



February 12, 2020

Chairman Jerrod Nadler and Ranking Member Doug Collins  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
2141 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Collins:

On behalf of the Human Rights Campaign's more than 3 million members and supporters nationwide, I write in support of the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants (NO BAN) Act. As the nation's largest organization working to achieve equal rights for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community, we strongly oppose the Trump-Pence Administration's Muslim Bans and the harm they have caused to Muslim-Americans, their families and their communities, and to LGBTQ individuals as well.

In the years since President Trump's Muslim Ban went into effect, countless families have been needlessly separated, people have been denied access to lifesaving medical treatments, children have been denied their parents and grandparents, and people have missed the births, deaths, weddings, and funerals of loved ones. It has also harmed our economy, with highly-skilled researchers, physicians, artists, and others being unable to bring their talents to the United States because of the ban. The Muslim Ban has also fueled anti-Muslim violence and discrimination, promoting the dangerous myth that Muslims are inherently foreign, violent, and pose a threat to the United States.

The NO BAN Act seeks to end the Muslim Ban and the scourge of religious discrimination in immigration. It would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion and ensure that no president will ever again be able to ban an entire community without accountability. It also closes loopholes in the INA that allows the president to prevent people from entering the U.S. by creating much needed limitations and accountability for any president who wishes to use this authority.

The NO BAN Act is particularly important for the LGBTQ community. Our community has faced attempts in the past to block our entry to the United States, often based on myths and outright lies. We also have been impacted by the Muslim bans, in that LGBTQ people who live in countries covered by the bans - many of whom criminalize engaging in same-sex sexual relations - can no longer flee to the United States, or be resettled here by refugee agencies. The ban also makes it difficult for LGBTQ people to come to the United States for meetings and trainings to strengthen their ability to organize and improve their lived experiences back at home.

We strongly support the NO BAN Act and call on Congress to pass it into law. The Human Rights Campaign appreciates the opportunity to weigh in at this time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jeremy Kadden at (202) 216-1515.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Stacy". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Stacy  
Government Affairs Director