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September 24, 2019

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren,
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship
Committee on the Judiciary
2141 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ami Bera,
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Buck,
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship
Committee on the Judiciary
2141 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lee Zeldin,
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Oversight of Trump's Muslim Ban

Dear Chairs Logfren & Bera and Ranking Members Buck & Zeldin:

On behalf of the National Iranian American Organization (NIAC), a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the voice of Iranian Americans and promoting greater understanding between the American and Iranian people, we submit this statement for the record on today's hearing.

On January 27, 2017, President Trump made good on his campaign promise to impose a Muslim Ban, throwing thousands of lives into chaos. The Iranian-American community was stunned as their family members' visas were abruptly canceled, green card holders were unjustly detained, and their loved ones were deported with little to no warning. The ban galvanized protestors in cities across the country, who inundated airports with signs that read "I heart my Muslim neighbor" and "Hands off my family!"¹ Since that time, the Iranian-American community and NIAC have been at the center of the fight against the Trump administration's blatantly discriminatory and unjust ban that has targeted Iranian nationals and deeply impacted countless Iranian Americans.

Three versions of Trump's ban were rightfully halted by the courts. Yet, on June 26, 2018, the Supreme Court committed a historic mistake by allowing Trump's ban to be made permanent in

¹ Dwyer, Collins & Peters, Maquita, "Federal Judge Stays Deportations, Blocking Part Of Trump's Immigration Order," *New York Times*, January 28, 2017.



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a 5-4 decision. The majority's argument hinged on the waiver process included in the third version, which has been proven to be nothing short of a sham.²

Individuals can theoretically secure a waiver from the ban based on three criteria: (1) a denial would cause undue hardship; (2) entry does not pose a “national security or public safety threat;” and (3) entry is in the “national interest.” However, between December 2017 and October 2018, 24,584 individuals were rejected for failing to prove undue hardship or that their entry was in the national interest. This is contrasted by only 24 rejected applicants who failed to meet national security standards.³ In other words, for every 1,000 rejected under the ban for arbitrary reasons, only one posed an alleged security threat. While the administration's goal has been to “defend the country against terrorism, crime, and extremism,”⁴ they have instead rejected people on dubious grounds, simply to achieve a cheap, politically motivated objective of banning all Muslims from coming into the country.

Iranian nationals and Iranian Americans have been this policy's largest target, accounting for 49% percent of visas rejected. For every 64 Iranian nationals subject to the ban who have failed to secure a visa, only one is lucky enough to secure a waiver, which is a 1.6% approval rate. Iranians also account for 23,495 out of 36,783 nonimmigrant visa applicants subject to the ban and 10,441 out of 23,492 immigrant visa applicants from December 8, 2017 through March 31, 2019. Cumulatively, that is 33,936/69,275 visa applicants subject to the ban.⁵ To put it another way, nearly half of all those impacted by the ban are Iranian nationals.

To add insult to injury, this administration tries to claim that it is on the side of the Iranian people at the same time that it bans them. According to President Trump's 2017 statement on the Persian New Year, the Iranian American community is “one of our countries' most important and successful immigrant communities.”⁶ In this case, the President is right. Iranian Americans have contributed greatly to every field and added their rich cultural heritage to the American tapestry. Yet Trump himself has deliberately targeted this community and treated its members as second-class citizens whose heritage makes them suspect. Iranians, coming to the United States to pursue professional careers, reunite with family, and contribute to the United States, are the engine that has fueled the Iranian American community to success. By stemming the flow of

² NIAC Staff, “Analyzing the Supreme Court Decision on Trump's Muslim Ban,” *The National Iranian American Council*, June 27, 2018.

³ Costello, Ryan & Weinstein, Adam, “Memo: A Snapshot of Visas and Waivers Over One Year of the Muslim Ban,” *The National Iranian American Council*, April 19, 2019.

⁴ Liptak, Adam & Shear, Michael, “Trump's Travel Ban Is Upheld by Supreme Court,” *New York Times*, June 26, 2018.

⁵ Costello, Ryan & Weinstein, Adam, “Muslim Ban Statistics Show Continued Discriminatory Impact,” *The National Iranian American Council*, April 19, 2019.

⁶ President Trump, Donald J. “Statement by President Donald J. Trump on Nowruz,” U.S. Virtual Embassy of Iran, March 22, 2017.



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Iranians into the United States, not only do their American families suffer, but so to the American people writ large.

Below, we have included stories from individuals who have been impacted by the Muslim ban. We regret the hardship that this policy has caused them, and hope that, by entering their stories into the record, it will document the unjustness of this policy and spur momentum to end it.

No American should be told their families cannot visit them, forcing them to fly abroad for a family reunion or setup a videoconference in order for families to "attend" their wedding. Foreign nationals attending American schools should not have to worry if they'll be barred from returning to their studies due to their national heritage. This ban is based on bigotry, not national security, and the onus is on Congress hold the Administration to its own promises, like the so-called waiver process, and ultimately to repeal this shameless policy. We hope this hearing sheds new light on the ban, provides for some immediate tangible gains by forcing the Administration to adopt a legitimate and transparent waiver process, and spurs momentum for the passage of legislation to repeal this ban and place it in dustbin of history where it belongs.

Sincerely,

Jamal Abdi
President, National Iranian American Council



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Lives Disrupted by the Muslim Ban: Personal Stories

Masoud Abdi

Savoy, IL 61874 (IL-13)

The following is a copy of the request I gave to the consular in United States Embassy in Ankara Turkey, when my spouse had an interview 16 months ago: Dear Consulate officer, On behalf of my wife, Shima Montakhabi, I am submitting the following request for a waiver of the Presidential Proclamation 9645 which prevents the issuance of visas to Iranian citizens. Shima is eligible for a discretionary waiver under Section 3(c) which allows for the issuance of a visa to an Iranian citizen who is coming to the U.S. to live with his or her spouse where the refusal of the visa will result in undue hardship to the applicant. My name is Masoud Abdi and I am the U.S. permanent resident petitioner/spouse in the above-referenced immigrant visa case. Shima and I were married on August 7, 2013, in Tehran, Iran. Because I am a permanent resident, we had to wait several years for Shima's visa to become available for her to be eligible for an immigrant visa and as a result, we have been physically separated for a long time. I have tried to return to Iran to visit her on several occasions. In the event Shima is refused her immigrant visa, it will mean that we will not be able to have children without considerable risk to Shima and/or Shima having to raise the children without me present. Shima is currently 42 years old. We both desperately want to start a family, but due to the long wait for her immigrant visa number to become available, we have been living apart and unable to start our family. We held out hope knowing that eventually the visa number would become available and she would be able to complete her immigrant visa processing, but now due to the implementation of the proclamation which has extended our period of separation indefinitely, we will not be able to start a family without Shima being at risk for a difficult pregnancy. Further delay may make it impossible (or far too risky) for her to try to have a child and would end our dream of having children together. Because of my permanent resident status, The separation from each other has caused great hardship for my wife, and me. Every day, when we talk to each other, she tells me how badly she wants to be a mother. It consumes her, and it breaks my heart that I cannot give her this wish. This limbo that we are stuck in has created an immense undue hardship for us, both emotionally and financially I cannot return to Iran (or a third country) for any extended period of time without jeopardizing my status. I obtained my status through the visa lottery — a once in a lifetime opportunity. I have no other method to regain my status if it is deemed abandoned. I have lived in the U.S. since 2010, and over this time, I have put down roots and established myself as a member of my community. I am currently studying for the USMLE (U.S. medical licensing exam) so that I can resume my medical career in the U.S. While studying, I work full time and also volunteer twice per week at a medical clinic that serves uninsured patients in an underserved area. I was educated as a medical doctor in Iran before coming to the U.S. and worked for several years in emergency medicine. As a volunteer at the clinic, I help licensed professionals with patient care and also assist with training the medical and advanced practice nursing students. My volunteer work is extremely rewarding and provides an important and



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much-needed resource to the community the clinic serves. If my wife is refused her immigrant visa and I must return to Iran to be with her, I will not be able to continue my volunteer work and continue to help my community. My wife is also highly educated, having earned her doctorate in veterinary medicine in 2004 and is a practicing veterinarian. She also works in pharmaceutical sales for veterinarian medicine. These skills are readily transferable and she will be able to continue her practice and medical career here in the U.S. after completing the licensing requirements. Shima is from an educated family and is a working professional in the medical field. She is not a danger to the U.S national security or public safety. She has not worked for the Iranian government or been a member or associated with any organizations that are of any threat to the U.S. Her entry to the U.S. will significantly contribute to the national interest as she will be able to obtain a U.S. license and continue her career and contribute to the U.S. medical and scientific community. Her entry will also enable me to continue my studies. Most importantly, however, the issuance of her visa will allow us to be reunited and also to finally start our family.

Ghazal A.

College Park, MD 20740 (MD-5)

When I got admitted to a Ph.D. program in the US, my family was thrilled and proud, but we had to deal with the fact that I am moving away and we could not see each other unless once or twice a year, or so we thought. I remember my then 10-year-old sister sitting on my bed one night, and I woke up she told me, with a very serious tone: How am I going to live without you? And I promised her at that moment that we are never going to live without each other. That I would be there for her big moments and she can come visit me and we would travel together and grow together. Fast forward to 10 days later, the day I had to take my flight to the US. I woke up to a shook family and phone bombarded with messages. They told me that "Muslim Ban" was into effect and I couldn't fly to the US. Not at least for 3 months, which meant that all my plans for the 5 years ahead were totally destroyed and I had to start over. In that one week, I managed to get another admission from a university in Canada. I told my friends and family that I didn't want to spend 5 years where I was not wanted. But things changed. The great people of America flooded the streets and put a hold on the ban after only a week, and I was free to come start my program, and I felt better because I realized the ban did not mean I was not welcome, and it didn't come from the people. In the hardest night of my life, I finally made the decision to come to the US and pursue everything the way I had planned to. After all, the ban was not in place anymore! But my family couldn't make it in time. I had to leave fast and I didn't get to say goodbye to my 3 sisters and brother that I love more than life itself. Less than 6 months later, the ban was slightly modified and passed by the supreme court. It meant my family could not come see me unless I was dying. It meant I could go back but if I did I would be risking my entire career and all I had done because there was no guarantee that I would be given another visa. My friend left for his sister's wedding and waited 8 months for a visa, and he was finally rejected. The new version of travel ban exempts students, but does it really? Things have been harder than ever for us. About three years have passed, and I still haven't seen my siblings. Since then, my little sister got engaged. She had a very dangerous car crash. She is on the hospital bed at the



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moment that I am writing this, to remove her bile. My grandmother passed away. My youngest sister had a very hard time dealing with the grief of being away from her sister and losing her grandmother. She applied for a visa to come and see me, but she was rejected. An 11-year-old girl. My best friend had an accident and broke her hip and couldn't move for a month. My mom was hospitalized twice. My brother was accepted to university. My beautiful nephew grew up to be this wonderful little man that goes to kindergarten. I have missed a lot. There were countless painful moments that it was hard to breathe because I wanted to be with them so much. They needed me and I needed them and we couldn't be together, and I wish there was someone who could explain why. I hope you don't get me wrong. I am truly grateful for the huge amount of opportunities offered to me by my university and by America in general, and I work very hard to contribute on my part. I just wish I didn't have to choose between building a better life for my family and myself and being able to just be with them when they need me. When I talk to Americans, they get very surprised by the fact that I can't see my family. Once somebody told me, even in prison you get to see your family. People think the travel ban doesn't exist anymore or at least don't know how much it affects innocent people. I think, or I hope, people, act when they know how painful it is for all of us.

Feridoon Aslani

Santa Monica, CA 90403 (CA-33)

I have been living in Los Angeles for the last 35 years. I am 59 years old, and I have always wanted to have children. My wife is waiting for her visa to come to the United States for about two years. Our lives are in very bad situation because we don't know what to do and what is next. I am very lonely and getting depressed everyday.

Sara Bagherihut

Chicago, IL 60641 (IL-4)

I have been married since April of 2016. I filed for my husband that same year. Since the Muslim ban, my husband's case has been stuck under "Administrative Processing" for 2 years now. The only time I get an update is when I email the embassy. The updates don't mean anything as his case does not change and his status has not moved forward. It's been a long 2 years. The senators and embassies cannot help. I have graduated with an undergraduate degree, I am not moving forward to get my Master's. Our birthdays have come and gone. Holidays have passed. We have not had a hence to celebrate a single anniversary together. And nothing has changed for our case. Our lives are stuck. Our hope is diminishing. And while I was born in America, raised in America, I don't feel valued as an American. Everyone I turn to has pushed me in a different direction. And when I finally reach someone to communicate with, I'm given a very generic answer. Put yourself in our shoes. How would you feel being separated from your spouse? Your parent? Or your child? It's a horrible situation we're in.



