

**Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism's Statement for the Record for the
United States House Committee on the Judiciary Markup of H.R.2214, the
National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act (NO BAN Act)**

February 12, 2020

On behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism, whose nearly 850 congregations across North America encompass 1.5 million Reform Jews, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, whose membership includes more than 2,000 Reform rabbis, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism thanks the leadership of the House Committee on the Judiciary for marking up H.R.2214, the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants (NO BAN) Act. We urge the Committee to move the bill in its current, complete form.

The president's discriminatory travel ban not only defies the United States' historical legacy as a land of refuge, but also specifically targets Muslim-majority countries, renegeing on our country's founding principle of religious freedom. On January 31, 2020, the administration extended the ban to six additional countries. There are now 13 countries subject to the ban, most of which have Muslim majorities or significant Muslim populations. The expanded ban will continue to prevent millions of Americans from reuniting with their families and will shut America's doors in the face of even more people who are seeking refuge.

Historically, Jews have borne the brunt of religiously based discrimination and indifference to the suffering of the world's most vulnerable people. As Jews, we remember the consequences of being turned away from America's shores, and we recall those who perished at the hands of bigoted policy. It is this history that motivates us to act in solidarity with our Muslim family, refugees, and asylum seekers who hope to find safety and freedom in the United States. The administration's ban is discriminatory, and we call on our partners in Congress on both sides of the aisle to stand for America's legacy of welcome and commitment to religious freedom.

For generations, immigrants of all faiths have known America as a land of opportunity to which they have contributed. The strength of this nation comes from its religious diversity. Banning entry to the U.S. on the basis of religion sends the wrong message about the values for which our nation stands. At a time when so many people are

fleeing religious persecution and discrimination, the U.S. can be a moral, powerful voice and a haven for those in need.

The NO BAN Act reflects Congress's commitment to ending the administration's harmful travel ban from mainly majority Muslim countries and would put in place vital protections to prevent similar executive action from being taken in the future. We are proud to support this much-needed legislative initiative.

We thank the Judiciary Committee leadership for marking up the NO BAN Act and urge the Committee to move the bill in its current, complete form. We urge Congress to pass the NO BAN Act to overturn the discriminatory travel ban, prevent the enactment of similar bans in the future, and ensure America is a welcoming place for those seeking refuge.