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**Grace Meng**

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**Sixth District, New York**

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January 29, 2017

## **Co-Sponsor Legislation Defunding President Trump's Unconstitutional Executive Order Banning Refugees**

*Original Co-Sponsors (14):* Nanette Diaz Barragán; Cheri Bustos; David Cicilline; Katherine Clark; Yvette Clarke; Ruben Gallego; Hakeem Jeffries; Ann Kuster; Barbara Lee; Gregory Meeks; Jamie Raskin; Tim Ryan; Thomas Suozzi; Bonnie Watson Coleman

Dear Colleague,

I invite you to be an original co-sponsor of legislation I will be introducing this week that prohibits funds made available by Congress from being used to enforce President Trump's refugee ban. Full text of the legislation is provided on the following page.

Not only is President Trump's ban bad policy, it is unconstitutional. The first 10 words of the Bill of Rights state: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion," yet the President has repeatedly stated that this order will be used to implement an official government preference for the admission of Christian refugees into America ([Brody File Exclusive: President Trump Says Persecuted Christians Will Be Given Priority As Refugees](#)).

This legislation is modeled after [House Amendment No. 6](#) to [H.R. 240](#), the "Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015" which passed the House by a vote of [237-190](#) on January 14, 2015. That amendment sought to prohibit funds made available by Congress from being used to carry out President Obama's immigration orders ([House Passes Bill to Defund Obama's Immigration Orders](#)).

I urge you to support this important measure, and welcome any questions or concerns you may have. In order to add your name, do not hesitate to contact me directly or have your staff contact David Bagby of my staff at [david.bagby@mail.house.gov](mailto:david.bagby@mail.house.gov) or (202) 225-2601.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Grace Meng  
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## **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “No Funds for Unconstitutional Executive Orders Act”.

## **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

Congress finds the following:

- (1) The first 10 words of the Bill of Rights state: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion”.
- (2) In *Larson v. Valente*, the Supreme Court stated: “the clearest command of the Establishment Clause is that one religious denomination cannot be officially preferred over another.”
- (3) On January 27, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed into force an Executive Order imposing a selective ban on immigration from majority-Muslim nations.
- (4) On January 27, 2017, President Trump signed into force an Executive Order that permits the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security to admit individuals to the United States as refugees if they are a religious minority in their home nation, because that is in the “national interest”.
- (5) On January 27, 2017, the Christian Broadcasting Network published an interview between David Brody and President Trump entitled *Brody File Exclusive: President Trump Says Persecuted Christians Will Be Given Priority As Refugees* in which President Trump says persecuted Christians will be given priority for admission to the U.S. over other religions.
- (6) The Executive Order entitled “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States” authored and signed by President Trump violates the Establishment Clause of the United States Constitution.

## **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION.**

No funds, resources, or fees made available by the United States Congress to any Federal agency may be used to implement, administer, enforce, or carry out (including through the issuance of any regulations) any of the policy changes set forth in the Executive Order titled “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States” signed by President Donald J. Trump on January 27, 2017.