Resolution Opposing Muslim Ban

WHEREAS, Immigrants seeking a better life have enriched our nation’s culture, increased our productivity and innovation, and bolstered our economy; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order on January 27, 2017, that undermines our American values and panders to fear, bigotry, and nativist instincts; and

WHEREAS, The executive order bans individuals from Arab and Muslim-majority countries of Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Iran, Iraq, Libya, and Somalia from entering the United States for 90 days, prevents all refugees from entering the United States for 120 days, and indefinitely suspends the entry of refugees from Syria; and

WHEREAS, The executive order titled “Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States” ignores the fact that many being denied entry are themselves victims of terrorism; and

WHEREAS, The executive order is an affront to religious freedom – a principle so cherished by our nation’s founding fathers that it was included in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, The executive order was executed in a haphazard manner without having been fully vetted by the very departments charged with protecting our national security, such as the federal Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the United States Department of State, and the United States Department of Defense; and

WHEREAS, As an immediate result of the executive order, individuals in possession of current visas have already been detained or turned around at airports across the country, resulting in chaos, confusion, deep anxiety, and hardship; and

WHEREAS, President Trump has falsely stated there is no refugee-vetting system in place. Refugees are subjected to the most stringent vetting system of any traveler seeking entry into the United States – a system that can take up to two years or longer to complete; and

WHEREAS, Over fifty years ago, the federal Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 banned all discrimination against immigrants on the basis of national origin, in order to eliminate prejudice and bias from the immigration process and provide all countries with equal access to the quotas; and

WHEREAS, The federal Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 explicitly limits presidential authority by stating that no person could be “discriminated against in the issuance of an immigrant visa because of
the person’s race, sex, nationality, place of birth, or place of residence,” and the only exceptions are those expressly granted by the United States; and

WHEREAS, The executive order seeks to resurrect discriminatory immigration polices based on national origin and therefore, is in direct violation of this long-standing federal law; and

WHEREAS, The history of the United States includes shameful actions, including exclusionary laws targeted at the Chinese, Japanese, and all Asians in the so-called Asiatic Barred Zone, and the “national-origins system,” which aimed to exclude most Eastern Europeans, Asians, and Africans from entry into the United States; and

WHEREAS, The day after the executive order was issued, a class action lawsuit was filed and a federal district court in New York issued an emergency stay, which will stop federal officials from deporting individuals with approved refugee applications, holders of valid visas, and people form the seven impacted countries who have secured authorization to enter the United States; and

WHEREAS, This court decision by Judge Ann M. Donnelly states, “There is imminent danger that, absent the stay of removal, there will be substantial and irreparable injury to refugees, visa holders, and other individuals from nations subject to the January 27, 2017, executive order”; and

WHEREAS, Federal courts throughout the nation have also issued emergency stays, which will stop federal officials from deporting individuals with approved refugee applications, holders of valid visas, and people from the seven impacted countries who have secured authorization to enter the United States;

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by [Jurisdiction], That [Jurisdiction] condemns this executive order as a discriminatory overreach that illegally targets immigrants based on their national origin and religion, and urges the President of the United States to immediately rescind the executive order; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the [Jurisdiction] urges the federal Department of Homeland Security to comply with the federal court orders as quickly as feasible, and immediately permit detained individuals to have timely access to legal counsel; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the [Jurisdiction] condemns any action by the government to profile, discriminate against based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the [Jurisdiction] stands in solidarity with minority and targeted communities and in the strongest terms denounces bigotry.

---

*For more information, please contact the Arab American Institute at [GovernmentRelations@aaiusa.org](mailto:GovernmentRelations@aaiusa.org)*