



DELAWARE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF DELAWARE  
LEGISLATIVE HALL  
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

February 1, 2017

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

The United States is a nation of immigrants, a melting pot of rich history that makes the country distinctly American. The Statue of Liberty stands stalwart and strong on Ellis Island, characterized in a renowned sonnet as the “Mother of Exiles.”

Today, nearly half of the American people are descendants of the very immigrants that entered the United States through Ellis Island. They all came here looking for their piece of the American Dream. Many of them faced discrimination at various points in our country’s history, and each time we have vowed to learn from and not repeat those mistakes.

That’s why we write with great alarm and grave concern regarding your executive order on immigration that impacts seven Muslim-majority countries. Your order alleges that the United States “must ensure” that people who are admitted to the country “do not bear hostile attitudes toward it and its founding principles.”

We must safeguard our country’s borders and support a thorough vetting process, but this order completely contradicts our country’s founding principles under the guise of “protection.” It neither protects nor preserves national security; frankly, it is un-American and unconstitutional.

Federal judges already have ruled that parts of the executive order likely violate the U.S. Constitution you have sworn to preserve, protect and defend. Yet your order still stands as an affront to human decency. It will do more to divide our country than unite, and impede our growth as a nation.

Specifically, we are concerned that:

- **This order singles out a religion.** Citizens of seven countries, who mostly identify with the Muslim faith, are temporarily suspended from entering the United States. Temporarily blocking visitors who are Muslim detracts from policies that actually keep America safe and only alienates those visitors further. It also appears to impose a

religious test for admission to this country, something that runs counter to our First Amendment.

- **The rollout of the executive order caused confusion at our nation's airports and throughout the country.** Key agencies such as the Departments of State, Defense, Justice and Homeland Security were given minimal – if any – information on how to interpret the order. Airports nationwide were slammed with confusion, questions and concerns about how to implement the order.
- **Families are being torn apart.** Many green card holders, refugees and others in transit to the United States were airborne when you signed the order. Husbands, wives and children were blindsided the second they landed on American soil. It is not fully understood how dual citizens or green card holders will be treated. Your Administration's officials have said green card holders will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, but there has been no consistent stance on the policy.
- **Other countries will follow suit.** One day after your order, Iranian officials banned Americans from entering the country. If this order stands, it will be setting a dangerous precedent that could harm foreign and domestic affairs and lose the allies against terrorism we have worked so hard to gain.

For these reasons, we call on you to renounce this order on immigration and rescind it immediately. The future of our country could be in jeopardy if we choose to govern by hate and fear instead of inclusion.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Baumbach  
State Representative

Peter C. Schwartzkopf  
Speaker of the House

David B. McBride  
Senate President Pro Tempore

Valerie J. Longhurst  
House Majority Leader

Margaret Rose Henry  
Senate Majority Leader

John J. Viola  
House Majority Whip

Nicole Poore  
Senate Majority Whip

Andria L. Bennett  
State Representative

David Bentz  
State Representative

Stephanie T. Bolden  
State Representative

Gerald L. Brady  
State Representative

Brian J. Bushweller  
State Senator

Bruce C. Ennis  
State Senator

Debra J. Heffernan  
State Representative

Earl G. Jaques Jr.  
State Representative

James Johnson  
State Representative

S. Quinton Johnson  
State Representative

Helene M. Keeley  
State Representative

John A. Kowalko Jr.  
State Representative

Sean M. Lynn  
State Representative

Harris B. McDowell III  
State Senator

J. Larry Mitchell  
State Representative

Michael P. Mulrooney  
State Representative

Edward S. Osienski  
State Representative

W. Charles Paradee III  
State Representative

Charles Potter Jr.  
State Representative

Bryon H. Short  
State Representative

David P. Sokola  
State Senator

Bryan Townsend  
State Senator

Jack Walsh  
State Senator

Kimberly A. Williams  
State Representative