



November 18, 2015

Governor John Kasich  
77 S. High St., 30<sup>th</sup> floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor,

The Ohio Council of Churches seeks to make visible the unity of Christ's church. Eighteen Christian denominations are the members. Roughly, we encompass 4,500 congregations and 2+ million members.

We write to express deep concerns for your stand to deprive Ohioans from welcoming refugees from Syria and therefore depriving Christians and other citizens from exercising their faith and civic commitments to peace and compassion. Millions of Syrian refugees have fled their native country seeking refuge and safety. It is both un-Christian and un-American to turn them away. The United States has always been a refuge and a new home for millions of people from around the world; this is who we are and this is how this nation was birthed.

We urge you to reconsider your public stand on the matter and help welcome and integrate as many refugees from Syria as possible to our state and to provide them with opportunities and hospitality on humanitarian reasons.

Sincerely,

Rev. Rebecca Tollefson  
Executive Director

Rev. Raafat Zaki  
President

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