



## Travel ban should not be Trump's focus

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In Wayne Lovern's letter "[President Trump's terrorist initiative](#)" published in the Feb. 3 edition, he suggests that President Donald Trump's U.S. entry restrictions would save many of us from death by terrorism. This reads like wishful thinking since records show that if the restrictions had been in place for the past 40 years, no American lives would have been saved — not one. [A September 2016 study by the Cato Institute](#) found that nationals from the seven countries included in President Trump's U.S. entry restrictions have not killed an American citizen since 1975.

Furthermore, it's unclear if Mr. Lovern's enthusiasm for the restrictions includes any consideration of their cost — an amount that would run into the billions each year. This was implied in the Cato study, which suggested that a total immigration moratorium would cost the nation around \$200 billion each year.

If Mr. Lovern really wants to proselytize about saving American lives, he might direct his attention to motor vehicles, which are about 400,000 times more lethal than refugees. The annual risk in being killed in a motor vehicle accident are 1 in 8,900, while the odds of an American being killed in a refugee terrorist attack each year are 1 in 3.6 billion (Insurance Information Institute and the Cato study).

Furthermore, if President Trump wants to spend lots of money, it would seem wiser to begin updating our ports, bridges, highways and air traffic control systems than wasting time and treasure on witch hunts.