.
- All available biographic and biometric information is vetted against a broad array of law enforcement, intelligence community, and other relevant databases to help confirm a refugee applicant's identity, check for any criminal or other derogatory information, and identify information that could inform lines of questioning during the interview.
- These checks are completed by the State Department, DHS, the FBI, and the intelligence community.

- A refugee applicant cannot be approved for travel until all required security checks have been completed and cleared.

Some refugees may decide to move from their initial resettlement site, which often reflects a personal assessment by a refugee that job opportunities, family or sociocultural environment, or even climate may be preferable at some other location in the U.S. Refugees are required to file a change of address form with DHS each time they move and are informed of this requirement during their initial community orientation. When a refugee applies for legal permanent residence status, security screenings are conducted again.

Refugee relocation from the site of initial resettlement does not by itself cause refugees to lose eligibility for continued receipt of ORR RCA and RMA. Refugees still within their first eight months and who maintain compliance with eligibility requirements can continue to receive ORR RCA and ORR RMA even after they relocate. RSS and TAG services are available at locations throughout the U.S. for the refugee's first five years in the U.S. We do note that refugee enrollment in the Matching Grant (MG) program is location-specific and must occur within the first 31 days in the U.S.

The Departments of Homeland Security (DHS), State, and Health and Human Services (HHS) work together to uphold America's humanitarian response to refugees through the U.S. Resettlement Program (USRP). The design of the program is to provide a path to self-sufficiency, thus the primary purpose for data collection in ORR service delivery is to track employment related outcomes, as reported by States and other grantees. Resettlement agencies generally work with local law enforcement if any criminal or security related incident should occur. Local law enforcement is generally included in community stakeholder discussions consultations to facilitate community engagement.

The Honorable Ted Cruz

National Security Issues Relating to Syrian Refugees⁶

Question 11: The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has arguably done an abysmal job of handling the unaccompanied alien child (UAC) influx over the last few years. Among other things, ORR has acknowledged – in testimony, written submissions, and conversations with congressional staff – that ORR has neither a role nor an obligation to track any UAC that are released from ORR custody. This is a significant problem, particularly given the fact that ORR is responsible for releasing UAC, who are illegally present in the United States, into the general public with no means for tracking or relocation. Given that ORR is also handling assistance for the influx of Syrian refugees into the United States, what is ORR doing to track or monitor individuals who are part of the Syrian refugee influx and are receiving assistance or benefits from ORR?

⁶ The Committee understands that not all individuals that are part of the flow of people out of Syria are Syrian nationals, but we are referring to them as "Syrian refugees" here for ease of description.

Response: The refugee security screening and vetting process has been significantly enhanced over the past few years. Today, refugees undergo the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States, including the involvement of the National Counterterrorism Center, the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of State and the Department of Defense. All refugees, including Syrians, are admitted only after successful completion of this stringent security screening regime.

- Security checks are an integral part of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) for applicants of all nationalities, and coordinating these checks is a shared responsibility between the State Department and DHS.
- All available biographic and biometric information is vetted against a broad array of law enforcement, intelligence community, and other relevant databases to help confirm a refugee applicant's identity, check for any criminal or other derogatory information, and identify information that could inform lines of questioning during the interview.
- These checks are completed by the State Department, DHS, the FBI, and the intelligence community.
- A refugee applicant cannot be approved for travel until all required security checks have been completed and cleared.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement funds programs and services through states and non-profits and does not directly maintain individual case specific information on refugees accessing these services and benefits. For those refugees accessing the Match Grant Program, ORR does receive individual case records as to their progress during the first six months. The design of the program is to provide a path to self-sufficiency, thus the primary purpose for this data collection is to track employment related outcomes, as reported by States and other grantees.

II. Federal Agency Costs Associated with Syrian Refugees

Question 12: At last week's hearing, you challenged the premise that 91% of Middle Eastern refugees currently in the United States are beneficiaries of some category of financial aid or benefits (which could include federal or state benefits). Working under the assumptions that true refugees might be destitute and that reasonable, up-front financial assistance might be appropriate for a very limited period of time, please provide the following information:

- a. **How many refugees of Middle Eastern origin remain on federal benefits after one year of residing in the United States.**
- b. **How many refugees of Middle Eastern origin remain on federal benefits after two years of residing in the United States.**
- c. **How many refugees of Middle Eastern origin remain on federal benefits after five years of residing in the United States.**

Response: Each fiscal year ORR conducts a survey of a sample of refugees to track their progress over their initial five years in this country. The results of the survey are incorporated into an Annual Report to Congress. The FY 2013 survey reported utilization data on certain types of public assistance by selected refugee groups from 2008 to 2013 (covering an arrival period of five years). The types of public assistance reported were Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), general assistance (GA), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) or Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and public housing. It should be noted that the survey statistics only reflect current utilization by refugees arriving in each time period and do not reflect a longitudinal analysis of all refugees or of continued benefit utilization over the five year period. Given these limitations, the following survey data —collected by year of entry to the United States for all years up to 12 months prior to the data of the survey—represents the best information we have regarding percentage of refugee utilization of public benefits.

- b. *Respondents that arrived in the United States from 3/2012 to 2/2013 (i.e., after one year of residing in the US) received the following benefits in the 12 months prior to the point of the survey⁷:
- TANF: 48 percent
 - RCA: 44 percent
 - SSI: 22 percent
 - General assistance: 19 percent
 - Medical Assistance or RMA: 93 percent
 - SNAP: 99 percent
 - Public Housing: 6 percent

(*The data provided is for respondents from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, and Yemen)

- c. *Respondents that arrived in the United States from 3/2011 to 2/2012 received the following benefits in the 12 months prior to the point of the survey:
- TANF: 37 percent
 - RCA: 8 percent
 - SSI: 37 percent
 - General assistance: 12 percent
 - Medical Assistance or RMA: 72 percent
 - SNAP: 90 percent
 - Public Housing: 14 percent

(*The data provided is for respondents from Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, and Turkey)

- d. *Respondents that arrived in the United States from 3/2008 to 2/2009 received the following benefits in the 12 months prior to the point of the survey:

⁷ The ORR Annual Report to Congress includes survey data on benefits provided to refugees that arrive in the United States. See https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/orr/arc_2013_508.pdf

- TANF: 25 percent
- RCA: 0 percent
- SSI: 29 percent
- General assistance: 19 percent
- Medical Assistance or RMA: 68 percent
- SNAP: 83 percent
- Public Housing: 31 percent

(*The data provided is for respondents from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria)

Question 13: Is the educational background, evidence of business ownership, or long-term earning potential of a refugee something that is considered favorably in the granting of refugee status?

Response: The Departments of Homeland Security (DHS), State, and Health and Human Services (HHS) work together to uphold America’s humanitarian response to refugees through the U.S. Resettlement Program (USRP). The refugee security screening and vetting process is a joint effort conducted by the State Department, DHS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the intelligence community. ORR is not involved in this process. ORR’s services are provided only after an individual successfully completes stringent security screenings, is granted refugee status by DHS, and is brought to the U.S. for resettlement by the State Department.

ORR defers to our partners at DHS to provide details about the information considered when making final status determinations.

Question 14: Is the lack of educational background, evidence of business ownership, or long-term earning potential of a refugee something that is considered unfavorably in the granting of refugee status?

Response: The Departments of Homeland Security (DHS), State, and Health and Human Services (HHS) work together to uphold America’s humanitarian response to refugees through the U.S. Resettlement Program (USRP). The refugee security screening and vetting process is a joint effort conducted by the State Department, DHS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the intelligence community. ORR is not involved in this process. ORR’s services are provided only after an individual successfully completes stringent security screenings, is granted refugee status by DHS, and is brought to the U.S. for resettlement by the State Department.

ORR defers to our partners at DHS to provide details about the information considered when making final status determinations.

Question 15: What steps, if any, does ORR take to ensure that refugees are tracked or monitored upon entering the United States?

Response: The refugee security screening and vetting process has been significantly enhanced over the past few years. Today, **refugees undergo the highest level of security checks of any**

category of traveler to the United States, including the involvement of the National Counterterrorism Center, the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center, DHS, the Department of State, and the Department of Defense. All refugees, including Syrians, are admitted only after successful completion of this stringent security screening regime.

- Security checks are an integral part of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) for applicants of all nationalities, and coordinating these checks is a shared responsibility between the State Department and DHS.
- All available biographic and biometric information is vetted against a broad array of law enforcement, intelligence community, and other relevant databases to help confirm a refugee applicant's identity, check for any criminal or other derogatory information, and identify information that could inform lines of questioning during the interview.
- These checks are completed by the State Department, DHS, the FBI, and the intelligence community.
- A refugee applicant cannot be approved for travel until all required security checks have been completed and cleared.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement is not a law enforcement agency and does not individually track refugees. The purpose of our programs is to provide a path to self-sufficiency, thus the primary purpose of data collection is to track employment related outcomes, as reported by States and other grantees during their period of eligibility through the first five years after their arrival in the U.S. Refugees often move from their initial placement due to employment or family ties. Refugees are required to file a change of address form with DHS each time they move and are informed of this requirement during their initial community orientation. If a refugee applies for legal permanent residence status, security screenings are conducted again.

