

## THE MUSLIM BAN RUNS COUNTER TO AMERICAN VALUES

Ours is a nation of values, founded on the ideal that all people are created equal. No matter your faith or philosophy, every American shares the desire to seek out opportunity and provide for our families. But three years ago, President Trump denied tens of thousands of American Muslims this chance by issuing the first of three travel bans targeting majority-Muslim nations.

The NO BAN Act

116th Congress: S. 1123/H.R. 2214

Since then parents, grandparents, siblings and children have been separated from their families, denied necessary medical treatment, and lost major professional and educational opportunities - simply because of who they are. As Senator Chris Coons said, **"This is family separation by any other name."** 

## CONGRESS MUST ACT TO PROTECT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The Muslim Ban tarnishes our reputation as a nation of possibility for immigrants and refugees and undermines the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom for all. And yet, even after lengthy court battles, the Trump administration recently extended the ban to six additional countries.

But interfaith communities, with strong allies in Congress, have never stopped fighting for justice. On April 10, 2019, Senator Coons and Congresswoman Judy Chu introduced the **National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act (NO BAN Act)**. Interfaith Alliance proudly joined a diverse coalition of nearly 400 civil rights, faith, national security and community organizations in supporting this historic bill. The NO BAN Act affirms the core American value of religious freedom by:

- Ending the Muslim Ban once and for all.
- Amending the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion and close the loopholes this administration has exploited to repeatedly revise the ban.
- Creating urgently needed limitations and accountability for any president exercising this authority.

**Religious freedom and equal treatment under the law are non-partisan issues.** This is an opportunity for our leaders to send a strong message to the American people and the world that how someone prays should not dictate whether they can pursue the American Dream. It is time for Congress to act to overturn the Muslim Ban and stand against religious discrimination.

## JOIN INTERFAITH ALLIANCE IN PROTECTING FAITH AND FREEDOM

As a multi-faith organization, Interfaith Alliance is on the front lines of fighting the Muslim Ban and combating the rise of anti-Muslim bigotry in the Unites States. We know well that bigotry toward any tradition is an affront to us all. Interfaith Alliance will continue to stand with our neighbors who face hatred and discrimination, with the knowledge that our freedoms are inextricably tied to theirs.

For more information about our policy program please contact Katy Joseph, federal policy advisor, at <u>kjoseph@interfaithalliance.org</u>.