

# Tennessee sues feds over refugee resettlement

Mark Hensch writes in [The Tennessean said](#).

The Tennessean said the suit argues the federal government has violated the amendment, which states it has only the powers given to it by the Constitution and all other powers belong to the states instead.

The lawsuit – which was filed on behalf of several state lawmakers Monday morning – argues that the federal government unduly forced states to pay for its refugee resettlement program.

The case further charges the federal government is not complying with the Refugee Act of 1980, which is based on the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

“Plaintiffs will suffer significant and irreparable harm unless this Court intervenes,” the 15-page lawsuit filed in the western district of Tennessee states.

“Operation of the federal refugee resettlement program commandeers Tennessee’s funds through Medicaid with the threatened loss of nearly \$7 billion, amounting to 20 percent of its overall state budget – money that is needed fund services that are critical to the health and welfare of countless Tennesseans.”

The Tennessean said Monday’s suit was brought by the Thomas More Law Center, a Michigan-based legal group that has often championed conservative legal causes in recent years.

The defendants named in the suit include the State Department, Secretary of State [Rex Tillerson](#), the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, the Department of Health and Human

Services (HHS) and the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Tennessee state Sen. John Stevens (R) and state Rep. Terri Lynn Weaver (R) also joined in the suit's filing.

"The Constitution does not allow the Federal Government to force me as the elected representative of the 24<sup>th</sup> Senate District to implement federal programs while they sit in Washington insulated from the consequences," Stevens said in a statement Monday.

Monday's lawsuit asks the court to stop refugees resettling in Tennessee, the Tennessean said, until all costs related to settlement are paid by the federal government.

The federal government has appointed Catholic Charities of Tennessee with administrating the state's refugee resettlement initiative, it said.

Catholic Charities has