

Whereas, on January 27, 2017, President Trump issued an Executive Order limiting the ability of people to enter the United States based on national origin and religion;

Whereas, legal challenges and public protests have forced the Trump Administration to modify the Executive Order as to immigrants holding visas and green cards that have been legitimately issued for those now visiting, studying, and working in the United States;

Whereas, this Executive Order separates family members from one another and turns back refugees who had been admitted to the United States after years of process; preventing legal residents from re-entering the United States, in disregard of financial commitments such as leases on residences, job commitments, tuitions paid at United States institutions of higher learning;

Whereas, this Executive Order effectively institutes a ban on travel for non-citizens who are legally residing in the United States;

Whereas, there is no evidence to support the notion that this Executive Order will reduce the threat of terrorism and, in fact, may increase such threats to the United States; and

Whereas, the Administration's demonstrated willingness to disregard legally-issued visas poses a threat to Monterey County's economy which employs residents who are legally living in the United States, and to the County's institutions of higher learning.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Board of Supervisors of Monterey County declares as follows:

1. This Executive Order is discriminatory. It unfairly targets a large group of immigrants and non-immigrants on the basis of their countries of origin, all of which are nations with a majority Muslim population. This is a major step towards implementing the stringent racial and religious profiling threatened by this Administration. The United States is a democratic nation, and ethnic and religious profiling are in stark contrast to the values and principles we hold.

2. This Executive Order is detrimental to the interests of Monterey County. Without a guarantee that visas will be honored, it will be more difficult for Monterey County businesses and institutions of higher learning to employ and enroll individuals from other countries;

3. This Executive Order imposes undue burden on members of our community. The people whose status in the United States could be reconsidered by this Executive Order are our fellow students, friends, colleagues, and members of our communities. The implementation of this Executive Order will tear families apart by restricting entry for family members who live outside of the US and limiting the ability to travel for those who reside and work in the US. These restrictions would be applied to nearly all individuals from certain countries, regardless of their immigration status or any other circumstances. This measure is disruptive to the lives of these immigrants, their families, and the communities of which they form an integral part. It is inhumane, ineffective, and un-American.

4. This Executive Order undermines the values of America. These bans, as proposed, have consequences that reach beyond the scope of national security. The unethical and discriminatory treatment of law-abiding, hard-working, and well-integrated immigrants fundamentally contravenes the founding principles of the United States.

We strongly denounce this Executive Order and urge our Congressional leaders to take all possible actions to prevent such destructive policies from being enacted.