

September 23, 2019

House Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 3 million members of the National Education Association who work in 14,000 diverse communities across the nation, thank you for holding this first-ever hearing on the Trump administration's Muslim ban.

From the very start of this administration, NEA members have been outspoken in their opposition to the president's Muslim ban and to his anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant, anti-refugee rhetoric. NEA members saw the effects of the president's words and actions in classrooms, as children reacted to his behavior with fear and anxiety. Educators did their best to comfort students, knowing that children who are fearful and anxious cannot focus on learning. Furthermore, NEA members—who play an important role in transmitting societal values to children—understood the Trump Muslim ban to be contrary to the American ideals of opportunity, equality, and respect.

NEA is therefore proud to join with nearly 400 organizations in supporting the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act (H.R. 2214). This legislation will make several changes, including:

- Outlawing discrimination in the entry of immigrants or nonimmigrants based on religion;
- Repealing the asylum ban and enhanced restrictions that prevent refugees from entering the country; and
- Taking steps to amend the provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act that has granted presidents the authority to suspend or restrict the entry of non-citizens.

The Muslim ban has inflicted much pain and heartache during the two years it has been in place. We teach our children to be compassionate, open-minded, and respectful, yet the behavior we see at the highest levels of this administration represents the exact opposite of who we would want our young people to become. We cannot undo the damage that has already occurred, but we must go forward in a way that reflects American values and respects the dignity and rights of all people. Thank you for this opportunity to share our comments.

Sincerely,



Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association