



JOHN CHIANG
TREASURER
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

February 1, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear President Trump:

The Asian Pacific Islander American community is outraged over your unconstitutional executive order shutting our nation's borders to travelers from seven predominantly Muslim countries based solely on their race and religious beliefs.

Your 2,800-word executive order drips with cruel irony as it turns away refugees trying to escape the same Islamic terrorism and violence that you naively claim will be repelled from our shores if we only embrace your bigoted and cowardly directive.

Your ban on Muslims is not only unconstitutional, it forsakes the core values that make America great: equality, fair play, and the shimmering promise that the United States is a welcoming place for those "yearning to be free."

As Americans, we have been taught to take pride in our diversity and our constitutional right to religious freedom. As Asian Pacific Islander Americans, we will not stand idly by as you attempt to pervert this nation's melting pot into a boiling cauldron of intolerance, hate, and division.

APIA federal, state, and local elected officials demand an immediate cancellation of your order. In just days, you have managed to sow fear and confusion among thousands of travelers,

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impacting foreign visitors and legal United States residents alike. There are no reports – or even claims – that any of those who have been turned away from flights or detained posed a credible terrorist threat. They are students, scientists, and interpreters serving America’s interests.

As Asian Pacific Islander Americans, we also know what it is like to be labeled “other,” to become victims of state-sponsored racism, bigotry, and xenophobia. Our Chinese ancestors came here to build the transcontinental railroad in the mid-1800s, only to be officially excluded from our shores with Congress’ passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act. Many of our families were left out of the United States because of the Immigration Act of 1924 which banned Arabs and Asians from coming to our country.

And, we can never forget World War II when we locked up innocent U.S. citizens because in a misguided hysteria to further national security, we deemed them enemy agents simply because they were Japanese American. Many of those incarcerated went on to heroically fight in the U.S Army, helping to defeat Nazi Germany, fascist Italy, and Imperial Japan.

We wrongly believed these shameful ill-begotten episodes had been consigned to the junk pile of American history – and that the sins of our past, seared into our social memory, would forever inform and guide our better future.

Yet, here we are. It is happening again – in 2017 – leaving us shocked, angry, and forced to wear the shroud of indignity you have tossed so casually over the nation. Our Muslim brethren are being mistreated because of their faith, dress, and customs. This is un-American.

President Trump, your executive order is breaking up families; separating children from parents; casting a pale over our centuries’ old rule of law; and punishing people because of the pigmentation of their skin and the deity they worship.

The history of Asian and Pacific Islander American communities allows us to walk in the shoes of Muslims, today. That is why we stand in solidarity with our fellow Muslim-Americans and immigrants. We view your attack on them as an attack on us.

If there is ever a time to stand on the right side of history, it is now.

Please, Mr. President, reverse your divisive and illegal order. America deserves better.

Sincerely,



JOHN CHIANG
California State Treasurer

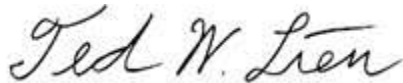
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/ s /

BETTY T. YEE
California State Controller

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FIONA MA, CPA
Chair, California State Board of Equalization
Member, 2nd District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ted W. Lieu', in a cursive script.

TED LIEU
Member of Congress, California House of Representatives, 33rd District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Richard Pan', in a cursive script.

DR. RICHARD PAN
Member, California State Senate, 6th District

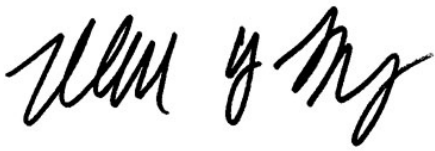
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ROB BONTA
Chair, California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus
Member, California State Assembly, 18th District

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DAVID CHIU
Member, California State Assembly, 17th District



PHILIP Y. TING
Member, California State Assembly, 19th District
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget



KANSEN CHU
Member, California State Assembly, 25th District



ASH KALRA
Member, California State Assembly, 27th District



EVAN LOW
Member, California State Assembly, 28th District

/ s /

ADRIN NAZARIAN
Member, California State Assembly, 46th District

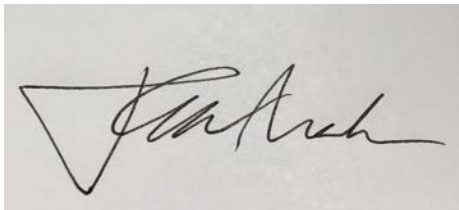
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ED CHAU
Member, California State Assembly, 49th District

/ s /

AL MURATSUCHI
Member, California State Assembly, 66th District



THERESA MAH
State Representative, Illinois General Assembly, 2nd District



RON KIM
Member, New York State Assembly, 40th District

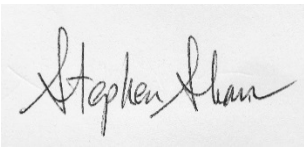


YUH-LINE NIOU
Member, New York State Assembly, 65th District

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MARK L. KEAM
Member, Virginia House of Delegates, 35th District



STEPHEN SHAM
Vice Mayor, City of Alhambra, California



JEFFREY KOJI MALONEY
Councilmember, City of Alhambra, California



ALI SAJJAD TAJ
Mayor, City of Artesia, California



MARK PULIDO
Councilmember, City of Cerritos, California

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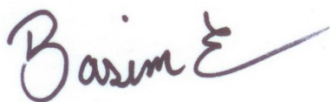
DAVID E. RYU
Councilmember, City of Los Angeles, California



DAVID LIM
Mayor, City of San Mateo, California



RISHI KUMAR
Councilmember, City of Saratoga, California
Director, California League of Cities API Caucus



BASIM ELKARRA
Trustee, Area 5
Twin Rivers Unified School District, City of Sacramento, California



AMEYA PAWAR
Alderman, City of Chicago, Illinois

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Morita". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

JOSINA MORITA
Commissioner, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Illinois