

COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

MEMBER, NATIONAL SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MEMBER, WESTERN HEMISPHERE

MEMBER, TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION,
AND TRADE



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1302

ROBIN L. KELLY

2ND DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

1239 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-0773

DISTRICT OFFICES:

600 HOLIDAY PLAZA DRIVE
SUITE 505

MATTESON, IL 60443
(708) 679-0078

9204 SOUTH COMMERCIAL AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60617
(773) 321-2001

WEBSITE: www.RobinKelly.house.gov

February 3, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

President Trump,

Like millions of Americans, we deeply object to your recent Executive Order barring the entry of residents and refugees of seven predominantly Muslim countries into the United States. In addition to Constitutional concerns, the stance this Order takes is in contradiction of American values – as we have long been celebrated as an inclusive and compassionate land of opportunity.

As we look to promote America's economic vitality, we feel this Executive Order unnecessarily takes an antithetical stance to responsible business principles. The secret to our economic success rests on human capital. As a nation of ideas, we depend on our ability to attract the best and brightest workers from around the world to keep America at the forefront of global innovation. This isn't a judgment held merely by us; upon your Executive Order's announcement, Apple CEO Tim Cook wrote: "Apple would not exist without immigration, let alone thrive and innovate the way we do."

All we have in this nation, we owe to the hard work of our nation's creators – immigrants. There would be no U.S. Steel without Scotland's Andrew Carnegie, no Goldman Sachs had Marcus Goldman never left Germany. We would not be "Googling" had Sergey Brin's parent's never left the Soviet Union for American shores. As Members of Congress committed to promoting the next century of American led technological innovation, we take issue with efforts that undermine U.S. based tech companies ability to hire the best, most qualified, and skilled workers. This is a recipe for disaster. The fact is that the national demand for a strong Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) workforce far outpaces domestic supply. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), jobs in STEM fields are expected to grow by one million jobs over the next five years. According to Accenture, tech companies alone will need 650,000 positions to fill by next year.

There is more we can do to ensure the vigor of our national security and vitality of the next generation's workforce, but your proposal does not address these issues. Your policy misguidedly applies a blanket ban on immigration for individuals traveling from predominantly Muslim countries, and wrongly halts work visas from those areas. As real facts prove, from 9/11 on, no individuals who have committed terrorist acts inside the United States come from any of the seven countries that are subject to your Executive Order.

Beyond the humanitarian concerns of your actions, there is great risk of lasting damage to our economy and long-term economic consequences from your Executive Order. We urge you to rescind this decision and desist from issuing similar orders that will overhaul the work-visa programs that the tech community relies on to recruit top talent from across the world.

Sincerely,



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



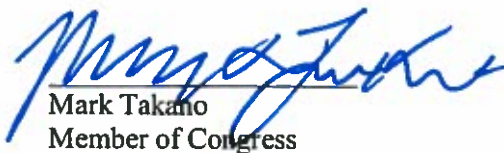
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



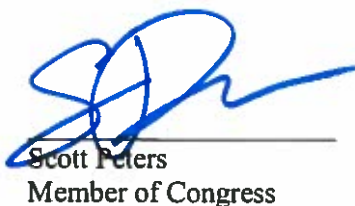
G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Stacey Plaskett
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



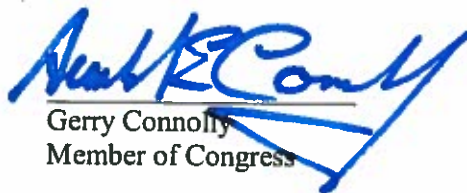
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress




Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Gerry Connolly
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress