



April 13, 2021

Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 1333 - The National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act
(NO BAN Act)

Dear Chairman Nadler, Ranking Member Jordan, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF) and the Sikh American community, thank you for the opportunity to submit this written statement to the Committee on the Judiciary about H.R. 1333, the “NO BAN Act”, originally offered by Representative Judy Chu.

The Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF) was founded in 1996 as an organization to promote awareness about Sikhism and protect the civil rights of the community. Now, nearly 25 years later, it is the oldest Sikh civil rights organization in the United States working with its partners in Congress and across the nation to promote non-discrimination and religious freedom. On behalf of the Sikh American community, we strongly urge Members of Congress and this Committee to support H.R. 1333 as offered by Representative Chu and Chairman Nadler.

The NO BAN Act will limit executive authority to suspend or restrict those entering the United States through our immigration system. This legislation is especially important in light of the previous Administration’s Executive Order 13769, also known as the Muslim Ban. This executive order prevented foreign nationals from seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States for 90 days. This ban additionally prevented Syrian refugees from seeking asylum in the United States indefinitely and prohibited all other refugees from entering for 120 days.

SALDEF strongly condemned this executive action that plainly targeted immigrants and refugees of the Muslim faith. To close our doors to any individual simply because of their race, religious, caste, or creed goes against our nation’s values and our community’s values.

While it is SALDEF’s hope that no President will ever be tempted to take such biased actions against any marginalized community again, putting in place concrete legislation to effectively

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prevent this is critical. Not only will it demonstrate Congress' overall commitment to protecting minority communities both at home and abroad, but it will also emphasize the United States's commitment to non-discrimination and religious freedom.

SALDEF thanks the Committee for considering this important piece of legislation to ensure the government does not discriminate against individuals and bar them from admission to the United States without due process due to their religion. We respectfully urge you to advance H.R. 1333 in its current form.

Respectfully submitted,
Kiran Kaur Gill
Executive Director