Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 30, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

With regard to your executive order to temporarily halt immigration originating from specified countries, we want to register our strong support for the request of Secretary of Defense James Mattis to exempt military interpreters, aides and other allies who risked their lives alongside U.S. personnel in Iraq. Congress established the Iraqi Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program in 2008, and we are acutely aware of the significant contribution of these individuals in support of America's global campaign against radical terrorism.

These allies risked their own lives, as well as the well-being of their families, to advance America's security interests in a region where their skillsets and willingness to confront extremism have been invaluable to mission success. We are concerned that, with specific application to individuals who worked with the U.S. Government, certain immigrants deserving prompt consideration are likely to be overlooked. We encourage you to make special consideration in the review process for these individuals who are certain to face threats to their own lives as part of the broader pause in refugee and immigrant admissions.

It is important that a special exception is made for the consideration of individuals who directly supported American personnel overseas. We respectfully ask that you take this action to ensure these individuals are not put in any further danger. Doing so would send a strong signal to those who show such immense courage to advance U.S. security interests at a risk to their own safety, as well as the many veterans and warfighters who've relied on the service of these individuals for their own protection and to accomplish their objectives.

Sincerely,

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

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Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress