

**House Committee on Judiciary Member Day Hearing Testimony**  
**Rep. Judy Chu**  
**September 20, 2019**

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Chairman Nadler, Ranking Member Collins and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for holding this Member Day hearing today. As a former member of this committee, I appreciate the opportunity to speak about some of my priorities, especially around immigration policy that you have jurisdiction over. I am grateful for the work the Committee has already done in marking up and passing the DREAM and Promise Act of 2019 and holding numerous hearings on the critical issues of family separation and detention.

This Administration has created an unprecedented attack on immigrant communities and through its policies divided families. I am deeply disappointed that the Supreme Court upheld the third iteration of the ban that excludes people from predominantly Muslim majority countries. That is why I introduced H.R.2214, the NO BAN Act, which repeals all iterations of the Muslim ban, the asylum ban, and extreme vetting for refugee executive order. It also requires the Administration to consult with the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security and to brief Congress before making such suspensions. My bill has over 170 co-sponsors and I am pleased that the Committee is planning to hold a hearing next week to examine the injustice of the Muslim Ban policy. I hope the NO BAN Act can be marked up and brought to the House floor for a vote soon.

But this administration is going even further, it is also attacking families that already live here in the United States. I am the author of H.R. 3222, the No Federal Funds for Public Charge Act, which would block any funding from being used to implement the discriminatory public charge rule put forth by the Department of Homeland Security. Immigrants who use public benefits like food stamps or Medicaid – benefits they have paid into through taxes - should not be penalized when they apply for green cards or other adjustment of immigration status. Already, we are seeing a decrease in healthcare enrollment in communities fearful of using services that they are eligible for. This policy only leads to more sickness and hunger in our communities.

I also believe that we must do better by the immigrant children who are crossing the border and being detained in emergency influx shelters. I personally visited Tornillo last year and was horrified at the conditions at that camp. My bill, H.R. 1069, the Shut Down Child Prison Camps Act, was introduced with Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon to make sure that any facilities where children are held comply with the protections in the *Flores* Settlement Agreement. Luckily, Tornillo has been shut down, but facilities like Homestead, Florida continue to be operated.

I also urge this committee to address the family-based immigration backlog. There are currently over 4 million people in the family immigration backlog waiting to reunite with their loved ones. The average wait time for a permanent resident to sponsor an unmarried son or daughter from Mexico is over *twenty years*. My bill, H.R. 3799, the Reuniting Families Act, modernizes our family immigration system and provides relief to families who have been separated for years. Specifically, the bill recaptures unused visas lost over the past two decades, increases per-

country limits, and prevents children from aging out and losing their place in line due to bureaucratic delays. The bill also reforms our employment-based immigration system by clearing the backlogs and increasing the number of visas from 55,000 to 80,000 visas per year.

Finally, I am planning to reintroduce the Protect Our Workers from Exploitation and Retaliation (POWER) Act in the coming weeks. The POWER Act provides U-Visa eligibility for immigrant workers who report unsafe or unfair labor practices. It also strengthens labor agencies' investigative powers and allows a stay of removal and work authorization for workers who file a workplace claim.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify and I look forward to working with the committee on passing legislation to address these issues.