



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2, 2017

Contact:

Bing Cardenas Branigin

bing.branigin@naffaa.org

Jason Tengco

jason.tengco@naffaa.org

NaFFAA Expresses Concern About President Trump's Immigration-Related Executive Orders

Washington, D.C.—The National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) stands with Filipino American organizations and leaders across the country in response to President Trump's recent executive orders regarding immigrants, refugees, and individuals from Muslim-majority countries.

NaFFAA National Chairman Brendan Flores said, "We are closely monitoring President Trump's recent executive orders, which has the potential to affect many lives of Filipino Americans, including refugees and immigrant families across the nation. The United States has always been a nation of immigrants, and a beacon of democracy. NaFFAA is committed to work with other Filipino American leaders and advocacy groups to uphold our country's cherished values during these transitional times."

NaFFAA's National Council for Government Relations and Legislative Affairs will initiate advocacy and awareness campaigns, convene planning calls, and compile resources to help Filipino families who have been impacted.

On Thursday, NaFFAA Executive Director Jason Tengco led a conference call with Filipino American organizations and leaders to further coordinate actions. Executive Director Tengco said, "We cannot overlook the fact that during his campaign, then-candidate Trump suggested banning immigration from certain countries, including the Philippines. NaFFAA wants to serve as a forum for Filipino Americans to work together to ensure that community members are aware and engaged moving forward."

Despite Mr. Trump's pre-election suggestions, the U.S. State Department reassures Filipinos and Filipino Americans that there is no reason to panic, as the Philippines is not a "country of concern." According to Mark Toner, spokesperson for the U.S. State Department, "The Philippines was not among those countries that was labeled of concern so I would say that Philippines, Filipinos both in the United States and in Philippines themselves, should by all means, we welcome them to the United States." Toner goes on to say, "It's one of our core relationships certainly in Asia, but even beyond that, it is a relationship that is defined by many thousands of Filipino-Americans who have made home in our country but remained culturally tied to the Philippines but it's also across many sectors - security, economic, political."

About NaFFAA

The National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization. Founded in 1997, NaFFAA's vision is to serve as the voice of all Filipinos and Filipino Americans by uniting, engaging, and empowering diverse individuals and community organizations through leadership development, civic engagement, and national advocacy.

<http://naffaa.org/>

###