

COSUMNES CONNECTION

Pence: Outrage over Skittles tweet is 'remarkable'

Larry Hoffman

September 21, 2016

Donald Trump Jr. has come under fire once again for comments that were seen by many as insensitive to the plight of Syrian refugees.

Donald Trump has called for ending the USA policy accepting refugees fleeing the war in Syria, arguing that US immigration officials can not ensure that none of the asylum-seekers from Syria are secretly members of the Islamic State.

Younger Trump's remark prompted a Twitter response from Mars Global, the parent company of Wrigley, which produces Skittles. David Kittos is a photo artist based in Guildford, UK, and as a former child refugee, he told the BBC that that he condemns Trump Jr. for using his photo this way, and without his approval.

While Skittles have a surprising history as a vessel for political speech, it is the analogy surrounding the colorful candy that has the most problematic past. "That's our Syrian refugee problem", read the image. Clinton said she would continue with the vetting now in place, an effort that can take multiple years to complete.

Donald Trump Jr was arguing against allowing those displaced by the current conflict in the Middle East to be allowed into the States.

Had the Trump campaign or Trump Jr. wished to pay for an image, they could have purchased similar Skittles photos on Shutterstock at the cost of two for \$29. Trump Jr. further editorialized in his tweet, saying "Let's end the politically correct agenda that doesn't put America first". This is pure greed for them. Wrigley Americas is the company that manufactures Skittles.

There are no known threats to national security in the US - or in Canada, which has accepted more than 30,000 Syrians since last November - linked to the resettlement of Syrian refugees. We don't feel it's an appropriate analogy.

According to a poll conducted by the Washington Post "nearly half of GOP-leaning respondents in the poll- 47 percent- both support the deportation of undocumented immigrants and oppose

accepting refugees from Syria and other Mideast conflicts". But a recent report by the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, found that an American's odds of dying in a terrorist attack perpetrated by a refugee in any given year are about one in 3.64 billion.