

February 10, 2020

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The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doug Collins
Ranking Member
Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Collins,

I am writing on behalf of the over 100,000 members, advocates, and supporters of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) in support of the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act (NO BAN Act, H.R. 2214), which would repeal the Muslim Ban and prevent similar blanket bans in the future. The House Judiciary Committee must pass the NO BAN Act without changes or amendments, except that which update the bill to reflect the January 21, 2020 presidential proclamation, “Improving Enhanced Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry.”

NCJW is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. As Jews, we know what it’s like to seek safety in the US, only to be turned away out of prejudice and under the pretense of “security.” We are taught *va’ahavtem et ha-ger* — as we were once strangers, so must we welcome the stranger. It is imperative that we continue to open our communities to those fleeing violence or seeking better lives in the United States, regardless of how they worship.

The NO BAN Act is a historic civil rights bill that would repeal the Muslim Ban and prevent similar bans in the future. President Trump used the legal framework justifying the Muslim ban to implement a ban on asylum seekers and grind the nation’s refugee resettlement program to a halt in 2017. He also recently expanded the ban, harming millions of American families in the process. If Congress passes this bill, presidents would still have the power to issues narrow bans justified by evidence in the name of national security — but they would no longer be able to ban an entire community without culpability.

The history of the United States is replete with efforts to demonize and bar entry to groups of people based on their faith under the pretext of national security, including bans against Jews, Catholics, and Mormons. The Muslim Ban validates stereotypes about, and fuels discrimination against, Muslims. While it stands, the ban is a threat to our nation’s core value religious freedom.

Everyone deserves to live in safety and security, regardless of where they are from or how they worship. Congress pass the NO BAN Act without delay.

If you have any questions, please contact Faith Williams, Associate Director of Government Relations and Advocacy at fwilliams@ncjw.org.

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Sincerely,

Jody Rabhan
Chief Policy Officer
National Council of Jewish Women