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Nazanin B.

San Diego, CA 92126 (CA-52)

Banned and alone. Both my sister and I live in the US with our families. Both my sister and I have our lives settled here with our families, and we are legal permanent residents with high demand jobs at Google, and my parents live by themselves in Iran; we are their only children. We used to be able to visit them every now and then for short periods of time but now I'm pregnant and cannot visit anymore. My sister also has 2 small children, the youngest is 6 months old, and his grandparents have not seen him yet! I have some complications with my pregnancy, and my mom went to get a visitor visa to be with me having my first child, but they rejected her application. They didn't even consider her for a waiver. We are really sad, don't know what to do and don't know what our options are. But because we cannot see our family, we are thinking about moving to another country where our parents are welcome to come visit us and their grandchildren.

Liana B.

New Haven, CT 06511 (CT-3)

My fiancé has lived in Canada for 8 years and he is a Canadian permanent resident. Before living in Canada he was born and raised in Dubai, UAE. This should have been an open and shut case for his K1 visa approval. However, because Dubai does not confer citizenship he holds an Iranian passport (due to his parents being Iranian). He was not born in Iran. He has never lived in Iran. He has studied and worked in Canada for 8 years. Yet, simply due to his passport, we have been waiting almost a year and a half for his visa. His visa was refused at his interview and we've been put on administrative processing ever since. There is no end in sight for this process and it causes emotional and financial hardship.

Karyn Craft

Ronkonkoma, NY 11779 (NY-2)

My name is Karyn Craft. I am a US born citizen and daughter of a Vietnam War veteran who is following the legal immigration route to be with my future husband. However, the Travel Ban is blocking me and my fiancé from getting married. I cannot explain the indescribable amount of pain and hardship this is causing me. I am watching my life be destroyed for no other reason than the place of my fiancé's birth. Each day that passes I am losing my chance of having children, my chronic health condition is exacerbated from the stress, and I lose hope in everything I was taught and believed in as an American. My fiancé and I became engaged in September of 2017. We submitted our K1 visa application in October 2017. During this time, the travel ban had been issued by the President and repeatedly found to be unconstitutional by the courts. Since the second version of the ban made allowances for immediate family members to obtain visas, I was not as worried as I should have been. When the Supreme Court



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upheld the third version of the travel ban, my fiancé and I were together on vacation. I wept at the news. I could not believe this was happening to us. That same day we received our notice that our case was being sent to the Embassy in Abu Dhabi to prepare for an interview. It was a day of mixed emotions. My fiancé had his interview at the US Embassy in Abu Dhabi in January of 2019. The consular officer told him that it was the best interview she had conducted and that she wanted to issue a visa, but could not because of the ban. We had believed we could obtain a waiver. Since that time, I have been contacting my Congressman and Senators and I have received the same form letter from all of them stating Administrative Processing has no time frame for completion. There is no real process for the waiver. We are not given the chance to present evidence to request a waiver. We are told nothing. There is no guidance or guidelines for how this works. We are left wondering what to do, who to speak to, and if we will ever be together. We don't know if we should hope for a life together to be near my family, or look to move to a third country. All of the questions cause an undue emotional and mental distress forced upon us for no valid reason. If my fiancé was born in the UK or Australia we would be together today. My fiancé is from Iran, so he is banned from entering the United States and being with me. I have waited my whole life to marry the man of my dreams. Now that I have found him, we are being told that we cannot be together. I pray that one day soon my fiancé and I will be able to stand before our family and friends and recite our vows. We are Christians (this ban affects more than Muslims) and we believe what Jesus stated in the Holy Scriptures (Matthew 19:5-6), “‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’”⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”⁷ I hope we will be given the chance to live out the words we believe.

Mahnaz D.

Tustin, CA 92705 (CA-46)

I have been living in the US for eleven years. I applied for my mother's green card on October, 2016 and she went to her interview on March 2018. She is still on Administrative processing. I would love to host my mother who has been single mom since I was born because my dad passed away before I was born. She has a B.S of management and she has been retiring last year from Agriculture minister of Iran. I can not understand why she can not come here for my wedding and she wants to spend her time with us in the US helping me and her new society. I have been working, voting, paying tax and all other things that all other US citizens are doing so why I can not have my mom here? Please help us to have our loved one here next to us.



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Wife of Saeed Ghaemian

Skokie, IL (IL-9)

I would like assistance in the interest of family unification. I (Petitioner) am married to the foreign national, Saeed Ghaemian. We have been married since August 13, 2016 and while we have been able to occasionally visit each other, the stress and hardship of being physically separated from each other has taken a toll on our marriage and lives. Following the interview at the consulate, on January 10, 2018, my husband was found ineligible for his visa under Section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 9645. Ok Subsequent to this notification, fearing inability to reunite with my husband, I have been suffering from severe depression and persistent anxiety attacks. My physical, psychological, and emotional suffering has been so extreme that I have been unable to maintain everyday activities. I am currently under the care and treatment of my primary care provider, Dr. Johansson, and my psychologist, Dr. Erdman. They have both provided verification of my serious condition, which I am hereby attaching to this request. My condition has not improved, but rather continue to degrade, if my separation from my spouse continues. Any additional delay could result in irreversible damage to my health. It has been a long and hard journey. During these past two years I had to quit multiple jobs in order to travel overseas to see my husband. I have student loans to payoff and the inability to possess a stable income has also put me under a lot of financial pressure. The financial costs of travel and grief of saying goodbye every time I depart from my husband is extremely difficult and unbearable. I cannot imagine how this is in any way in the best interest of the U.S. These painfully long past two years that has passed in sorrow without my husband by my side was suppose to be the best days of my life, which has turned into a never-ending nightmare. My husband and I are both educated individuals who are also planning to further pursue our education in the United States. My husband has a master's degree in Civil Engineering. He is eagerly waiting to apply to a Phd program. However, given our current situation, he is unable to do so since he would have to leave the program unfinished once his visa is issued (if he applies outside U.S.). I graduated from the University of Chicago. I have a master's degree in Microbiology. I have applied to dental school this cycle and will be attending a dental program in a few months (have received interviews). If this separation continues I would have to leave dental school and disregard my dream of becoming a dentist. This separation is causing irreversible damage to our physical and mental health as well as to our education and careers. The pain and misery that this ban has brought us is immense and cruel. I cannot just abandon my tie with my loved ones, my job, and my home in the U.S. to move to another country. I also cannot abandon my husband in another country and live in separation. This situation has left me feel depressed, torn apart, and exhausted. Despite numerous email inquiries to the US Embassy Yerevan Visa Unit, we are still awaiting a decision on this matter. Please help us get resolution on this matter.



