

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing today to express our concerns with your executive orders on immigration and homeland security and their harmful impact on our nation's small businesses. These actions do nothing to make our country safer and target the root causes of terrorism, but instead close the door on the innocent individuals and families seeking refuge from war, violence, and oppression.

Not only do these executive orders undermine the values that define our nation, they significantly affect the success of our small businesses, which are the engine driving America's economic growth and job creation. In a letter to the White House and Congress, nearly 1,500 economists wrote that "immigration brings entrepreneurs who start new businesses that hire American workers."¹ In fact, 18 percent of small business owners are immigrants,² and as we strive to promote economic opportunity, we depend on the diversity, knowledge, and innovation that they bring to our country. Immigrants contribute to every industry, including medical, transportation, manufacturing, technology, restaurant, tourism, and hospitality, making it clear that immigration is vital to the United States.

As Members of Congress, we also recognize that small businesses need certainty to make essential operational decisions and to help their companies prosper. Your disruptive immigration policies have instead sown confusion among America's small business owners. For example, the United States could suffer from an expected 4.3 million fewer foreign visitors this year, resulting in \$7.4 billion in lost revenue.³ With so many small businesses in the tourism industry, the decrease in foreign visitors could significantly impact their business. Similarly, the technology industry could see a decline in immigrant entrepreneurs, as 25 percent of engineering and technology companies have at least one immigrant key-founder.⁴ In that same vein, studies have

¹1,470 Economists, letter to President, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Minority Leader Pelosi, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/NAE-Economist-Letter-April-2017.pdf>.

²"Immigrant Small Business Owners: A Significant and Growing Part of the Economy," *Fiscal Policy Institute's Immigration Research Initiative* (2012), <http://www.fiscalspolicy.org/immigrant-small-business-owners-FPI-20120614.pdf>.

³Henry Goldman, "Trump travel ban begins to deter foreign tourists from U.S.," *Chicago Tribune*, March 6, 2017, <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ct-trump-travel-ban-deters-tourists-20170306-story.html>.

⁴Vivek Wadhwa, Saxenian, AnnaLee, and Siciliano, F. Daniel, "America's New Immigrant Entrepreneurs:

repeatedly shown a void of skilled and trained workers, leaving employers with unfilled job vacancies.⁵ There simply are not enough American workers with the skills to fill these jobs, proving just how important immigrant science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) workers are to America's progress.

In rural America, many communities depend on immigrant health care professionals to work their local medical practices. At the same time, small health care practices rely on their patients and many have experienced a decline in patient visits by immigrants who fear being deported.⁶

The impact of these executive orders span small businesses in every industry across our country, with some small firms being forced to cut their staff by up to 30 percent due to an increase in immigration raids.⁷ These executive actions do not represent who we are as a nation and are not what our country needs to grow and prosper. We urge you to reconsider your actions and withdraw these executive orders. We remain hopeful you will refrain from issuing any additional orders that will negatively impact small businesses' ability to hire, grow, and succeed in the United States. We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



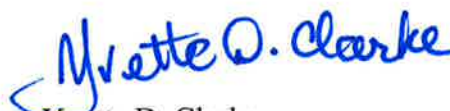
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Then and Now," *Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation* (2012), http://www.kauffman.org/~media/kauffman_org/research%20reports%20and%20covers/2012/10/then_and_now_americas_new_immigrant_entrepreneurs.pdf.

⁵ Patrick Gillespie, "America's persistent problem: Unskilled workers," *CNN Money*, August 7, 2015, <http://money.cnn.com/2015/08/07/news/economy/us-economy-job-skills-gap/>.

⁶ Ike Swetlitz, "Immigrants, fearing Trump's deportation policies, avoid doctor visits," *PBS*, February 25, 2017, <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/immigrants-trump-deportation-doctor/>.


⁷ Jeff Daniels, "Immigration raids having chilling effect as fear keeps customers away from small stores," *CNBC*, March 7, 2017, <http://www.cnn.com/2017/03/07/immigration-raids-having-chilling-effect-on-small-businesses.html>.



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