

February 15, 2017

Mr. Steve King  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on the Constitution  
and Civil Justice  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Mr. Steve Cohen  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on the Constitution  
and Civil Justice  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman King and Ranking Member Cohen:

The undersigned organizations write prior to the Thursday, February 16, hearing on “The State of Religious Liberty in America,” to highlight what we believe is an extraordinary threat to religious freedom that our nation faces right now: President Donald Trump’s executive order that discriminates against Muslims.

President Trump’s executive order runs counter to the First Amendment’s guarantee of religious freedom and betrays our nation’s values. People of all faiths and backgrounds have long sought refuge in our country and its promise of religious freedom. This executive order is fundamentally wrong.

The undersigned organizations have all advocated for religious freedom, standing up for the foundational American principle, and include organizations that represent communities affected by the executive order. We know that treating one faith as second-class and favoring others, as the executive order does, threatens all faiths and the religious freedom that protects us all. We stand against this executive order, as we would stand against any policy that similarly singles out one particular faith for discriminatory treatment.

We urge the Committee to examine this immediate, ongoing threat to religious freedom during the hearing.

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union  
Americans United for Separation of Church and State  
Anti-Defamation League  
Arab American Institute  
Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty  
Bend the Arc Jewish Action  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Conference of Major Superiors of Men  
Franciscan Action Network  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Hindu American Foundation

Interfaith Alliance  
Muslim Advocates  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Council of Churches  
National Council of Jewish Women  
Pax Christi, USA  
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)  
The Sikh Coalition  
Sisters of Mercy Institute Justice Team  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
The United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society