

July 17, 2017

To: Members of the House Appropriations Committee

We the undersigned organizations write in support of an amendment to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act of FY2018 submitted by Representative Mark Pocan regarding the Trump Administration's Muslim ban.

On June 29, 2017, after numerous setbacks to the Administration in lower courts, the Supreme Court allowed a new iteration of the Muslim ban to go into effect. Despite the Court's order that the ban could not be applied to close family members of U.S. persons, the Trump Administration decided to implement the ban against the grandparents and other family members of Americans of Iranian, Syrian, Libyan, Somali, Sudanese, or Yemeni descent.

On July 13, the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii disagreed with that interpretation and ordered that grandparents and other family members could not be banned by the Trump Administration.

The Pocan amendment simply states that no Department of Homeland Security funding may be used to enforce the Muslim ban against a grandparent, grandchild, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or cousin of a U.S. Person. This is a commonsense amendment that should enjoy the support of the full committee.

Sincerely,

18MillionRising.org

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

Amnesty International USA

Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus

DRUM – Desis Rising Up & Moving

National Council of Asian Pacific Americans

National Immigrant Justice Center

National Immigration Law Center

National Iranian American Council

National Religious Campaign Against Torture Action Fund

Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans

Poligon Education Fund

South Asian Americans Leading Together

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

The Revolutionary Love Project

Yemen Peace Project