



Rep. Tom Emmer on Terrorism and National Security

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****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Hi everyone, Tom Emmer here. If you watched the news or picked up a newspaper recently, you likely have an unsettling outlook on what is going on in the world today. America has seen the forces of terror firsthand. Nearly 15 years after the attacks of September 11th, we've seen war and supported increase in defense and intelligence spending. Unfortunately, the threat of terror is still very real. In the face of Iranian aggression across the globe, the rise of the Islamic State and civil wars dragging on without end, attacks on our allies and attacks right here in our homeland, the American people are rightfully demanding that their government do everything to ensure that national security remains the top priority. People across the country want and deserve their safety to be at the front of our minds every day, and it is. Like you, I believe nothing is more important than the safety and security of the American people. That's why at the end of last year, I co-sponsored and voted for the American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act of 2015, also known as the SAFE Act. This legislation would implement a system of unanimous certification for every refugee from Iraq and Syria to ensure that our enemies are not able to take advantage of our nation's refugee system. Unfortunately, the bill failed to get out of the Senate. Shortly after the House passed this crucial legislation, our country was hit again during a horrendous attack by two animals seeking to spread terror right here in America through a shooting in San Bernardino, California. It's clear that more needs to be done to protect American citizens and this great country we live in. It's time for this madness to end. This week, I joined my colleagues to pass a series of additional measures with unanimous support which will address the security issues that we in Minnesota are all too familiar with. The legislation will require the administration to review and work to combat the terrorist recruitment process occurring right here in the United States. Additionally, the administration would be forced to identify gaps in our security to ensure we prevent terrorists like the ones in San Bernardino from getting to the United States in the first place. From day one, we've stood strong to ensure that our federal government continues to protect American citizens and our homeland. We can't afford to let up or relax. We must remain vigilant. Washington hears you and I can assure you we will make sure they're listening. The number one constitutional obligation of this government is to protect us, to ensure the safety of our families and all Americans. Again, I don't intend to accept anything when it comes to persons looking to enter in our country that's going to put you or I or anyone else in America at risk. I'll keep working hard to implement the necessary safeguards and restrictions to make certain that Americans are fully protected each and every day. Thank you.

This transcript was independently produced by MN-06 Watch for accountability and archival purposes.

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