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Saeedreza Hafeznezami

West Hills, CA 91307 (CA-30)

I, Saeedreza Hafeznezami, am one of the people affected by the Travel Ban. I am a US citizen but my fiancé, Tarannom Parhizkar, is from Iran.

My fiance's case has been in "Administrative Processing" for the past 13 months following her visa interview. Even though she has been recommended for a "waiver" of the ban, still to this date her visa has not been issued. In normal times these visas would be issued after the interview or in rare cases would go for additional background check for another month or so. Now it's a totally different story.

I'm an environmental engineer, graduated with a PhD from UCLA, work and live in Los Angeles. I work full time in the drinking water and public health protection field, but my passion is also teaching. Since I graduated from UCLA, I was also a part-time lecturer teaching courses at UCLA.

I first met my fiance, Tarannom, at UCLA back in 2016. She was there as a visiting scholar on a J-1 visa. She was finishing her PhD at Sharif University which is the top engineering university in Iran, but she was at UCLA to work on a project for 6 months. I immediately fell in love, she was beautiful, extremely smart, so kind and caring, honestly my dream girl I had been searching for all my life. She went back to Iran to finish her PhD. Our relationship grew while she was away, we would talk for hours and hours on the phone, I never would get tired of speaking to her. We always had things to say to each other, to laugh together. We met a couple of times in Turkey in 2017 including one time when our moms came along to meet us and each other.

While in 2017 Travel Ban was in the news a lot we never really took it seriously. I didn't think it would ever be allowed to stay by the courts and I never could imagine any ban could bar a US citizen like me from bringing his bona fide fiance or wife to the US! I petitioned a K-1 fiance visa for Tarannom in October 2017. But the rest is history I guess ! In December 2017 Supreme Court decided to allow the Ban to be implemented, and in June 2018 it finally upheld it!

Her case had just passed the USCIS stage and reached the US embassy in Armenia in June 2018! Her interview was scheduled to be in July 2018. I flew across the world to go to Armenia (one of the only few places where Iranian visa applicants can go to for US visa interview) to be with her, to support her emotionally, even though they wouldn't allow me to accompany her for her interview.

She provided substantial evidence and documentation that she would qualify for the "waiver". The fact that she had previously traveled to US and multiple European countries, the fact that she is highly educated and accomplished, the fact that I work for a California State agency and provide public service, the fact that we want to get married and have kids as soon as possible... I reached out to Senator Harris, Senator Feinstein, and my Congressman Brad Sherman. They all did multiple inquiries before and after her interview. I actually think the embassy staff were really kind and understanding of our situation and 1 month after the interview, in August 2018,



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they responded to one of my congressional inquiries that they had "reviewed the case and recommended it for a waiver" but the case still had to go through the vague "Administrative Processing" before the waiver could be approved.

My entire family live here in LA. My parents are 84 and 72, and I am their rock! Besides the fact that my entire life and career is built here in the US I cannot leave my parents to go and live with Tarannom overseas. Every night I go to bed thinking will both of my parents be around to attend my wedding? to see my children?

I would be lying if I say that I don't cry every single night. It would be a lie if I say that there is a single minute of my day that this terrible situation I am stuck in is not on my mind. I just cannot believe or digest how and why they are doing this to me! A US citizen! And how unfair this situation is to my fiancé! How humiliating and insulting to treat her, a tiny girl, with a PhD and multiple publications as a potential threat and unwanted person! I have been diagnosed with severe depression and anxiety as a result of this situation by a board certified psychiatrist at Kaiser.

We can see each other for only 5-6 days once every 3-4 months when I have accrued enough vacation time. We decided it'd be easier to see each other if Tarannom goes to live somewhere in Europe.

Through her contacts at UCLA, she got a job offer at the University in Trondheim, Norway. She is currently working there as a Postdoc, doing very impressive research. She is really a genius, it makes me really sad sometimes thinking how many wonderful things she could be doing in the US right now!

All my efforts and inquiries through my congressional representatives to resolve this tragic situation have been unfortunately fruitless. This indefinite and seemingly endless separation from the love of my life has put my entire life on hold and turned it upside down. Words cannot truly describe what I am going through, but I can just say without any exaggeration that my life has become a living nightmare. My fiancé is an absolutely innocent, decent, peaceful person, who is highly educated and full of life and positive energy to do a lot of good in this country. I have studied and worked really hard all my life, strived to be a responsible and contributing citizen but I am unfortunately now being punished by my own government.

Shohreh B.

I am an Iranian American woman who believes in Baha'ism. I have an American green card and I am a refugee because of my religion. I have spent all my lifetime waiting for happiness. From the very beginning, my family and I were belittled because of our religion in our own country, and they called us unclean because of it. We really lacked the absolute rights of every human being, such as expressing our ideas and attending the university. Unfortunately in Iran, Baha'i people do not have any rights to choose from! If they complain about the situation, they will be arrested by police. This awful situation made my family and I leave the country. We spent more than 2 years in Turkey, in order to be accepted as a refugee in America. So we can see the best laws, rules and safety. Meanwhile, I felt in LOVE and met my spouse. After 4



