



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

January 31, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We, the undersigned members of the Virginia House of Delegates, are very concerned by what appears to be a hastily drawn and problematic "Executive Order" effectively creating a Muslim ban on travel to the U.S. from certain countries. We believe the letter and intent of the "Order" violates basic Virginia values as it hurts Virginian families. Putting aside the humanitarian problems of the Order, we believe it has negative implications for Virginia business and Virginia colleges and universities. We ask it be rescinded.

There is already an extensive multi-year vetting process in place for refugees, and we must allow our hardworking national security personnel to do their jobs. A ban that focuses on nations which are majority Muslim makes Virginia less safe, especially given our proximity to Washington, D.C., and will be used as a terrorist recruitment tool. By banning citizens from these countries, we will create the possibility that our Muslim friends, who we need in this fight against terrorism, will abandon us. It also strikes us as a "religious test" for entry, something that has been totally at odds with American values since our founding.

We are hearing heart-wrenching stories in the news of Virginia families whose members have been separated or stranded by this action. We hear from many who are worried about their ability to travel, not to mention concerns about future actions. We count Muslims among our friends, neighbors, colleagues, and community members. To exclude people based on their religion is antithetical to American values and inconsistent with traditions of our founders as articulated in the Bill of Rights and the Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom.

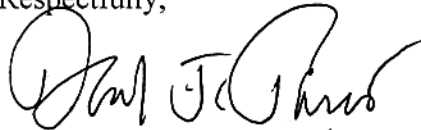
Last year, the Virginia House of Delegates passed HR75, a bipartisan measure that celebrates freedom from religious persecution and Virginia's critical role in its protection. It states that "our nation remains open to individuals of all faiths who embrace our laws, and who seek a better life."

This should not be an issue of party or political ideology. Both Democrats and Republicans from across the country have spoken out against this Muslim ban, including our two U.S. Senators, Senator Warner and Kaine, and Senators and Congresspersons from both parties, including our former colleague, Representative Barbara Comstock.

Mr. President, we acknowledge that there are dangers and uncertainties in the world, and that we do not have all of the answers to all of the critical challenges that we face as a country. But we nonetheless feel that your Order goes too far.

We respectfully request that you rescind this Order and rethink about the best way of safeguarding our country while preserving Virginian values and protecting Virginia families and businesses.

