Memorandum Regarding the Recent Immigration Ban signed by President Trump

Nearly 240 years ago today, our Founding Fathers, in an act of defiance to British tyranny, declared independence, and began to build a country that was of the people, by the people, and for the people. After a brutal War for Independence, the United States of America shocked the world by defeating a powerful military force. They created a nation that despite where you came from, what status you held, or what faith you practiced, you were still guaranteed life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, a place where you can worship freely, have a say in who you want to be in the government, and a place where you could build your home. Emma Lazarus, 7 years after the completion of the Statue of Liberty, said it best, in her poem The New Colossus, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free…I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”

However, due to the actions of President Donald J. Trump, 20,000 refugees would not be able to come into the United States, according to the United Nations'. These people are fleeing war torn countries and attempting to escape persecution and poverty. Among these people are women and children. The doctrine set forth by the President, to deny entry into this country on the basis of religion, is inexcusable, and works against the very principles outlined by the Founding Fathers. America is a country founded and built by immigrants and religious freedom is one of the founding principles that we still hold dear to our hearts. Due to the actions of a few, our President has now wrongfully stigmatized those of the Islamic faith from foreign countries and abroad as being a threat to our nation and are using that as a base to keep these very refugees away.

Here, at the University of Texas at San Antonio, we hold the core values of inclusiveness and respect. While we may all not share the same religious, ethnicity, or political views; we are all one family. We value to include those who may feel like they do not belong. We share ideas and collaborate to advance our knowledge and the knowledge of our fellow Roadrunners. It is time for America to do the same. We, the Student Government Association of the University of Texas at San Antonio, stand in solidarity with the refugees seeking asylum in America, including but not limited to Muslims, Jews, Christians, women, children, and all those escaping tyranny and persecution. We firmly believe that innocent individuals deserve the chance to escape the turmoil of their home countries.

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