

The Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees (MFA), a project of the Tides Center, is comprised of over 100 participating organizations. MFA is a nonpartisan, coordinating body, a network, and a vehicle for harnessing the power of the faith-based and civil society collective to respond to the Syrian crisis. We address the three great fears that interfere with humane and sensible public policy: economic impact, terrorism, and Islamophobia.

The MFA wishes to submit the following statement for the Congressional Record:

The ban has visited untold pain and despair on countless Syrian families and individuals seeking to enter America. It has separated family members in times of joy and sorrow and in living their lives fully. It has undermined American principles of freedom of religion and the very tenet of every faith "to welcome the stranger." It has fueled Islamophobia.

*Today we have an important opportunity to turn wrong into right with support and passage of HR 2214 National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act or **the NO BAN Act**. Ultimate passage of this bill will send a clear message that we are still a nation of principles and freedom of religion. It will help move toward lifting the heavy weight off Syrians and Syrian American family members torn from each other and the outrageous ban of individual Syrians seeking to come to the US for legitimate reasons. It will help weaken the scourge of Islamophobia. Clearly, we are strong supporters of H.R. 2214.*