

The U.S. Immigration System: The Need for Bold Reforms Questions for the Record

From Chairman Nadler

Marielena Hincapié, Executive Director, National Immigration Law Center

1. Ms. Hincapié, last congress, the House of Representatives passed the NO BAN Act, which would have repealed the executive orders that became known as the Muslim Ban and amended the section of the Immigration and Nationality Act that former President Trump relied on to institute the ban. On his first day in office, President Biden repealed those executive orders. Do you believe that it is still important for Congress to pass the NO BAN Act and, if so, why?
2. Ms. Hincapié, the hasty implementation of President Trump's Muslim Ban resulted in chaos at airports across the country. Hundreds of individuals were detained by Customs and Border Protection, unable to communicate with the outside world including family members or attorneys who might have otherwise been able to assist in resolving any issues with their ability to enter the United States. In January 2020, reports emerged that CBP detained more than 60 Iranian American citizens and green card holders at a border crossing in Blaine, Washington after a U.S. drone strike killed Iranian General Soleimani. Those reports indicated that these individuals were also prevented from contacting anyone to receive outside assistance. Last congress, the House passed the Access to Counsel Act, which would ensure that individuals held in CBP custody for prolonged periods of time have the ability to communicate with an attorney or other interested party. Can you elaborate on why this piece of legislation is so important?