

The Columbus Dispatch found more than 1,900 such cases in Ohio alone. Individual cases revealed OneWest Bank declared properties vacant, even though someone was living in them. OneWest Bank, time and again, refused to abide by agreed-upon loan modifications.

Is that the kind of person that we really want in charge of the U.S. Treasury Department?

Nominee Mnuchin comes with a Goldman Sachs pedigree. Well, wouldn't we know that? He was nicknamed the "foreclosure king" after buying up IndyMac, a subprime lender that evicted about 36,000 people during the financial crisis.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, while President-elect Trump promised to drain the swamp, his nominee for Treasury Secretary proves he is not doing that at all. He is enlarging the swamp.

The Columbus Dispatch found more than 1,900, I repeat, OneWest Bank foreclosures in our State's six largest counties from 2009 to 2015.

In addition, Mr. Mnuchin profited personally off of kicking people out of their homes. Does such a person actually deserve confirmation as Secretary of the Treasury of the United States of America?

Wake up, America. Wake up. Pay attention to what is happening here in Washington, D.C. This city belongs to you. This Capitol belongs to you.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to place in the RECORD a release I sent out over the weekend relating to President Trump's executive order on immigration and refugees.

KAPTUR STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ORDER ON IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEES

CONDEMNS MISGUIDED MANDATE, INVITES TRUMP TO MEET WITH REFUGEES WHO CALL OHIO HOME

WASHINGTON, DC.—Today Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09) released the following statement in light of confusion and hurt emanating from President Donald Trump's Executive Order on immigration and refugees.

"In New York harbor, not far from President Donald Trump's office tower stands the awesome Statue of Liberty with Emma Lazarus' immortal words, 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.' Surely, President Trump has read these words.

"Ancestors of the Trump and Kaptur families both passed through that unforgettable portal as they made their way to America as immigrants. How can we deny to others the gift of freedom bequeathed to us?

"I support robust efforts to make America safe and secure. But a workable solution should ensure America's safety without destroying our heritage as an immigrant nation, dedicated to liberty and justice for all.

"President Trump's mandate will make America less safe. It penalizes worthy individuals and actually gives terrorist cells ammunition to use against America. This mandate puts people at risk who have helped America in our battle against terrorism, at home and abroad. It punishes innocent individuals caught in the crossfire fleeing terror and tribal conflict.

"Dangerously this misconceived Executive Order will spur anti-American sentiment

globally and on the Internet, spurring more terrorism, including against our troops, and it potentially aggravating religious conflict half way around the world. Reckless rhetoric puts our nation at greater risk at home and puts Americans traveling abroad in danger.

"I cordially invite the President to northern Ohio to meet personally with some of the crossfire fleeing the terror of war and tribal conflict. A well-crafted policy should enshrine liberty for all law-abiding persons while avoiding unintended consequences that can be used by our enemies to enflame terrorism."

Ms. KAPTUR. I just wish to say that the ancestors of the Trump family, as well as the Kaptur family, passed through the unforgettable portal of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. And the words at the base of that statue are emblazoned in the minds of families like our own going back generations. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." Surely, President Trump has read these words.

I support robust efforts to make America safe and secure, and have served on all the committees in this Congress that aim to do that. But workable solutions should ensure America's safety, without destroying our heritage as an immigrant Nation dedicated to liberty and justice for all.

President Trump's mandate actually will make America less safe because it penalizes worthy individuals and puts them at greater risk, and it actually gives terrorist cells ammunition to use against America.

□ 1100

Think about it. This mandate puts people at risk who helped America in our battle against terrorism abroad and at home, and it punishes innocent individuals caught in the crossfire fleeing terror and tribal conflict.

Dangerously, this misconceived executive order will spur anti-American sentiment globally and on the internet spurring more terrorism. The old World War II motto "loose lips sink ships" is going to happen because of the way this was conducted. Reckless rhetoric puts our Nation at greater risk at home and puts Americans fighting for us and those traveling abroad in greater danger.

Mr. Speaker, I cordially invite the President to northern Ohio. Come and meet some of the people whose lives your order changed. I think you will change your mind.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

IRAQI SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we are seeing from coast to coast demonstrations, protests, with people speaking out against the outrageous, reckless, and cruel executive order pro-

mulgated by the administration on Friday. It is wrong, and it is immoral on so many levels. It is hard to know where to start.

I just left my office with the president of the Western States chiropractic college—the largest such institution in the country—Joe Brimhall has a number of students who are dual citizens who need to leave the United States to take their board-certified tests next week in Canada. He doesn't know what to tell them. Pursue their professional career and maybe not be able to come back to the United States and finish at the college? It is embarrassing that we can't give him guidance about this ill-thought-out and reckless executive order that wasn't planned and still is having the details worked out.

But perhaps the worst aspect of this blanket cancellation is as it affects Special Immigrant Visas for Iraqis who are waiting to come to the United States. Whatever you think about the Iraq war, the men and women in Iraq who volunteered to help our forces were essential. They were guides, they were interpreters, and they worked on the projects. We could not have done the job over there without them. In many cases, they blended into the units in which they served. I have had cases where our soldiers have described to me how these people literally saved their lives.