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long years, we decided to finally get married. He also lives in Turkey, but unfortunately is unable to obtain work permission there. My husband has also left the country of Iran, because of his religion. So I have to work very hard in America and pay for our survival, as well as lawfully sponsor him. I have seen my husband Two times in recent three years by reason of working hard and fear of losing my jobs. I am working at the Ross store company and also washing the dishes in a restaurant to be able to afford my life. In addition, I should take care of my father (Care giver) as a nurse because of his health problem. The living situation my husband and I are having due to recent immigration laws is causing us to Loos the best time we could possibly have as a young couple together. It has been very hard on our families as well causing stress, financial problems and emotional distress. I am under pressure from both sides, please understand the situation I am in and save me. My only wish is to live with my husband as a real family! My husband has successfully passed his extensive and lengthy administrative processing after his immigration interview in the city of ANKARA. Unfortunately, we are unable to reunite and reside together because of the extraordinary difficulties placed upon us under the current travel ban. We must now present a waiver for undue hardship. Yet it is exceptionally difficult to obtain a qualifying waiver, as the applicant must show a highly 'unusual' situation, such as severe illness or other extreme predicament that would render a waiver qualifiable. Sadly, this is why most waivers are now being rejected. Is it fair that we live separately, only because of our Iranian origin? The proclamation is being used to 'force' governments such as Iran, to comply with its demands. Yet it punishes innocent people in the process and on the basis of national origin. Under these extremely difficult circumstances, we will continue to remain separated 'indefinitely' and suffer great hardship! This desperate situation has left me with no choice but to seek help for hour family, as well as other families who have gone through such pain that is hard to comprehend! Our lives are on the verge of being destroyed. Our dreams are being torn apart, as we are left separated from our loved ones for an unknown duration of time!

Banafsheh Avaz Pour Posht Kouhi

I am Banafsheh Avaz Pour Posht Kouhi born on March 17, 1988 in Iran, citizen of the United States and applied for K1 visa for my fiancé (Mahziaz Fereydani) on Dec 2016, we had our interview back in May 15, 2017, it is still undergoing Administrative process and we are still waiting for some answers and his Visa. Mahziaz is a hardworking IT engineer whom always been helpful and kind to his co-workers, family and friends and won't do any harm to this country and society. I used to work as an Assistant General Manager and had been able to save money for future but I gave up everything after we were waiting for so long! I rented an Apartment for me and my future husband but I gave it up on January 2018 because the process took so long! Travel Ban did not just affected me but also my family have been affected by, I have a single mother who has to work 2 jobs now and my younger brother can only take 1 or max 2 classes at college in order to be able to make money to support our family since I have a brother living in Turkey as an asylum and also I had to quit my job and go to IRAN for almost



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A year because my fiancé had two really hard Surgeries and he also had some prostate Issues which we even travel to Turkey for its cure. I and my Fiancé have a deadline to get pregnant and expand our family because he's prostate issue. I have a lot more to say about what Travel Ban caused us. The stress it's killing us from the inside and causing a lot of related disease. You may ask why we did not apply for SPOUSE VISA. Because this type was the fastest at the time and if we wanted to start over it would have taken way longer than this based on our information and what USCIS official website says. Please help us to get through this hard time because every single minute of this separation could be the best moment of our lives that we are spending it far away from each other.

J.M.

Kennesaw, GA 30152 (GA-11)

To whom it may concern Thank you very much for your attention. I lived in united state with my family in 1976 to 1979 (3.5 years) I already had my visa interview in Abu Dhabi (23 july 2018 - one year ago). My visa case is in U.S Department of state USCIS- INA-Section 104 (a) for administrative processing. Outreach and Inquiries Division Visa Services cannot predict when the administrative processing of my visa Application will be completed. The information from U.S department of state saying this processing can take several weeks. But now this processing take 50 weeks. How long does it take the US department of state to issue a waiver for us citizen petition to join her son from the countries that are subject to the travel ban? Unpredictable and unlimited time means there is no waiver? I could not get immigrant visa with my family in 2002 because I was over 21 years old and now more than 17 years old I am waiting to meet and join my mom. All of my family (mom & brothers) is us citizen and they live in US –GA. And now my mom is old and sick and we need to be together.

Marzieh M.

Albany, CA 94706 (CA-13)

I fell in love with my husband when I was in Iran. After one year of knowing each other, I had to leave him to immigrate to the US which was my dream country. In 2015, we got married and I applied for him through family based visa. In 2017, during the first travel ban, we wanted to have a big wedding ceremony. While I was choosing my wedding dress, we were both stressed out that if I am able to come to Iran for our wedding ceremony or not. That filling intensified when President Trump signed the second version of travel ban. In January 2018 my husband attend his interview in US embassy at Ankara, we were both happy that he will come to US finally after 6-9 months. Unfortunately, after 20 months we ardy Civil Engineering at UC Berkeley at the same time that I have to focus on my lesson and exams, I am in extremely hard situation due to our separation. I couldn't sleep at nights because I wanted to talk with my husband and in the morning I have to be awake soon to attend my classes. Every summer I have to come to Iran to visit my husband instead of be in the US ae still separated from each



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other due to the travel ban. We contacted Rep. Ami Bera, embassy, Senator Harris and Senator Feinstein so many times and still nothing happened yet. I Stund go to vacation with my love. This stressful life caused me depression and I had to go to psychiatry for a couple of weeks... Still after four years we have to live separately due to the travel ban. Every time I go to Iran to visit him, I have to say goodbye in the airport after a few weeks. This is not fair!

Moojan Mirbaha

Dallas, TX

My Fiancé “Nima Ebrahimi” had an interview on October 21st 2018 in Abu Dhabi, and since then our status is “Administrative Processing”.

But the only reason that I am requesting for a plea on our immigration case is the urgency on my medical situation.

I am 33 years old, and on my recent visit to my gynecologist, unfortunately my tests revealed low border line ovarian reserve (with low AMH and low Antral follicle count) which can have significant adverse effects on my fertility and potential to get pregnant and be a mom. I don't have too much time to get pregnant and have a child or children of my own. Please help me to have my future husband here in the United States with me to be able to get married and have children. It is our dream to have children of our own and start a beautiful family together.

I am proud to be a citizen of the United States, and I am grateful to have this opportunity to be able to live in this wonderful country and have freedom and peace that my country never offered, and also I don't believe in the traditional Iranian marriage, so I would love to have our marriage vows to be in a holy chapel or a church with an American traditions in the United States.

I desperately need your help.

Thank you very much for taking your time to read my explanation of the urgency of our immigration case.

God bless you and the United States of America.

