

Dear San Diego City Councilmembers,

We, the undersigned civil society and business organizations, urge the San Diego City Council to join the City of Chicago in filing an amicus curiae brief in *State of Washington vs. Donald Trump* to denounce the U.S. Government's suspension of refugee admissions and its unconstitutional ban on admissions of citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries.

The executive order that established these policies violates fundamental principles of human rights and bedrock tenets of Constitutional law; and it betrays our values as a nation of immigrants and as San Diegans. Its implementation has had cruel and arbitrary consequences for many people fleeing persecution or seeking to enter the United States to reunite with family, receive medical treatment, or pursue professional and educational opportunities.

San Diego has a profound interest in this matter, as a significant number of San Diegans are directly impacted. We are an international metropolitan region; cross-border travel and trade are vital to our economic and social well-being; we are on the front line of the immigration issue; and we have the nation's fourth highest population of residents from the seven countries named in the travel ban. San Diego has a uniquely knowledgeable perspective and we must be of one voice in saying that this executive order harms our community, undermines its values, and threatens our shared future.

Last week, the Court of Appeals unanimously upheld the temporary injunction on enforcing this ill-conceived executive order. While not a final resolution to the matter, the opinion is a clear indicator of deeply flawed policies. The 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit opinion makes clear that the executive order offers startlingly little clarity regarding the ways authorities may interpret and implemented it how many people may be affected by it and in what ways. There is no guidance whatsoever as to what new restrictions may follow the initial bans. In light of the urgency and uncertainty of its resolution, we urge the San Diego City Council to sign on to the amicus brief.

Many of our nation's big-city mayors are speaking out against this executive order. Mayors in Boston, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Seattle, among others, have issued statements and joined protests to denounce the order and to support immigrants and refugees.

"There comes a time when silence is betrayal," said the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. It is imperative that San Diego not remain silent. We urge the City Council to approve signing on to this important amicus brief.

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union of San Diego & Imperial Counties  
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