



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 7, 2024

Bojana Zoric Martinez  
Director  
Bureau of Refugee Programs  
635 North 26th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Ms. Martinez,

I am writing to follow up on my January letter. I continue to have serious concerns about the lack of transparency regarding potential refugee resettlement plans, and I am once again requesting that you convene a series of statewide public forums on this issue to disclose any such plans currently under consideration.

While I appreciate the opportunity to attend the meeting hosted by the Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce this week on the topic, I remain concerned that so many of these discussions seem to take place behind closed doors, outside the view of members of the media and the general public.

As you know, existing statute requires federal officials to conduct quarterly consultations with some state and local officials and private resettlement nonprofits. However, there is nothing in this law which precludes you from taking additional steps on your own to share information with other stakeholders such as members of the legislature, officials with responsibility for the provision of social services like housing, education, and the administration welfare programs, or other concerned citizens.

As the state's refugee coordinator, you have a duty to be as forthright as possible about any resettlement plans that are currently being contemplated. Moreover, providing meaningful opportunities for public input will allow you and resettlement organizations to get a clearer picture about the level of public support for resettlement, as well as any potential impacts, challenges or burdens those plans may present for existing residents and support systems.

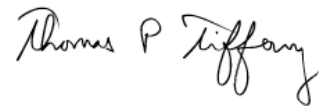
The lack of public notification, input, and transparency regarding refugee resettlement has already fueled significant controversy and public backlash. And so long as Wisconsinites are kept in the dark about these plans, they will continue to conclude – correctly – that they have no voice in these decisions.

In short, the public has a right to know if their town or county will be the next one targeted for refugee resettlement, how the increased burden on taxpayers will be addressed, and how an influx of foreign newcomers will impact their local budgets and quality of life.

Once again, I hope you will consider taking steps to expand the public dialogue on this important issue to ensure that our friends and neighbors – not faraway bureaucrats in Washington, DC – have the final word on what happens in their communities.

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas P. Tiffany". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Tom Tiffany  
Member of Congress