

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 5, 2026

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
Office of the President  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Pamela J. Bondi  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear President Trump, Secretary Noem, Secretary Rubio, and Attorney General Bondi:

We write to express our strong opposition to President Trump's recent Presidential Proclamation 10998 (Proclamation 10998) to more than double its already sweeping travel ban (Proclamation 10949), denying entry to tens of thousands of individuals from 20 different countries, plus those with Palestinian Authority-issued travel documents. Over 60% of the countries in Africa, and 20% of all countries worldwide, are now banned from the U.S.<sup>[1]</sup> The new expansion also supersedes and eliminates critical exemptions from the previous ban, including those for Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holders and immediate family members of U.S. citizens from impacted countries—further entrenching a cruel and racist policy agenda disguised as national security, with serious, heartbreaking, and dangerous consequences.

This national origin-based ban will subject entire nations facing war, repression, and humanitarian catastrophe to chaos, family separation, and exposure to violence, torture or death. This approach punishes civilians suffering from crises beyond their control and abandons our obligations under domestic and international law. Furthermore, it hurts American communities by depriving them of family members, crucial workers, and approximately \$2.5 billion in spending.<sup>[2]</sup>

During President Trump's first term, his administration implemented a range of travel restrictions on nationals from several countries, many of which were majority-Muslim countries. These travel bans faced continual legal challenges because of their blatantly discriminatory designs.<sup>[4]</sup> President Biden terminated the latest version of President Trump's travel ban when he took office in 2021, but the damage had already been done. The first Muslim Ban wreaked havoc on families, forcing over forty thousand people who had cleared one of the most exhaustive immigration vetting systems in the world to miss weddings, funerals, graduations, and births.<sup>[5]</sup> What's more, there is no evidence that this ban or any further iteration did anything to improve national security or prevent terrorism.<sup>[6]</sup>

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Despite the failure of the original Muslim and travel bans to in any way further U.S. interests, President Trump has now issued an even broader travel ban. This expansion will impose a full entry ban on nationals from eight additional countries (Laos, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, South Sudan, and Syria), individuals holding Palestinian Authority-issued travel documents; plus the original twelve countries banned in June (Afghanistan, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen). Partial restrictions will apply to nationals of 15 additional countries (Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominica, Gabon, The Gambia, Malawi, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Tonga, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), plus four countries (Burundi, Cuba, Togo, and Venezuela) partially restricted under the June ban. This means that individuals from these countries cannot come to the U.S. permanently or apply for certain visas.<sup>3</sup> Turkmenistan, partially restricted under the June ban, will now be subject to restrictions on immigrant visas only.

The effects of this discriminatory travel ban will be devastating. In the last year alone, over 126,000 visas have been issued to nationals from just the twelve countries on the fully restricted list.<sup>5</sup> These are individuals who are looking to come to the United States to reunite with family, support our economy, or otherwise enrich our country in innumerable ways. President Trump's actions once again disgrace the founding principles of our nation and enshrine cruelty into our immigration system.

As the U.S. prepares to host the vast majority of the 2026 FIFA World Cup games, its ban on visas for World-Cup qualifying countries will deprive fans of the chance to watch their teams play.<sup>[3]</sup> This directly impacts host cities across the country, all of which stand to lose millions in projected economic stimulus. This discriminatory ban will harm our country's national security, as it needlessly rips families apart. We urge President Trump to rescind it immediately.

Additionally, this travel ban will harm our economy by depriving the United States of workers in key fields experiencing labor shortages like medicine and agriculture and further devastating our domestic tourism industry which is already expected to decline by \$12.5 billion in 2025.<sup>[7]</sup>

Given these severe impacts, we condemn this proclamation and urge President Trump to rescind it immediately. Representative Chu and Senator Coons led 68 Congressional colleagues in a transparency letter dated June 27, 2025, seeking answers regarding the Administration's decision-making process. We received no response. We reiterate our request for a thorough response to the June 27, 2025, letter and request answers to the following additional questions by February 10, 2026:

1. President Trump's Proclamation 10998 added new countries to its June entry ban based on determinations from the Secretary of State, Attorney General, Secretary of Homeland Security, and Director of National Intelligence that the identified countries "cannot meet basic criteria for identifying their nationals and residents who pose national security and public safety threats and for sharing information with the United States," and cites "law enforcement reporting" indicating that "foreign nationals from countries named in this proclamation have been involved with crimes that include murder, terrorism, ... and other criminal activity."

