



CHIRLA
Coalition for Humane
Immigrant Rights



February 12, 2020

Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chair, Immigration and Citizenship Subcommittee
House Judiciary Committee
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Ken Buck
Ranking Member, Immigration and Citizenship Subcommittee
House Judiciary Committee
2455 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for H.R. 2214, the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act (NO BAN Act).

Dear Chair Lofgren, Ranking Member Buck, and members of the Immigration and Citizenship Subcommittee,

On behalf of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), the largest immigrant rights organization in California, I write to express our strong support for H.R. 2214, the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act (NO BAN Act).

On January 27, 2017, after just a week in office, President Trump signed the Protecting Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States, which banned foreign nationals from several Muslim majority countries: Iran, Iraq, Lybia, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, for 90 days, blocked refugees for 120 days, and suspended travel from Syria indefinitely. This then produced outrage in our communities, and countless protests at U.S. airports as this order prevented said nationals from entering the country. Actions were followed by lawsuits, and on





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February 3, 2017, a federal district court issued a nationwide restraining order that blocked the Muslim ban from being implemented.

Since then, Trump has re-issued the Muslim ban numerous times in efforts to reverse his fortunes in the courts. Yet, despite how the ban was worded, it was clear to courts across the nation that any version of the Muslim ban is a prejudiced and appalling policy. Most recently, this issue went before the U.S. Supreme Court, which regrettably deferred to executive power without truly looking at the openly pronounced hate that undergirded the policy

The reissuance of the Muslim bans has contributed to the separation of families, the denials of life saving medical treatments, and parents being unable to care for their children. The ban also fuels a false and dangerous myth that Muslims are violent and pose a threat to our nation. In fact, the opposite is true, Muslim Americans are increasingly the victims of violence. In California alone, we have also experienced a surge in Islamophobia incidents against Mosques and Islamic Centers, as well as other anti-Muslim violence and crimes.¹

To date, Trump has issued four versions restricting travel of Muslim nationals to the U.S. His most recent attack has a distinctly anti-African bent and expands his travel ban to include new restrictions for six additional countries: Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sudan, and Tanzania. This new policy is set to take effect on February 21st, and the U.S. will suspend the issuance of visas that can lead to permanent residency for nationals of Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Nigeria. The Executive Order will also make nationals of Sudan and Tanzania ineligible for diversity visas, and thus prohibited from participating in the well-known Green Card lottery that brings so much good will to the U.S.

The NO Ban Act would end the discriminatory Muslim Ban and secure vital protections against future discriminatory bans. The Act aims to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of

¹ <https://www.newamerica.org/in-depth/anti-muslim-activity/>





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religion, and will ensure that no president would ever be able to ban an entire community without any form of accountability. Should any president seek to use his/her authority to limit travel to non-citizens, key congressional notifications would be administered and reporting requirements would be in place to prevent abuse of such authority. The bill will also end the asylum ban and enhanced restrictions on refugees preventing them from entering the U.S. Most importantly, the bill would ensure that this kind of discrimination does not continue and promote religious freedom.

We urge the Immigration and Citizenship Subcommittee to support the NO BAN Act and vote in to move the bill forward. Furthermore, Congress should work to overturn the Muslim Ban and to stand against discrimination of any form. Denying entrance to our country solely based on faith or nationality is anathema to our creed and negates our quest for a "more perfect union."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angelica Salas".

Angelica Salas
Executive Director, CHIRLA