I have heard from veterans who care deeply and wonder about the signal that they are sending to people they regarded essentially as family. They wonder how this administration could have forgotten about them. The guard in my office in Portland, who is a veteran, was asking me what is going on. He recalled his story about an interpreter who was critical to him when he served in Iraq. How could we have forgotten them?

I will tell you somebody who has not forgotten them are the Taliban and the ISIS terrorists. They regard these people as traitors. The terrorists have long memories, and want to make people pay for helping the United States. We have seen countless examples of these people being hunted down by terrorists. They have been assaulted, they have been kidnapped, they have had family members held for ransom, and they have been murdered.

That is why I have worked on a bipartisan basis for 10 years establishing the Special Immigrant Visa program with the late Senator Kennedy, with Senator JOHN MCCAIN, Senator SHAHEEN, my Republican colleague ADAM KINZINGER, and Congressmen STIVERS and HUNTER who were veterans themselves and understood why this program was important.

There is a lot of talk about extreme vetting. Trust me—the applicants for these visas are extremely vetted, taking 2 and 3 years, sometimes longer, fighting the bureaucracy, trying to make sure that they can escape to safety. Many have been killed because the extreme vetting process took so long.

To turn their lives upside down and put them at risk because there are people in the White House who don't understand or who don't care is appalling.

I applaud my colleagues in both parties who are speaking out and asking the administration to come to its senses on this blanket ban of Muslims from seven countries—seven countries, by the way, that have not been involved with terrorist acts. This is not going to make us any safer. Some have speculated that some of the countries that have been left out, like Saudi Arabia, where most of the 9/11 terrorists came from, were left out because the President has business interests there.

I don't know why these countries were selected, but the fact is it should end today. It should end not just because of the brave men and women under the Special Immigrant Visa program from Iraq whose lives are now at greater risk because of this reckless act. It is wrong because of the signals we are sending to foreign nationals whom we rely upon. It is not just in Iraq. We have people who work for the United States who live in many other countries who help us with the State Department programs and with the military. What message are we sending to them if the United States is not going to stand up and protect them?

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, thank You for giving us another day.

It is Your nature to hold us in Your living presence always. It is our nature to think of You or of others only momentarily or in passing.

Be with each of us that we may be our very best and prove ourselves worthy of Your love and Your grace.

Bless the Members of this people's House in their work and deliberations today that they might merit the trust of the American people and manifest the strength of our Republican democracy to the nations of the world.

As the new administration finds its footing and settles into its governing principles, may this assembly assist by remaining faithful to its constitutional responsibilities with the help of Your grace and wisdom.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SPY CAR STUDY ACT

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, American families today are at an increased risk of cyber attacks. Additional reports of cyber vulnerability in cars threaten the safety of American families by allowing a hacker to access a vehicle and take control from the driver. Vehicle safety is of great importance to me because South Carolina is America's leading exporter of automobiles and tires, with BMW, soon Volvo, along with Michelin, Bridgestone, Continental, and Giti in Singapore.

Last week, I was grateful to introduce the SPY Car Study Act of 2017 with Congressman TED LIEU of California. This bipartisan legislation directs government partners and private automobile manufacturers to conduct a study on the security and privacy threats to our motor vehicles.

In conclusion, God bless our troops; and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

President Donald Trump has taken positive action to vet refugees who ISIS has threatened to infiltrate so as to commit mass murder as they did in France and Germany.

WELCOMING REFUGEES IN RUTLAND, VERMONT

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I wish to introduce President Trump to two Syrian families who made it to safety in Rutland, Vermont, just a week before he slammed the door.

The al-Hallak family is from Damascus, and the Khatib family is from Aleppo. These families survived a home being bombed, al Qaeda and ISIS terrorists, and the brutal violence of the Assad regime. They found temporary refuge in Turkey. They have now found permanent freedom in Vermont. These good people endured all of this hardship to do what all parents strive to do—protect their children from harm.

Madam Speaker, I wish President Trump were with me last Thursday in Rutland to meet the al-Hallaks and the Khatibs. Do we really fear these families when they have been so rigorously vetted?

I wish President Trump were with me to meet the generous people of Rutland. They had good questions about the refugee program—its cost and their security. Yet, Madam Speaker, unlike President Trump, the folks in Rutland never, never wanted to ban Muslims and welcome only Christians.

PRESERVING WORKPLACE PROTECTIONS FOR LGBT FEDERAL CONTRACTORS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am heartened by the administration's announcement that it will preserve workplace protections for LGBT Federal contractors. This is a meaningful and positive step toward ending discrimination against hardworking LGBT Americans who only want to earn a living and provide for themselves and their families.

For many years I have been working with my congressional colleagues on both sides of the aisle to protect skilled, qualified, and motivated LGBT employees. Too often these individuals experience rejections at job interviews, are denied promotions, or face other types of harassment in the workplace simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

This shameful practice of discrimination on the job runs counter to our core values of fairness and equality. I hope that the administration and Congress can work together to extend equal rights to LGBT individuals in every sector.

BASIC AMERICAN VALUES IN WESTERN NEW YORK

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of so many western New Yorkers and Americans who are outraged by the President's executive order on immigration.

The story of America is defined by the struggle of immigrants overcoming