

Care With Refugee Rules

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A May 30 editorial ["Excluding Friends"] criticized Sen. Arlen Specter for opposing a floor amendment to the immigration bill that would have redefined what constitutes "material support" and narrowed the definition of "terrorist organization." Before modifying the law on such critical language, both changes should have been considered by the Judiciary Committee extensively in committee hearings. In addition, existing law gives the secretary of state adequate discretion to admit refugees, as shown by the resettlement of 9,300 ethnic Karen refugees.

The Post correctly noted Mr. Specter's error in saying the amendment would have permitted Hamas to enter the United States. But it did not note that Mr. Specter corrected that misstatement before the Senate voted on the amendment.

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