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- a. Will the administration disclose all such evidence, reporting, and/or other documentation substantiating these determinations, specific to each country newly included in the full or partial ban?
2. Proclamation 10998 removes exemptions contained in Proclamation 10949, including those for family-based immigrant visas, citing “concrete information provided by United States law enforcement and the Department of State.”
  - a. Will the administration release this “concrete information,” referenced in Proclamation 10998, in full to Congress and the public?
3. Proclamation 10998 also removes the exemption contained in Proclamation 10949 for Afghan Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs). The Afghan SIV program was passed by Congress to honor Afghans’ direct service to American missions. Afghan SIV holders are among the most thoroughly vetted individuals in the U.S. immigration system.
  - a. Please provide a detailed explanation of the rationale behind removing an entire group of individuals based on the actions of a single person, particularly when many of these applicants are at heightened risk due to their support of U.S. military operations. What, if any, vetting deficiencies within the Afghan SIV process were identified by the administration? What alternative measures or vetting processes were considered to mitigate identified risks without unfairly penalizing Afghan SIV applicants, who must already endure rigorous, costly, and time-consuming vetting?
4. What is the estimate of the economic impacts on tourism, jobs, and foreign direct investment as a result of this entry ban expansion?
5. What metrics will the administration use to evaluate the effectiveness of the expanded entry ban in protecting national security?
6. Section 4(c) and (d) of the proclamation contemplates exceptions when in the national interest.
  - a. Please provide a detailed list of national interest exceptions sought to date under the afore-mentioned provisions, broken down by type of exception, country of origin, and reason for granting or rejecting.
7. For several countries (Angola, Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, Gabon, Malawi, Senegal, Tanzania, Tonga, Zambia, Zimbabwe), Proclamation 10998 lists no reason for a suspension of visas other than the visa overstay rates of individuals on B-1, B-2, B-1/B-2, F, M, and J visas, which are nonimmigrant visas. However, President Trump’s proclamation fully suspends all immigrant visas for those countries, including all family and employment-based visas.
  - a. How does the administration justify suspending all immigrant visas on the basis of an unrelated nonimmigrant visa overstay rate?
  - b. Did the administration conduct individualized analyses for all nonimmigrant visa types, or rely solely on the B-1, B-2, B-1/B-2, F, M, and J visa overstay rates? How does the Administration define “high overstay rate”? Is it based on an average of rates for all B-1, B-2, B-1/B-2, F, M, and J visas? Does the Administration consider raw numbers in its analysis?
8. Your recent announcement that you will freeze immigrant visas for nationals of 75 countries cites no evidence linking the countries targeted with any likelihood of becoming a public charge. What analysis did the Administration undertake and how did it determine rates of public charges by country? What evidence do you have that immigrants from these countries, as the State Department stated, “often become public

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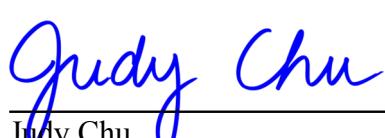
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charges"? Did it engage in methodologically sound statistical analysis and comparison? Was its analysis, if any, based on rates or raw numbers?

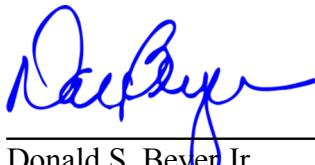
- a. What is the timeline for this freeze? What factors and benchmarks will determine how long these matters will be frozen?

We thank you for your attention to this important matter.

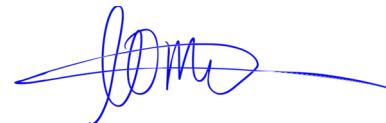
Sincerely,



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



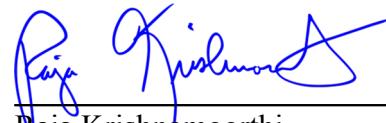
Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



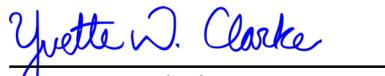
Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib  
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Julia Brownley  
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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
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LaMonica McIver  
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Zoe Lofgren  
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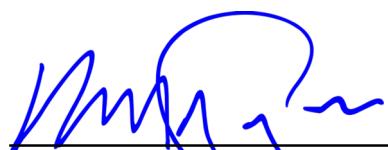
Summer L. Lee  
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
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Ami Bera, M.D.  
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Jan Schakowsky  
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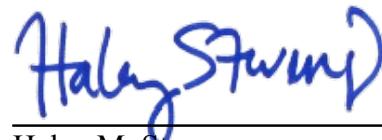
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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez  
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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



Andre Carson  
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Jennifer L. McClellan  
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Diana DeGette  
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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez  
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Lateefah Simon  
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Adriano Espaillat  
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Shri Thanedar  
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Mark DeSaulnier  
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Al Green  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



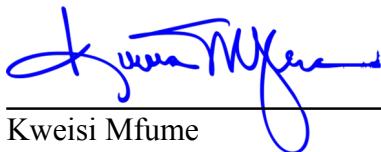
Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress

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Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



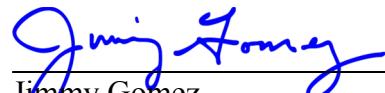
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

[1] <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/12/restricting-and-limiting-the-entry-of-foreign-nationals-to-protect-the-security-of-the-united-states/>

[2] <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/report/trump-2025-travel-ban/#summary>

[3] While the ban includes an exemption for athletes, coaches and immediate relatives traveling for the World Cup, no such exemption exists for fans.

[4] <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/three-years-later-trump-travel-ban-heads-back-to-court>.

[5] 20 years after 9/11, Islamophobia continues to haunt Muslims - ABC News, <https://abcnews.go.com/US/20-years-911-islamophobia-continues-haunt-muslims/story?id=79732049>.

[6] See <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/trumps-reckless-muslim-ban-makes-americans-less-safe/>; <https://www.cato.org/policy-analysis/extreme-vetting-immigrants-estimating-terrorism-vetting-failures>.

[7] <https://www.reuters.com/business/foreign-travel-spending-us-decline-7-2025-report-says-2025-05-13/>.