

May 9, 2017

Dr. Héctor Delgado
The Society for the Study of Social Problems
901 McClung Tower, University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-0001

Dear Dr. Delgado:

Thank you for contacting me regarding President Trump's Executive Order regarding the entry of people from certain countries into the United States. I appreciate hearing from you.

On January 27, 2017, President Trump signed an Executive Order, entitled Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States, that effectively brought the United States Refugee Admissions Program to a halt for at least 120 days. The order suspended Syrian refugee admissions indefinitely. The order also suspended, for a period of 90 days, visas for entry into the United States for people from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. The countries listed are all majority-Muslim countries.

On February 3, 2017, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington issued a temporary restraining order that blocked the implementation of the Executive Order.

On March 6, 2017, President Trump released a new Executive Order. It maintains the key elements of the original Executive Order, but removes language specifically targeting Syrian refugee admissions. The 120 day halt to the refugee program remains in place and it applies to all refugees. This new order also removed Iraq from its list of suspended countries, but the other six remain. This Executive Order is wrong and goes against everything that this nation stands for.

On March 15, 2017, the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii issued a temporary restraining order that prevented the new Executive Order from going into effect. The case has been appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

No amount of relabeling will change the fact that President Trump's travel ban is unconstitutional and un-American. Wasting taxpayer dollars and unnecessarily inflicting pain on innocent families isn't going to change that. Trump's Executive Order plays directly into our enemies' hands and makes America less safe

Our nation's founders came to our shores to escape religious persecution, and the United States has a long tradition of providing safe haven to refugees. Following the international community's tragic failure to shelter Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi genocide, our country became a leader in establishing the international legal regime for the protection of refugees. Since that time, the American people have generously welcomed millions of refugees fleeing war and totalitarian regimes.

I will fight tooth and nail to protect the civil liberties and ideals our country was built upon. I stand ready to work with Republicans and Democrats in the Senate and House to advance those goals in the best interests our country.

Thank you again for contacting me. Please feel free to keep in touch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dick Durbin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator