

## Together a Diverse Community

It was January 28, 2017, the Chinese New Year. I am half Chinese and half Iranian, and all American. My family was planning to celebrate the occasion with friends and family. The guests were to arrive soon, but my father who had been tracking the news about an executive order President Trump had signed the previous day, learned about a protest in the San Francisco airport. President Trump had banned seven Muslim countries' citizens and refugees from entering the United States. My family then delayed all dinner plans to go protest. The day we had planned to celebrate our diversity we instead spent peacefully protesting to protect it. The protest was jam-packed, but what really stood out was how people of all races and religions were helping the cause. This was established through cardboard signs which had phrases such as 'Jews for Muslims' and 'Blacks for Muslims'. This demonstrates how a community stood together.

This was meaningful for my family because one of the main reasons my parents immigrated from China and Iran was to come to a country with religious and political freedom and where no one is above the law. This executive order started to break those principles in the way that it singled out Muslims. This order would also eventually lead to a decrease in immigration which would be devastating to America's economy. This is critical, 51% of America's billion-dollar companies are founded by immigrants. Without these companies many people would lose their jobs.

As a California senator who disagrees with this ban you could make sure that our laws preventing discrimination are followed. This was not what occurred in this executive order. You could also prevent taxpayer money from being spent on these discriminatory laws and instead use them to help the community.

Some people assume that foreigners are taking away jobs. Though that is false, it's true that people need jobs. You could create a system that gave the people who lost their jobs an education so they could find another job. With a proper education people could create companies and inventions thus creating more jobs. This could prevent people from believing that foreigners are at fault for taking their job.

Youth Education could also help make the country more culturally aware, and give people a different perspective on life at a young age. Children could be taught a new language at every school. Students could also learn what it means to be a democrat or republican. For example, due to living in California a Democratic state I know very little on what it means to be republican, this could be vice versa in a mostly republican state. This would give people a different outlook and unite individuals republican or democratic.

In conclusion, everyone needs to remember what America stands for; being able to have religious and political freedom and the rule of law, while remembering that our diversity should be cherished, and is the source of our strength.