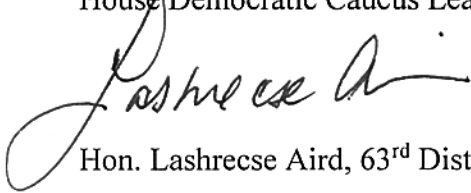
Respectfully,



Hon. David Toscano, 57th District
House Democratic Caucus Leader



Hon. Charniele Herring, 46th District
House Democratic Caucus Chair



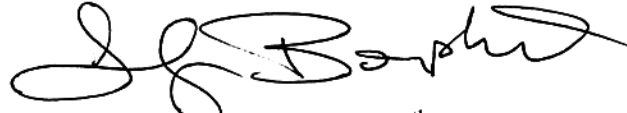
Hon. Lashreese Aird, 63rd District



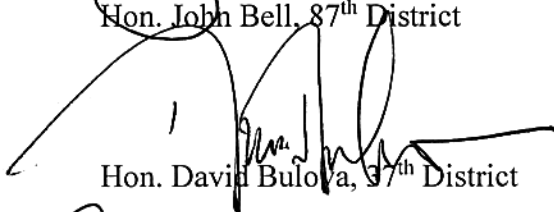
Hon Lamont Bagby, 74th District



Hon. John Bell, 87th District



Hon. Jennifer Boysko, 86th District



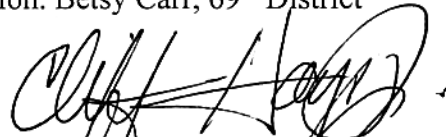
Hon. David Bulova, 37th District



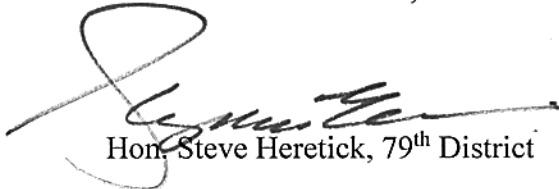
Hon. Betsy Carr, 69th District



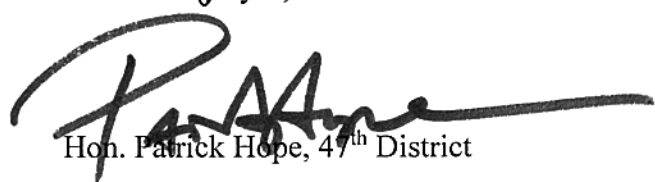
Hon. Eileen Filler-Corn, 41st District



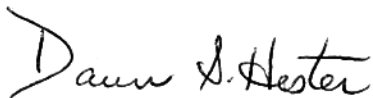
Hon. Cliff Hayes, 77th District

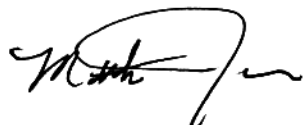


Hon. Steve Heretick, 79th District

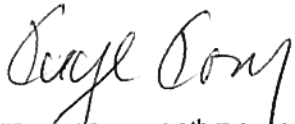


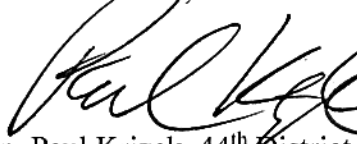
Hon. Patrick Hope, 47th District

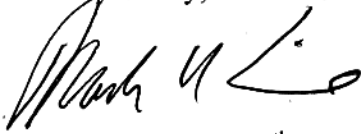

Hon. Daun Hester, 89th

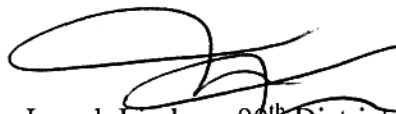

Hon. Matthew James, 80th District

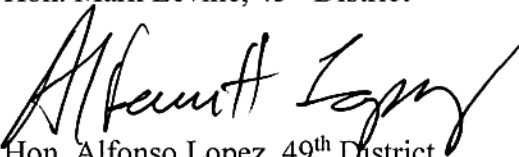

Hon. Mark Keam, 35th District


Hon. Kaye Kory, 38th District


Hon. Paul Krizek, 44th District

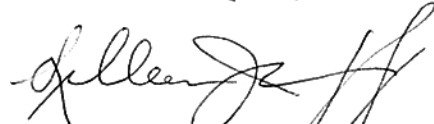

Hon. Mark Levine, 45th District

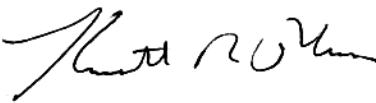

Hon. Joseph Lindsey, 90th District



Hon. Alfonso Lopez, 49th District


Hon. Belores McQuinn, 70th District


Hon. Mike Mullin, 93rd District



Hon. Kathleen Murphy, 34th District



Hon. Kenneth Plum, 36th District

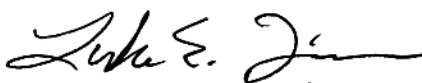

Hon. Marcia Preece, 95th District

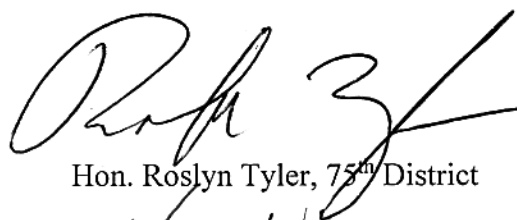

Hon. Sam Rasoul, 11th District


Hon. Mark Sickles, 43rd District


Hon. Marcus Simon, 53rd District


Hon. Richard Sullivan, 48th District

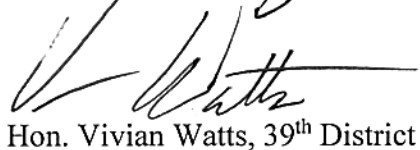

Hon. Luke Torian, 52nd District



Hon. Roslyn Tyler, 75th District



Hon. Jeion Ward, 92nd District



Hon. Vivian Watts, 39th District