

Letter Voicing Opposition to President Trump's Immigration Ban

Hello, my name is Tyler J. Ford. I would like to state my disappointment that **Senator Richard Burr** has yet to voice his opposition to President Trump's **Executive Order: Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into The United States**.

Aside from the simple facts that this ban was poorly implemented with little vetting or notice to the federal departments involved demonstrating a lack of both foresight and respect for these institutions, I believe the senator should oppose this executive order based on three key points:

1. The order is religiously biased and, even if it does not directly ban muslims from entering the country, provides preferential treatment to those who are not muslim. We live in a country where one of our guiding principles is that people should not be discriminated against according to their religion. Even if you do not believe this order is discriminatory, you should acknowledge that it plays into the stereotype that immigrants and refugees barred entry to the US by the order are equivalent to terrorists. This stereotype is foolish and particularly illogical considering there have been no deadly terrorist attacks perpetrated by immigrants from the seven nations barred by the order since 9/11.
2. The order is antithetical to its stated goals as is laid out in the state department dissent memo now signed by over 1,000 individuals. Terrorist organizations want evidence that Americans are anti-muslim and that we as a nation are willing to start a war on Islam. This order both provides those organizations with that evidence and alienates people in countries who would otherwise be our allies. I certainly do not hate muslims, do not believe the majority of Americans hate muslims, and believe that this order provides a grossly inaccurate representation of American values that emboldens our enemies.
3. America is a nation of openness and checks and balances. Openness allows us to attract great thinkers to study and do research at our universities. It enables our industries to develop new products and technologies. Openness challenges us to look at problems from different perspectives and thereby develop better solutions. I know, as a researcher who has worked with people from many different backgrounds, including individuals from the countries listed in the order, that it is only through being open to other people and taking their perspectives seriously that we can advance. As a senator, it is your duty to provide perspective to the president through both outspoken support, and, in this case, opposition. You and your fellow congress people must not simply allow the president to steamroll you with executive orders like this one, but must force him to be more open to different perspectives found across the country and not just within his own head. Only by providing this check on the president will you balance out the fears that he is currently playing on, and through this more open and balanced mind set we can advance productively as a nation.

For these reasons, **Senator Burr**, I sincerely hope you will voice your opposition to President Trump's executive order. While it is my greatest hope that the president is only doing what he thinks is right for the country, I firmly believe that the arguments above clearly show that he is wrong and that it is your duty to stand against him.