Question 16: At last week's hearing, you testified that ORR pays for the flights of the Syrian refugees that are admitted to the United States. Please provide the following information regarding ORR's payment for these flights:

- a. The total cost for all such flights in Fiscal Year 2014 (if applicable).**
- b. The total cost for all such flights in Fiscal Year 2015.**
- c. Whether these flights are commercial flights, charter flights, military flights, or a combination of the above.**
- d. Whether the refugees whose flights are paid for by ORR are required to reimburse ORR for the costs of those flights.**
- e. If the refugees are required to reimburse ORR, the details regarding payment options for these refugees.**

- f. If the refugees are required to reimburse ORR, the amount of costs that have been reimbursed to date (expressed in raw dollar amount and percentage).**
- g. The number of refugees (both raw number and percentage) who have been brought to the United States at ORR's expense who cannot be located for reimbursement purposes.**

Response: The Departments of Homeland Security (DHS), State, and Health and Human Services (HHS) work together to uphold America's humanitarian response to refugees through the U.S. Resettlement Program (USRP). ORR does not pay for refugees to be brought to the United States. ORR's services are provided only after an individual successfully completes stringent security screenings, is granted refugee status by DHS, and is brought to the U.S. for resettlement by the State Department. We defer to our partners at the State Department to provide details about the travel related costs for refugees.

Question 17: How does ORR obtain reimbursement for the flight cost (assuming ORR seeks reimbursement at all)?

Response: The Departments of Homeland Security (DHS), State, and Health and Human Services (HHS) work together to uphold America's humanitarian response to refugees through the U.S. Resettlement Program (USRP). ORR does not pay or seek reimbursement for refugees to be brought to the United States. ORR's services are provided only after an individual successfully completes stringent security screenings, is granted refugee status by DHS, and is brought to the U.S. for resettlement by the State Department. We defer to our partners at the State Department to provide details about the travel related costs for refugees.

Question 18: If ORR is bringing Syrian refugees to the United States via commercial flights, is there any process for referring these "absconders" to federal and/or state law enforcement (including the Federal Bureau of Investigation)? If the answer is no, please explain why there is not such a law enforcement referral mechanism.

Response: The Departments of Homeland Security (DHS), State, and Health and Human Services (HHS) work together to uphold America's humanitarian response to refugees through the U.S. Resettlement Program (USRP). ORR's services are provided only after an individual successfully completes stringent security screenings, is granted refugee status by DHS, and is brought to the U.S. for resettlement by the State Department. We defer to our partners at the State Department to provide details about refugees travel to the United States.

Question 19: At last week's hearing, it was expressed that the United States was under a moral obligation to receive unspecified thousands of Syrian refugees, in large part because other nations (mostly, European and Middle Eastern nations) were apparently bearing the brunt of receipt of these refugees. It was suggested that the United States needs to do its

part in accepting some percentage of these refugees because of the volume of refugees and the negative impact that volume is having on the region.

Please provide the following information regarding the recent unaccompanied alien child (UAC) influx at the U.S.-Mexico border:

- a. How many UAC were received by European Union (EU) nations during the UAC influx over the last few years (broken down by nation and fiscal year).**
- b. How much financial aid or support EU nations sent to the United States to support the UAC influx over the last few years (broken down by nation and fiscal year).**
- c. How many UAC were received by Middle Eastern or Central Asian nations during the UAC influx over the last few years (broken down by nation and fiscal year).**
- d. How much financial aid or support Middle Eastern or Central Asian nations sent to the United States to support the UAC influx over the last few years (broken down by nation and fiscal year).**

Response: HHS receives funding for the Unaccompanied Children Program through Congressional appropriations; the agency does not receive funding from foreign governments to support program operations.

The William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA) requires ORR to care for unaccompanied children referred to its care by DHS and to place them in the least restrictive setting that is in the best interest of the child, taking into consideration any danger the child may pose to him or herself or to others in the community and any risk of flight. HHS does not place unaccompanied children into the care of European Union member countries.

Question 20: Are you aware of whether the United States has raised the issue of acceptance of Syrian refugees with either the government of the People's Republic of China or the government of the Russian Federation?

Response: We defer to our partners at the State Department to provide information, as appropriate, regarding U.S. engagement with other countries on refugee resettlement.

Question 21: Given that the Russian Federation now has a heavy combat role in Syria (and is theoretically contributing to the refugee outflow as a result of its military operations), should the Russian Federation have a greater role in the acceptance of Syrian refugees?

Response: The Departments of Homeland Security (DHS), State, and Health and Human Services (HHS) work together to uphold America's humanitarian response to refugees through

the U.S. Resettlement Program (USRP). ORR's services are provided only after an individual successfully completes stringent security screenings, is granted refugee status by DHS, and is brought to the U.S. for resettlement by the State Department. We defer to our partners at the State Department to provide information, as appropriate, regarding U.S. engagement with other countries on refugee resettlement.

Question 22: In conversations with congressional staff, it has emerged that the Department of State is defending its low number of admissions for Syrian Christian refugees on the ground that most Syrian Christian refugees have fled directly to Lebanon, and that the United States embassy in Beirut lacks the physical, personnel, or resource capacity to process refugees in Lebanon.

With the understanding that you do not represent the Department of State, can you shed any additional light on United States government facilities and resources that are currently present in the region that can be used by the Department of State (in addition the existing diplomatic facilities) for the processing of Syrian Christian refugees in Lebanon and/or elsewhere?

Response: We defer to our partners at the Department of State and DHS for information on the processing of refugees in Lebanon and the resources present to do so.