Paria Moazzemi

Scottsdale, AZ 85260 (AZ-6)

I got married in September 22 2017, my parents weren't there. Then in July 2018 I learned that we are expecting our first child, my parents first grandchild. We live in Scottsdale Arizona, we don't have any family here, my husband is from WI and all his family lives in Madison WI. My husband and I both have full time jobs with 12 weeks off only for newborn, we needed my parents help. We were frustrated, I was very scared, didn't know what is going to happen. I requested visa for my family, they got denied, I then requested visa only for my mom she also got denied. Thy didn't get to meet their first grandson until he was 3 month old, when I took unpaid time off from work to travel to Iran so they can meet my son. This has been a frustrating time for me and my family. I'm a US citizen and I have right to get my parents here



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whenever I need them. This is too much pressure on me and my family, I work at Honeywell on government project with critical deadlines, I wish my parents could be here to help so I can focus on my job.

Ed Momeni

Scottsdale, AZ 85254 (AZ-6)

After years of wedding preparations for my cousin's wedding in Arizona her parents couldn't come to attend.

Ashkan Monadjemi

I obtained my green card through 2009 lottery. I moved to the US in 2010 and since then I have tried to be a law abiding citizen, never missed a tax and except receiving Texas State unemployment benefit for 4 months that I lost my job, I have never been using public funds and never used public benefits. I became a US citizen through naturalization in June 2016. I had known my fiance since 2014. We got engaged in December 2015 and I applied for her K1 visa in September 2016. She got interviewed at US embassy in Abu Dhabi on October 3, 2017. Since then we have been waiting for administrative processing and an unknown process called Waiver process. Since that time, US embassy in Abu Dhabi had been hardly responsive to our communication. As a tax payer, I believe paychecks of those embassy workers comes out of our taxes and it is so frustrating that they have have the choice to ignore such correspondences.

We tried to follow up in US embassy on Sunday August 19,2018 (Weekends for US embassy in Abu Dhabi are Fridays and Saturdays). On embassy web site, that day had not mentioned August 19 as an official embassy holiday however; we were told by the guards that it is a working day in the middle of a few days of holidays and embassy staff had chosen to work with minimum staff and everybody is on vacation. Great way to enjoy tax dollars!!!

Should you need any further questions regarding above, please reach out to me.

Kia Nasseri

Santa Margarita, CA 92688 (CA-45)

I am US citizen and a government employee. I applied for my step-daughter on June 2017, which she was 17 at the time. Her abusive father put a travel ban on her in Iran. We had to hire an attorney in Iran, to try to get her travel ban reversed. The Iranian Judge gave her a one time exit from Iran to see her mother in Turkey. We got her out and we had to send her to different countries to stay out of Iran. Being from Iran there are not too many countries that would allow her to stay. So she had to travel to Armenia, Turkey and Ecuador and stay for 3 months in each country so she would not break their immigration laws. Her interview was in Ankara, Istanbul on August 7th 2018. The officer there felt that she was exceptional and she should be allowed



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to US, but because of travel ban the decision had to be made in Washington. As of today I have not heard from them. I have been paying for my wife to travel to her and move her from country to country. All my American made dollars are being spend in foreign countries because of this travel ban. My wife and my step-daughter are both depressed and have been in Emergency hospital several times because of stress. I have been under a lot of financial stress. I have written to my senator (Ms. Harris) and my Congresswoman (Ms. Porter) and have asked them to help me, and all we got from immigration was a letter to wait. It is a sad state of affairs when even my own Senator and Congresswoman cannot provide an update as their hands are also tied. The executives at DHS have all decided (it seems) to approach this troubling situation with a response of “no response.” How can these waiting families expect to receive an answer when it seems that no one is accountable for providing those answers? As an American who worked in this country for 40 years and paid my taxes and was a responsible member of this society, I feel that my rights have been violated and been discriminated. This country is supposed to be a Christian country with Christian values. Separating and destroying law-abiding families does not seem to be a Christian value, to me.

Saeideh Niayesh

Redlands, CA 92373 (CA-31)

Through this letter, I want to ask you to consider President Trump’s Travel Ban 3.0 (Presidential proclamation 9645) as a proclamation which affected many of American Citizens and Residents, including me and my family. I specifically am requesting the administration to implement the waiver provision of the Travel Ban in a fair, consistent, and timely manner to alleviate the undue hardship it is imposing on the US citizens and legal residents. This proclamation was upheld by the Supreme Court in June 2018, because the Administration promised a consistent and legal waiver provision in the text of the Proclamation. It is worth mentioning that, unfortunately, these waivers have NOT been issued to the most people who qualify for them, namely the immediate family members of US citizens and permanent residents with bona fide relationships, including my daughter, Farzaneh Fouladgar. In other words, there is no categorical exception and it is replaced with a sham waiver process. The rate of this waiver is less than 2 percent.

I came to the U.S in 2009 in a completely legally manner, and applied a green card for my only daughter in 2010. My daughter, Farzaneh Fouladgar, (beneficiary) did her immigrant visa interview on Jan. 3, 2017 at U.S embassy in Abu Dhabi. She was told that her visa would be ready to be issued in 3 to 4 months after some “administrative processing”. However, she has been waiting for more than 32 months so far. My daughter graduated from medical school in Feb. 2017. For over one year, she rejected a lot of job opportunities and studied for the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) in order to earn a medical residency in an American university. She lives alone and isolated in Iran, and impatiently is waiting to join us in the US. This in itself is tremendous hardship and emotional strain as it is frowned upon and inappropriate for an Iranian young lady to live alone in the Persian culture. This made her



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become from a happy young lady to a desperate and disappointed person. I am also overwhelmed. Our seconds have passed like centuries and our minutes like millenniums. The world will never forget her cries and mine. No posts, No photos or videos can describe my daughter's emotional and mental trauma and mine that we suffered because of the travel ban. All our wishes and hopes to have our daughter near us and next to our dining table for special days of our year, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year have been challenged by the Travel Ban. And all those great moments turned to despairs and disappointments.

It is worth mentioning that all of us, including my, my husband, my son, my sisters, and my brothers are well-educated. My husband is an engineer graduated from U.S. My son got his PhD last year, and is working as a software R&D in Esri. One of my brothers is a Senior Attorney in the state of California. Another one is a surgeon in the state of Maine. And all others have PhDs. We do not have even a driving records let alone any other records which shows all of us respect US government laws. Therefore, my daughter's entry will NOT pose a threat to the national security of public safety of the U.S.

