**Keeping Missourians Safe. Empowering Our Communities.**

**Missouri House Democrats**

Federal law provides no ability for state government to approve or reject the decision of the U.S. Department of State to place refugees (Syrian or otherwise) in Missouri. Missouri government instead should focus on ensuring all background checks have occurred and investing in protecting citizens’ safety against emerging threats.

**Plan Summary**:

Republicans in the Missouri legislature are failing the citizens of Missouri with a “do-nothing” approach to keeping our communities safe. House Democrats propose a proactive plan that preserves Missouri’s values of openness, the rule-of-law, and helping those in need while keeping our communities safe. The plan has four key components:

1. **Stay true to our values:** House Democrats reject Republican calls for internment camps, government-run religious databases, and other such proposals from leading Republicans. Proposals of this nature run counter to our basic ideals of freedom and adherence to the rule of law.

2. **Increase funding to the Missouri State Highway Patrol**: Immediately increase funding to the Missouri State Highway Patrol to review refugee applications, increase the MSHP’s information processing capabilities, and coordinate a vulnerability assessment with state and local government.

3. **Protect Missourians from cyber-threats:** Recognizing that criminal and terrorist organizations are increasingly operating in cyberspace -- the plan calls for enhancing the cybercrime fighting capabilities of state and local law enforcement.

4**. Empower local government:** Utilize grants to support training and skills development for law enforcement and defend against cybersecurity threats at the local level.

**The Plan: Keep Missourians Safe - Empower Our Communities**

1. **Stay true to our values:** House Democrats reject leading Republican calls for internment camps and government run religious databases. Republican proposals for internment camps and government religious databases run counter to basic freedoms and the rule of law.
* **Reject internment camps:** Rep. Mike Moon, a key Republican leader (Vice-Chairman of Ways & Means), has called for internment camps for refugees. Missouri House Democrats reject using Missouri resources or state employees to force any family into government camps. [[Missouri lawmaker proposes Syrian refugees be put into internment camps. 11/18/2015. Fox2Now.com]](http://fox2now.com/2015/11/18/missouri-lawmaker-proposes-syrian-refugees-be-put-into-internment-camps/)
* **Reject government sponsored religious database:** Recently, leading GOP Presidential candidate Donald Trump called for a government-run religious database. Missouri House Democrats reject any use of state resources or state employees to create a government religious database in direct violation of the First Amendment. [[Donald Trump’s Plan for a Muslim Database Draws Comparison to Nazi Germany. 11/20/2015. NBCNews.]](http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2016-election/trump-says-he-would-certainly-implement-muslim-database-n466716)
1. **Increase resources and capabilities of the Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP)**: Immediately increase funding to the Missouri State Highway Patrol to review refugee applications, increase the MSHP’s information processing capabilities, and coordinate a vulnerability assessment with state and local government.
* **Review applications ($1.5m):** The Missouri State Highway Patrol will verify that federal authorities conducted all necessary screenings of refugees placed in Missouri. Specifically MSHP will:
	1. Verify all information given to federal authorities.
	2. Verify all screenings and interviews were conducted as required by law.
	3. Verify refugees have not contributed money, intelligence, or any other support to any terrorist organization.
	4. Verify that a background check was conducted.
* **Increase information capabilities ($3m)**: Provide resources to MSHP to gather and disseminate intelligence to local and federal agencies.
1. Increase funding to Missouri Information Analysis Center (MIAC) and its affiliated services including Missouri Statewide Police Intelligence Network (MOSPIN), Suspicious Activity Center (SAR), Organized Crime and Anti-Terrorism Unit (OCAT), and The Criminal Intelligence/Crime Analysis Unit.
2. Provide funding to MSHP to hire full-time linguists and information specialists as a resource to MSHP, local law enforcement, and other agencies in the field.
* **Assess vulnerabilities ($2m):** Enable MSHP to coordinate with state and local agencies to assess vulnerabilities in Missouri’s physical and digital infrastructure including but not limited to: roads, bridges, ports, electrical/power grids, water supply, utilities, information networks, and emergency service delivery.

3**.  Protect Missourians through** **increased cybersecurity funding and resources:** Criminal and terrorist organizations are increasingly operating in cyberspace. The plan calls for enhancing the cybercrime fighting capabilities of state and local law enforcement.

* **Double current state investment in cybersecurity ($6m):** Increase state investment for information technology security enhancements.
* **Coordinate cyber-threat information sharing ($2m):** Partner with key Missouri infrastructure providers to coordinate and share information. Where necessary, create permanent and ad-hoc task forces to counter threats.
* **Double resources of Missouri’s Cybercrime Task Force ($1.5m):** Ensuring cyberspace is a safe space for children and youths.

4.  **Provide resources to local government and empower them to develop solutions unique to their needs:** Utilize grants to support training and skills development for law enforcement and defend against cybersecurity threats at the local level.

* **Cybersecurity grants to local communities ($10m):** Provide state funding for grants to local governments for the purpose of enhancing cybersecurity in their community. Any political subdivision will be eligible to apply for grants through the MSHP.
* **Training grants to local law enforcement ($10m)**: Grants to local law enforcement for professional development, counterterrorism, and community policing.