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## Statement of the American Immigration Lawyers Association

### AILA Urges Immediate Passage of the NO BAN Act (H.R. 2214)

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Contact: Greg Chen  
Senior Director of Government Relations  
[Gchen@aila.org](mailto:Gchen@aila.org); 202-507-7615

On January 27, 2017, within days of taking office, President Trump issued the Muslim and refugee ban signaling what has become the hallmark of his administration's immigration policy: the discriminatory targeting of people based on their religion and national origin for exclusion from the United States. The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) [has opposed](#) these abhorrent bans, including the most recent issued on January 31, 2020.

The bans have had devastating impacts: keeping families separated, denying visas without basis, and compelling the loss of career and educational opportunities. Rather than advancing legitimate security concerns, the bans have undermined America's national interests and its commitment to equality before the law.

The National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act (The NO BAN Act) would not only repeal several iterations of the travel bans, but also ensure that no future administration could issue a similar ban that would block immigrants from entering the United States based on their religion. The NO BAN Act keeps in place the executive branch's authority to limit the entry of persons into the United States, but also establishes important standards and safeguards, including requiring that any future restriction be supported by specific evidence and be narrowly tailored to address a compelling governmental interest.

AILA disapproves of the language, inserted during the committee process into H.R. 2214, that includes within the definition of "public safety" efforts to contain a communicable disease. Immigration laws already provide rigorous measures to protect the public from disease and health risks. The potential for abuse of this additional authority is patently evident in the current administration's recent bans on asylum seekers and other immigrants by using the pretext of the COVID-19 pandemic without scientific or other data to justify the bans.

Taken in its entirety, the NO BAN Act will significantly reduce the likelihood of invidious bans, like the Muslim ban, from being implemented in the future. **AILA urges House members to VOTE YES on its passage and to oppose any amendments or changes to the bill.**