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PRESS RELEASE

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SPRING INSTITUTE WELCOMES HICKENLOOPER'S DECISION TO ACCEPT SYRIAN REFUGEES

DENVER, CO – On Monday, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper stated that Colorado will continue to “provide a place where the world’s most vulnerable can rebuild their lives.”

This statement comes amidst the aftermath of the terror attacks that took place in Paris on Friday evening and the response from several American governors that they will no longer resettle Syrian refugees.

Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, a Denver-based nonprofit organization that provides integration services to Colorado’s refugee population, welcomes Governor Hickenlooper’s decision to accept Syrian refugees and calls on all states to continue to serve as welcoming communities for refugees fleeing violence in Syria and elsewhere around the world.

“Closing our doors to the world’s most vulnerable will not make us safer,” said Paula Schriefer, President/CEO of Spring Institute. “It would only send a message that we are willing to change the essence of who we are as a country based on misinformation and fear.”

The United States is the world’s leading resettlement nation in the world and has accepted nearly 70,000 refugees in 2015. Due to the stringent security screening processes that are designed to ensure all refugees have a genuine reason to fear persecution in their home countries and that they have no ties to terrorist groups, the U.S. has so far admitted only 2,000 Syrians since the start of the civil war in 2011.

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