

Why the GOP Backlash to Biden Admitting More Refugees Isn't Justified

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The surest way a president can stir up controversy is to make changes to our immigration system. President Biden's latest move to boost the number of refugees the US accepts this year has been no exception.

“President Joe Biden formally raised the nation’s cap on refugee admissions to 62,500 this year, weeks after facing bipartisan blowback for his delay in replacing the record-low ceiling set by former President Donald Trump,” the *Associated Press* [reports](#). For context, a “refugee” is formally [defined](#) as “someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence.”

The president quickly took to Twitter to defend his decision.

“The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program embodies our commitment to protect the most vulnerable,” Biden [said](#). “It’s a statement about who we are, and who we want to be. That’s why today, I revised our annual cap from 15,000 — a historic low set by the previous administration — to 62,500.”



In response, some Republicans decried the move as dangerous and misguided.

“The only thing Biden’s consistent on is caving to the radical Left and putting our safety last,” tweeted Congressman Brian Babin, a Texas Republican. “Inviting in tens of thousands of unvetted refugees—including those from terrorist hotbeds—is insanely irresponsible and will lead to another crisis.”

“Increasing the refugee admissions cap will put American jobs and safety at risk,” GOP Senator Tom Cotton concurred. “The Biden administration should be focused on getting Americans back to work.”



But these concerns don’t hold up to serious scrutiny.

While it’s understandable that some may worry about potential security threats from accepting refugees, we already have an extensive vetting system in place. Our system of refugee acceptance is incredibly safe.

Research from the Cato Institute’s Alex Nowrasteh has found that “the chance of an American being murdered in a terrorist attack caused by a refugee is 1 in 3.64 billion per year.” To put that figure in context, you’re significantly more likely to die from your clothes melting or catching fire than to be killed by a refugee.

And the economic argument against refugee resettlement doesn't hold water, either.

It's true that refugees are eligible for and consume more taxpayer-funded welfare than other types of immigrants. But the solution to that is to make them ineligible for those programs, not to lock desperate people outside of our shores. Plus, in the long run, immigrants create more jobs than they "take" and are a net positive for our economy.

I never shy away from criticizing Biden. Yet when it comes to the president's decision to accept more refugees into the US, the simple truth is that it's not just the moral thing to do—it's a win for everybody involved.