

REFUGEE EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

NAME:

PERIOD:

For each editorial, please label 2 examples EACH of logos (proving the claim with facts and evidence); pathos (connecting with the reader through emotions and values); and ethos (showing the writer's credibility by acknowledging counterclaims, quoting experts, and relating personal experiences with the issue). Then underline the claim (thesis sentence).

EDITORIAL #1: Published in the Deseret News on 12/10/15

Herbert takes a courageous stand on Syrian refugees.

As the international refugee crisis continues to escalate, Utahns would be wise to remember the history of their own state, which was initially settled by pioneers who were fleeing from religious persecution and seeking refuge in a distant land far from the homes they'd left behind. We therefore applaud Utah Gov. Gary Herbert's courageous decision to honor that legacy by expressing a willingness to allow Syrian refugees to settle in Utah, despite the fact that he is the only Republican governor in the country to do so.

Herbert's position is opposed by 31 other governors and every member of the Utah congressional delegation, but many private and religious organizations are not waiting on recalcitrant elected officials to find ways to alleviate suffering. Here in Utah, groups like the International Rescue Committee and Catholic Community Services are finding ways to support refugees.

All these good-faith efforts are starkly at odds with the Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives, which voted to support legislation that would all but bar Syrian refugees from entering the United States. The rationale for this rejection is national security, and many elected officials are using this crisis to raise the specter of international terrorism in the wake of the deadly Paris attacks. The conventional wisdom is that allowing refugees in America would be an invitation to ISIS to smuggle potential assassins into the midst of the huddled masses yearning to breathe free. Sen. Ted Cruz, a Republican presidential candidate, recently claimed that 77 percent of all refugees are young men of fighting age, with the clear implication that the United States would be importing ISIS' army by letting them past our borders.

Such fiery rhetoric may make for great politics, but it leads to terrible policy.

In the first place, Cruz and others are wildly overstating the number of young men in the refugee population. Sixty-two percent of all the refugees are male, not 77 percent, and that number includes men and boys of all ages, most of whom fall outside of the "fighting age" bracket. State Department data says that 67 percent of all refugees are women and children under 12.

That's not to minimize the potential for abuse of the system, but rather to put it in its proper perspective. In addition, Herbert would require refugees to pass a security check before being resettled in Utah, and he believes it is possible to create a rigorous system that would screen out dangerous militants that would still be a far cry removed from the draconian measures that recently passed the House. Catholic Community Services is advocating a similar approach.

Security needs to be a primary concern, but it is not the only concern. In the face of such massive human suffering, it is essential that countries, states and individuals make every effort to reach out to human beings in need. We applaud Gov. Herbert and other brave groups and individuals for stepping up to the plate on this, and we encourage others to follow their example.

Editorial 2: Published in the Topeka Capital-Journal on 9/22/15

Don't tell us America isn't compassionate.

No other nation on Earth provides as much humanitarian assistance and relief to others. By government fiat and private good deed, this is the most giving nation known to mankind. And in the context of the Syrian refugee crisis unfolding across Europe, it should be noted no other country has topped the \$4 billion in aid the U.S. has offered since that country's civil war began in 2011.

Kindness? We've got that nailed. Self-preservation? That's another matter entirely.

The Obama administration's plan to admit 85,000 mostly Syrian refugees during the next year, and nearly 100,000 in 2017, is a self-destructive act born of dangerously deluded notions of compassion. It is a step bordering on suicidal. The administration has turned a blind eye toward Islamist terrorist groups who have made it clear they will exploit the refugee crisis to bring jihad to European and American soil.

If just one terrorist or terror-sympathizer gets through, Americans will die. Perhaps large numbers of them. We take the terrorists at their word. So should our leaders. The administration also seems to have forgotten the 9/11 attacks carried out 14 years ago by just 19 Muslim terrorists allowed entry to the U.S. through similar visas.

Along with Germany, who says it will accept more than 800,000 Syrians this year, the United States is practically tripping over itself to import migrants from intractably retrograde cultures completely and fundamentally at odds with freedom-loving Western society — and, notably, our laws and cultures.

In 2010, when Germany had only 4 million Muslims, a poll showed one-third of Germans believed the country was "overrun by foreigners," and that 55 percent considered Muslims to be "unpleasant people." Even German Chancellor Angela Merkel declared multiculturalism in Germany had "utterly failed." Now, just five years later, she's leading the drumbeat to open Europe's borders even wider to the welfare states within, for Muslims throughout the Middle East and North Africa. And right by her side — pistol neatly pointed at foot — is U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, practically lamenting he can take only an eighth as many migrants.

You know the Obama administration has crossed over into insanity when incurable liberals such as Bill Maher question its judgment.

"Let's not kid ourselves," warns the host of HBO's "Real Time." "There's a lot of young Muslim men in European cities who, even though they are newcomers to the land, really are not humble about (adapting) to the ways of the Western world. ... Free speech, we see, is not something they always agree with. And often their attitude is, 'We're biding our time until you will do things our way.'"

It is reckless lunacy for this country to admit them, or any other immigrants from war-torn and failing Muslim nations, especially lacking adequate screening. And how can adequate screening even be done? Moreover, how can this administration guarantee it will not import terrorists when it can't even be trusted to secure this nation's 2,000-mile southern border?

The Obama administration doesn't need congressional approval to expand its resettlement slots, but Congress does have the power of the purse to fund them. For the sake of America's national security and culture, it mustn't approve any Mideastern migrants. This country can be compassionate without committing suicide.