

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 3, 2017

Kevin McAleenan  
Acting Commissioner  
Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Acting Commissioner McAleenan:

We write because it has come to our attention that some of our constituents with visas and some with Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) status were detained over the weekend at Los Angeles International (LAX) airport. Some of these individuals were reportedly denied entry into the United States as a result of the Executive Order titled "Protecting the Nation from Terrorist Attacks by Foreign Nationals" which was issued by President Trump on January 27, 2016.

Additionally, we are alarmed by the increasing number of reports alleging that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) employees urged detained travelers to sign Form I-407, "Record of Abandonment of Lawful Permanent Resident Status". When signed, this form would relinquish their legal right to enter and remain in the U.S.<sup>1</sup> Lawsuits have been filed that claim coercion and egregious violations of basic due process by CBP officials—particularly at LAX airport—including the use of Form I-407. One notable example is of an Iranian national who traveled to the U.S. on a valid visa, with the expectation that he would have received his green card upon arrival. This individual was allegedly coerced into signing a form withdrawing his admission to the U.S., and was ultimately put on a plane back to Iran.<sup>2</sup>

In order to assist our constituents and other visitors traveling through LAX airport, and to better understand the implementation of this Executive Order, we would like to request the following information:

1. Any and all guidance, directives, and/or policies from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding the implementation of Executive Order "Protecting the Nation from Terrorist Entry into the United States by Foreign Nationals";

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<sup>1</sup> Airlines Scramble to Adjust to Trump's New World, *Bloomberg News*, January 30, 2017 <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-01-30/airlines-scramble-to-adjust-to-trump-s-new-world>; Migrants were told to sign away right to enter U.S., lawyers say, *New York Times*, January 30, 2017 <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/30/us/migrants-documents-travel-ban.html?partner=rss&emc=rss&smid=tw-nytpolitics&smtyp=cur>.

<sup>2</sup> LAX immigration agents asked detainees to sign away their legal residency status, attorneys say, *Southern California Public Radio*, January 30, 2017 <http://www.scpr.org/news/2017/01/30/68577/lax-immigration-agents-asked-detainees-to-sign-awa/>.

2. Details on how the Executive Order is being interpreted and implemented on current visa holders seeking entry into the United States, visa applicants, LPRs, dual citizens, United States citizens and to any other individuals coming from the seven designated countries in the Executive Order applying for or renewing any of the immigration benefits listed above or any other immigration benefit;
3. The results of any internal reviews, if applicable, of the manner in which CBP officers carried out the directives of the Executive Order, particularly at LAX airport;
4. Copies of any complaints filed with CBP, with sensitive or personally identifying information removed, relating to its implementation of the Executive Order at LAX airport.


Furthermore, because alleged applications of Form I-407 appear to have been carried out in an abusive and illegal manner, we request that your agency review all I-407s which were signed following the execution of the Executive Order, and invalidate any which were signed due to coercion. We also request that any individuals detained be provided counsel and released from CBP custody once officers have undertaken a standard security evaluation.

Finally, we would like to bring to your attention the regrettable and oftentimes disrespectful manner in which Members of Congress were treated by CBP officers at airports across the country following the issuance of the Executive Order. Many Members arrived at airports throughout the weekend to assist constituents, only to have CBP refuse them audience with detained travelers. In many cases, CBP officials did not properly coordinate Members' concerns and they were met with undue difficulty as they sought clarifying information from CBP. We hope that you will correct this for future interactions, and provide forthright answers to our inquiries.

Thank you for your urgent consideration of this request. We look forward to a thorough and prompt response to this important issue.

Sincerely,

  
JUDY CHU  
Member of Congress


  
LUIS J. CORREA  
Member of Congress

  
LINDA T. SANCHEZ  
Member of Congress

  
TONY CARDENAS  
Member of Congress

  
MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress

  
JULIA BROWNLEY  
Member of Congress

  
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO  
Member of Congress


  
TED W. LIEU  
Member of Congress

  
ALAN LOWENTHAL  
Member of Congress

  
MAXINE WATERS  
Member of Congress

  
ADAM B. SCHIFF  
Member of Congress

  
NANETTE BARRAGAN  
Member of Congress

  
BRAD SHERMAN  
Member of Congress

  
NORMA J. TORRES  
Member of Congress

Cc: Honorable John F. Kelly, Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security