

THE MUSLIM TRAVEL BAN COULD BRING TEARS TO LADY LIBERTY'S EYES!

The plaque on Lady Liberty reads "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

The Statue represents many things, among them friendship between nations and freedom from oppression. Lady Liberty has always welcomed immigrants traveling to the United States seeking security and a new life.

President Trump's Muslim's Ban on 7 countries goes far beyond a reasonable decision. There are millions of people who follow the Muslim religion who loudly oppose the Islamic States. Previous U.S. Presidents have created strong vetting procedures to identify those who initiate violence using the Muslim faith to carry out their hatred against other faiths.

Former Secretaries of State John Kerry and Madeline Albright and former Secretary of Defense Leon Paneta and other top national security officials issued a statement against the Muslim travel ban saying, "It undermines the national security of the United States and will endanger U.S. troops in the field."

According to the PEW Research Center, the seven countries affected by the Trump travel ban accounted for more than 900,000 U.S. entries since 2006. This made up 0.2% of the more than 517 million in total entries to the U.S. over the same period of time. (Entries include individuals visiting the U.S. as well as new lawful immigrants and refugees. The executive order also temporarily halted the U.S. refugee settlement program for 120 days and indefinitely banned most Syrian refugees.

"Unjust anger cannot be justified for anger tips the scale to one's ruin. Those who are patient stay calm and until the right moment and then cheerfulness comes back to them. They hold back their words until the right moment then the lips of many tell of their good sense."

(SIRACH 1: 22-24 NRSV)

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SENATOR BROWN AND
SENATOR ROB PORTMAN
TO PROTECT
SOCIAL SECURITY
AND
MEDICARE!**

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**You are welcome to copy or quote
from the Legislative Brief.
Tom Smith, Editor**

Some Republican lawmakers criticized President Trump's order and said it could backfire by giving terrorist organizations a new recruitment message. "The executive order sends a signal, intended or not, that America does not want Muslims coming to our country," Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham of So. Carolina said in a joint statement.

The executive order was overruled by the 9th District Federal Court and the stay was set aside.

The Reuter's poll found that 49% of Americans agreed with the ban and 41% disagreed. Democrats were more than three times as likely to say that America should continue to take in immigrants and refugees, on the other hand Republicans who were more than three times as likely as Democrats to agree that banning people from Muslim countries is necessary to prevent terrorism.

Most Americans, however, don't think the country should show preference for Christian refugees as Trump has suggested. Some 56%, including 72% of Democrats and 45% of Republicans, disagree that the country should welcome Christian refugees but not Muslims.

Americans approve of Trump's travel ban, but that's not surprising, the same was true of barring Jewish refugees in the 1930's and of interning Japanese Americans in 1942. In the fullness of time, we must come to regret our xenophobic behavior to appreciate the immigrants.

I am proud of the faith community, that has joined voices in support of the Muslim faith. The National Council of Christians—one of the largest coalitions of Christian churches in the country said, "We explicitly condemn any religion test for refugees. Support for Muslims came from most of the Christian Denominations in America as well as the Jewish World Services in America. Pope Francis said, "We have a moral obligation to welcome the stranger. Our faith compels us to do so."

Jim Wallis of Sojourners said, "U.S. citizens, immigrants and refugees who practice their Islamic faith in this country—our friends and neighbors—are our brothers and sisters as fellow human beings and children of God." The violation of the religious freedom of our Muslim brothers and sisters must not be accepted by any people of faith.

Nicholas Kristof who writes for the *New York Times* said the following about the President's decision to ban Muslims from seven countries. "In effect, Trump took a real problem, inflated it with hysteria, handled it with incompetence and created an unjust policy that targets seven mostly impoverished Muslim countries that haven't produced a single person involved in a lethal terrorist attack in America since before 9/11. Islamophobia swirls through the order."