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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 17, 2017

Ms. Heather Daniels
Secretary of Academic Staff
University of Wisconsin-Madison
500 Lincoln Drive
270 Bascom Hall
Madison, WI 53706-1330

Dear Ms. Daniels,

Thank you for taking the time to contact me about the immigration policies put forward by President Trump. I value your opinions and appreciate your taking the time to write me.

As you are aware, within a week of his inauguration, President Trump took the first steps towards implementing a number of extreme immigration and refugee policies. He has taken steps to ban immigrants and refugees from majority Muslim countries, build a wall along our Southern border with Mexico, round up undocumented immigrants living in the United States, and prohibit federal funds for "sanctuary cities" that protect undocumented immigrants from deportation.

When President Trump unveiled his first Executive Order (EO) banning immigrants and refugees from certain Muslim-majority countries, my opposition was immediate. I cosponsored legislation to stop the flow of federal funding that would be used to implement the ban. The message it sent was a recruiting tool for groups like ISIS and put our troops abroad at risk. In addition to being bad policy, I believe the EO was unconstitutional and unethical. Our opposition to President Trump's Executive Order was vindicated when the courts struck it down, and the President chose not to appeal to the Supreme Court. As new Executive Orders and legislation are unveiled, I will continue to judge them on their merits — never at the cost of fundamental American ideals like inclusivity and freedom from persecution.

President Trump has also instructed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to be more aggressive in finding, arresting, and deporting those people who are in the country illegally, regardless of whether they have committed serious crimes. He has also taken steps to roll back critical privacy and due process rights of these individuals. The vast majority of immigrants came to America in search of a better life for themselves and their families, and their contributions to our society are just as important as yours and mine. The notion of deporting mothers and fathers who have committed no crimes is unconscionable, and galvanizes myself and my colleagues to fight these un-American policies.

I firmly believe our immigration laws ought to reflect both our interests and our values as Americans. Since our nation's founding, immigrants have shaped our nation and contributed to American culture and commerce. Contrary to the rhetoric of this Administration, we can uphold our proud tradition as a nation of immigrants while also protecting public safety; these values are not contradictory. Our country must hold high security standards for our borders and place tighter restrictions on people overstaying their visas without permission. But such measures must never come into conflict with essential American virtues like the freedom to practice one's religion without persecution, or the freedom of self-determination.

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, there are 21.3 million refugees in the world. The United States must do its part to aid those who fled their home countries to escape persecution, war, or violence. To that end, last year I cosponsored several pieces of legislation to address those areas where our immigration system falls short. Among them was H.R.2798, the *Strengthening Refugee Resettlement Act*, which sought to streamline and secure our system for processing refugees; and H.R.825, the *Freedom of Religion Act of 2017*, which would amend our immigration law to ensure that no one would be refused entry to the United States on the basis of his or her religion.

Rest assured, I will continue to stand up for the humanity of all individuals and families and I will work with my colleagues to advocate for both short-term and long-term solutions to improve our immigration laws.

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact me about this important issue. If I can be of any further assistance regarding this or any other impending issues, please call my office at (608) 258-9800. If you would like to receive regular updates from me on this and other congressional issues, please visit my website at <https://pocan.house.gov>, and follow me on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/repmarkpocan>) and Twitter (@RepMarkPocan).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Pocan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress