

## **Immigrant Deportation and Muslim Ban**

The United States has always been a nation of immigrants, and our society draws great strength from both its past and current immigrants. The current United States policy on immigration is in chaos, and the Trump Administration's actions have created great uncertainty that adversely affect a wide segment of the nation, including:

1. Businesses that employ immigrants, some under H1B visas
2. Families that have a parent on undocumented status
3. Undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as young children
4. Permanent resident aliens holding "green cards"
5. Institutions of higher education, which have international students or faculty visiting from abroad.
6. Jeopardizing the lives of our armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan
7. K-12 students (who may be US citizens with undocumented parents) that fear disruption of their lives.

Trump's sudden "Muslim Ban" interfered with travel into the United States, including the return from short trips abroad taken by green card holders. Although the State Department performs extensive vetting of visitors to the United States, Trump asked for the ban to give the administration a chance to establish new "extreme vetting" procedures. We applaud the federal courts which struck down both the first and second "Muslim Ban" Executive Orders. In addition, the Trump Administration has had sufficient time to transform the current extensive vetting into "extreme vetting" (whatever that may be).

Trump is already implementing his plan to deport millions of undocumented U.S. residents, many of whom have lived here peacefully for years and even decades. He has ceased prioritizing deportation of serious criminals and security threats, and law-abiding residents have been seized and immediately deported, without a hearing. Federal agents are seizing the undocumented in previously protected areas, such as near courts, hospitals, and schools; out of fear of deportation, some children in our district have begun to skip school. These activities also impede the work of law enforcement as victims may be unwilling to report crimes either as Victims or Witnesses. Trump is seeking funds to dramatically increase the number of immigration agents and judges so that deportations can continue at a faster pace.

There are many competing interests in formulating immigration policy, including the need for a path to citizenship for long-term residents, the need to keep families together, and the changing needs for foreign workers in the United States job market. These issues can only be resolved through comprehensive immigration reform legislation, and not by political posturing or unilateral executive actions. The widespread fear and uncertainty that President Trump created requires a new thoughtful legal framework and comprehensive solutions.

**Therefore, be it resolved that,** the 2017 Eighth District Democratic Convention:

- 1) Condemns in the strongest possible terms the “Muslim Ban” and the ongoing deportations of undocumented residents living in the United States peacefully,
- 2) Opposes any future efforts to ban entry into the United States on the basis of religious belief or national origin as well as any future funding for an expanded deportation program,
- 3) Calls upon the Congress to renew its bi-partisan efforts to achieve comprehensive immigration reform legislation.