You can kindly find many other sad stories of the legal permanent residents and citizens who are apart from their immediate families at <https://app.in-it.com/missions/StopTheBan>. My daughter has also shared her story by the name of "Farzaneh Fouladgar" at <https://app.in-it.com/missions/25/videos/172>.

My son also had an interview with TRT World in June 2019, and expressed our concerns about the travel ban. You can kindly find his interview at <https://youtu.be/ST-tmgGleFc>.

I am contacting you as members of the Congress to encourage the House of Representatives and Senates, and to conduct oversight and investigations into how the President Trump's administration is implementing the Travel Ban policy. I specifically am requesting the administration to implement the waiver provision of the Travel Ban in a fair, consistent, and timely manner to alleviate the undue hardship it is imposing on the US citizens and legal residents. I request that this should be a priority because the Travel Ban is negatively affecting the lives of many American citizens and legal residents who are currently deprived from having their immediate family members join them through the legal immigration process. We, Iranians and other banned countries' citizens, like other nations and nationalities, look forward to gathering, celebrating, and enjoying ourselves. I know a lot of Iranian families that have had their worst Thanksgivings, Christmases, and New Years of their lives just because of the Travel Ban.

I appreciate your attention to this important issue.

Nazanin O.

Washington, DC 20017

I have been living in the US for more than five years. I have not seen my family back in Iran since I came to the US. I got married last November and I wanted my parents to be with me in this special day of my life, as it was their dream to see me in my wedding dress. My parents have been applied for visitor visa after travel ban and they both rejected and my mother applied



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two more times after that and she got rejected by the officer in the US embassy because of travel ban again. It was very sad being lonely in my wedding without having any of my family members. I cannot go to Iran and they cannot visit me here. So sad , So awful, so sad!!

Maryam S.

Pittsburg, PA 15213 (PA-18)

I am a U.S. citizen, currently pregnant with a high risk pregnancy and my child is diagnosed with few problems which means that he will need a lot of support right after his birth. I have tried to get a visa for my parents twice and despite having lots of evidence they did not consider a waiver for my parents despite them being in U.S. multiple times before and I and my future son being U.S. citizens. Now I am facing this stressful situation without the support of my family, waiting for the birth of my first child who can have multiple disabilities.

Amin S.

Weehawken, NJ 07086 (NJ-8)

I had my wedding in October last year and my parents could not attend my wedding because of the travel ban. This ban provides ultimate psychological pressure on people like me who came here as a PhD student and now am a permanent resident. At the same time, it makes my parents suffer to know that there is no way for them to come and see me, even if I'm dead. Please please help lift this inhuman ban.

Ali G. Scotten

Las Cruces, NM 88011 (NM-2)

My father passed away suddenly in June 2018. My mother and I were hardly functioning, trying to get the funeral preparations ready and trying to process what had happened. If my aunt in Iran had been able to come help us, it would have meant the world. But apparently a 60-year old yoga instructor is a threat to national security. This ban must be overturned. It does not make us safe. It only leads to the torment of American citizens and our loved ones abroad.

Iman Tahamtan

Knoxville, TN 37916 (TN-2)

I am a researcher, instructor at the University of Tennessee and a PhD candidate. I have been separated from my wife due to the travel ban. How can we be a threat to this country while and I my wife are both educated people. My wife has studied medical genetics and will contribute to the US like many other Iranians who are currently not allowed to come to the US. It's tough



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being separated from each other. I hope congress would hear us and take considerable actions in this regard.

Hesam T.

Jersey City, NJ 07305

After about three years looking for a good position to start my PhD, I decided the US. Nonetheless I waited for about 7 months to get F1 visa, I qualified for a single entry one. Which means I cannot come back to my home country, my parents cannot come here at least for about 4 years. I'm at the beginning of PhD, however I'm concerned about what would happen in the future. Four/five years is not a short time at all. Other people from other nationalities can return to their homes during the summer semester, but we, because of our nationalities, cannot risk. We may miss our position owing to the visa procedure, which can take more than 6 months. I, as a PhD student, who is the main engine of university, kindly ask to re-examine side effects of the travel ban.

M.T.

Hamilton, OH 45015 (OH-8)

First and foremost, I am a Veteran of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom serving from 2006-2013 and was honorably discharged upon completion of my obligation. If there was any person who should not be subjected to such cruel and hateful acts, one could argue you do not betray someone who is a true patriot and has served their country in a time of war. Let me be clear that shame alone does not define this complete disregard for basic civil rights, this action violates everything that I have done in service to my country and serves as a reminder that this administration simply does not care about whom their policies affect. I will never forget the people responsible for this and I only hope that the American people will do the same. For those who are responsible, I only have this to say. You have ruined my sense of security and destroyed my life because of your complacency. You put your political envy above what is right. You have betrayed me, you have hurt me, you robbed me of my liberty, you have damned my pursuit of happiness. Worse than all of this, you get to go about your life without the consequence of your actions. For it is my family and other families in this situation, that you alone have created, who get to live with the consequences of your shamelessness because it would take the ability to feel shame to know otherwise. You are unworthy of the title you hold today as a member of the government, and your spinelessness to uphold virtue and hold in good faith that all people should be granted basic civil rights will be the hallmark of your time. You will not be remembered for anything but this, you deserve no praise. History will not forget that you willingly supported racism, bigotry, and xenophobia, all for a president who abuses executive powers for personal interests. I sincerely hope it was worth it. Below you will find a detailed letter regarding our hardship our message is quite clear. No one deserves this. I would first like to start with quoting our Citizenship Rights And



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Responsibilities. "Citizenship is the common thread that connects all Americans. We are a nation bound not by race or religion, but by the shared values of freedom, liberty, and equality. Throughout our history, the United States has welcomed newcomers from all over the world. The contributions of immigrants have helped shape and define the country we know today. More than 200 years after our founding, naturalized citizens are still an important part of our democracy. By becoming a U.S. citizen, you too will have a voice in how our nation is governed. The decision to apply is a significant one. Citizenship offers many benefits and equally important responsibilities. By applying, you are demonstrating your commitment to this country and our form of government. Below you will find several rights and responsibilities that all citizens should exercise and respect. Some of these responsibilities are legally required of every citizen, but all are important to ensuring that America remains a free and prosperous nation." I would like to point out that nowhere in this constitutional text does it state that people of any race, nationality, or religion should be banned from becoming a citizen. Also note that doing so would be unconstitutional. But being unconstitutional is now a trademark of the republican party, a party who publicly states they are the most constitutional people ever. Be clear that, my wife's nationality should not be held as a national security risk, she just happens to have been born in a country other than the U.S., this does not mean she is a reflection of the ruling party, as not every American is reflective of the worse we have to offer. Instead, she should have been given the benefit of the doubt, but in doing so would also mean that we would have a president who respects all the citizens he represents and not just the racist, anti-immigration xenophobes. My wife and I met while studying abroad, I never expected to meet such a loving person whose passion for life could be physically felt through her personality. She genuinely fell in love with me, as I fell in love with her. We would later marry in 2018, as we knew that we should be together for the rest of our lives. Our life together has been truly wonderful, even though this situation has unnecessarily tested the strength of our relationship and where many other people would have given up on each other during this time, we know that our bond is still strong and resilient. I challenge anyone to walk a mile in our shoes and see if you still have what it takes to keep going even though the road has disappeared before your eyes. We had our first baby in 2018 but had started the application for her visa in 2017. At the time of starting our visa application, the whole travel ban scheme had gone through a lot of iterations, and things were looking good for our application as my wife had a clear reason to come to the United States as she would become the mother of a U.S. Citizen. But unfortunately for us and many others, our dreams had been squandered for nothing, our time lost as if time is infinite and the effects of this burden would fade away just like time itself, unfortunately, this is not true as time will not heal the wounds that this administration has caused, the actions of this travel ban will have a lasting effect on those it has brought harm to. We will never forget; you can be sure of this. My poor wife, who was the sweetest person in the world before this whole incident is now deeply emotionally scarred as a result of this ban, you have no idea how bad it makes you feel when you can't guarantee safety to your loved ones, and you will never understand the feeling until you are in the situation. Words cannot express these emotions it is something that you can only experience. Just know that this ban



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has caused irrevocable harm our mental state, and I may never get to see the look of joy in my wife's eyes ever again. Our only salvation remains in our daughter, who we just hope to continue to raise together, as she should not have to endure any consequences of this ban. My wife had severe postpartum depression and was not able to seek help as she was alone with our newborn baby in Germany. During this time, she also was crushed by intense anxiety, sleep deprivation, and major depression as she had no reason to hope that things would become better. And to this day she is not able to seek proper mental health treatment because she is in Germany and does not have access to these types healthcare services because she is not a permanent resident. And we cannot afford the out of pocket expense of paying on our own. In combination with this, everything that she experiences has a deeper impact on my mental health as I have diagnosed P.T.S.D. and major depression disorder from my military service and this situation is exacerbating my health to the point of regression of my previous therapies. Again, there are no words that would accurately describe this feeling, it can only be observed through experience. One time my wife lost consciousness while on the phone with me while I was back in the U.S. working because I now needed to prove to USCIS that we have income for our waiver to continue to the next step of the process. She had beside her on the bed our 3-month-old baby, she lost consciousness because she had not slept for 4 days in a row because the baby had a high fever from a vaccine shot. The only reason nothing bad happened was that she was on the phone with me at the time, and I was able to call the emergency services to check on her. Now imagine yourself in this situation, your spouse is alone 3000+ miles away from you in a foreign country sleep deprived because your baby is running a high fever from a vaccine shot and he or she loses consciousness while lying beside your infant baby. Welcome to the new Trump reality.

Elmira T.

Tuscon, AZ 85715 (AZ-2)

I am a researcher working at the University of Arizona. I came to the US 6 years ago with my husband pursuing our graduate education in New Mexico State University. Then I started my job at the university 3 years ago. I am on H1-B visa and because of the restrictions on F1 (student visa) and H1-B (work visa) I haven't been able to go back in these years and visit my family. (You probably know that if we leave the States we need to apply for visa and not having a US embassy in Iran and all the complication on getting a new visa make it very risky to leave the US. We can easily lose our job or school admission by having a late visa approval). When I started my job in Tucson, my husband was still a PhD student at NMSU and we had to go back and force every week to see each other. When we decided to have a baby on the second year of my job we counted on having my parents by my side to help me when my husband couldn't be in Tucson. I got pregnant and we were expecting our baby in March 2018. I was so excited both because of having a new member in our small family and seeing my parents after years. My parents started their Us visa application as soon as they heard about their coming grandchild. They went to the US embassy in Dubai, United Emirate for the



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interview in November 2017 and my mom application got approved right away by the officer in the embassy and my dad had to wait for the FBI check process. We were so happy that at least we can be assured that my mom will be here by the time I have my baby. After waiting a couple of months and not having any news on my dad application, we decided to get my mom visa issued and she come alone since my due date was getting close. That was the time we found my mom's approved visa was denied due to the Travel Ban. It was one of the hardest and disappointing moments of my life. Being 8 months pregnant, so missed my mom and dad, not having my husband with me full time, having only 6 weeks off of work and not having anyone around to know about having a baby was super stressful. I had to think of daycare for my 6 weeks baby and making sure when it is the time of delivery and my husband is not there I can reach to the hospital by myself. Those hard days are passed now, my baby is 18 months, and she is a very happy and healthy baby. My husband has his PhD and looking for a job in Tucson and hopefully at UofA. But, we had a most challenging year and half. I feel I am in a big and beautiful cage of America, without knowing the reason of why I am a prisoner? I studied hard, I am working hard and I try to be a good member of the community I am in, but all that is happening to me feels that I am not belong to this community, I am not accepted and here cannot be my home despite of whatever I do to make it home for myself and my family. Travel Ban is hurting people like me for no rational reason.

Mohammad Z.

North Brunswick, NJ (NJ-12)

Me and my wife married in October 2017 in Istanbul Turkey and it's almost 2 years that our case is still in USCIS I'm not even sent to the NVC center yet and I was wondering how come the United States immigration services cannot even issued a visitor visa for my wife to be with me at least every six months because at this point you have to Travel to the third country to meet each other and it is financially and mentally affected both of us and recently I have a serious problem at my job because of too many days off that I took to go see My wife I guess visiting my wife nine times in two years is more than enough to show the legitimately of my marriage because two months ago USCIS sent me a letter and ask for more evidence for my marriage bona fide and I sent him over 500 pages of documents including over 300 pictures of both of us in different parts of the world. My only request is to escalate this process so we can live together