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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON**

9 STATE OF WASHINGTON,

CIVIL ACTION NO.

10 Plaintiff,

MOTION FOR TEMPORARY  
 RESTRAINING ORDER

11 v.

Motion Noted: January 30, 2017

12 DONALD TRUMP, in his official  
 13 capacity as President of the United  
 States; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
 14 HOMELAND SECURITY; JOHN F.  
 KELLY, in his official capacity as  
 15 Secretary of the Department of  
 Homeland Security; TOM SHANNON,  
 16 in his official capacity as Acting  
 Secretary of State; and the UNITED  
 17 STATES OF AMERICA,

18 Defendants.

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

Federal courts have no more sacred role than protecting marginalized groups against irrational, discriminatory conduct. Over the last 48 hours, federal courts across the country have exercised this role, ordering President Trump’s administration to release individuals who were detained pursuant to the President’s Executive Order on immigration and refugees issued late on Friday, January 27. Each of those courts found a significant likelihood that the Executive Order violates federal law. Today, the State of Washington asks this Court to make the same finding and to enter a nationwide temporary restraining order barring enforcement of portions of the order. This relief is necessary to protect the State, its residents, and its businesses from ongoing irreparable harm, and is overwhelmingly in the public interest.

President Trump’s Executive Order bans all refugees from entering the country for 120 days, and bans all refugees from Syria indefinitely, whether they be infants, schoolchildren, or grandmothers. Washington families waiting to be reunited with their loved ones have had their dreams of reunification destroyed, as their refugee relatives around the world were taken off airplanes or told they are no longer welcome.

The Order also bans nationals from seven countries from entering the United States for 90 days. Though the administration’s interpretation of the Order has changed repeatedly over the last 48 hours, it has applied the Order to block longtime legal permanent residents from returning to this country, and the Order’s text purports to grant the administration authority to continue denying entry to such residents. This entry ban is harming legal permanent residents who live in Washington, Washington businesses that employ residents from the listed countries, and Washington families whose loved ones are trying to visit them.

In addition to suffering these irreparable harms, the State has a strong likelihood of success on its claims. The Executive Order has both the intent and effect of discriminating based on national origin and religion, in violation of the Constitution. Strict scrutiny applies,

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1 and the order fails utterly. Even if rational basis review applied, the Order would fail because  
2 it is motivated by discriminatory animus and bears no relationship to its purported ends.  
3 While preventing terrorist attacks is an important goal, the order does nothing to further that  
4 purpose by denying admission to children fleeing Syria's civil war, to refugees who valiantly  
5 assisted the U.S. military in Iraq, or to law-abiding high-tech workers who have lived in  
6 Washington for years. The Order also violates the Immigration and Nationality Act.

7 In short, the Order is illegal, is causing and will continue to cause irreparable harm in  
8 Washington, and is contrary to the public interest. The Court should fulfill its constitutional  
9 role as a check on executive abuse and temporarily bar enforcement of the Order nationwide.

## 10 II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

11 Donald Trump campaigned on the promise that he would ban Muslims from entering  
12 the United States. Compl. For Decl. & Inj. Relief ("Compl.") ¶ 28, ECF No. 1. On December  
13 7, 2015, he issued a press release calling for "a total and complete shutdown of Muslims  
14 entering the United States." Compl. ¶ 29. Over the next several months, he defended and  
15 reiterated this promise. Compl. ¶¶ 30-32. On August 15, 2016, Trump proposed an  
16 ideological screening test for immigration applicants, which he referred to as "extreme  
17 vetting." Compl. ¶ 33.

18 Following his inauguration, President Trump reaffirmed his commitment to "extreme  
19 vetting." Compl. ¶ 34. Within one week of taking office, President Trump signed an order  
20 entitled "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States". Compl.  
21 ¶ 35. The Order directs a variety of changes to the manner and extent to which non-citizens  
22 may obtain admission to the United States. *Id.* Among other things, it imposes a 120-day  
moratorium on the refugee resettlement program as a whole; indefinitely suspends the entry  
of Syrian refugees; and suspends for 90 days entry of all immigrants and nonimmigrants  
from seven majority-Muslim countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.

1 Compl. ¶¶ 36-38. President Trump subsequently stated that the purpose of the Executive  
2 Order was to establish “new vetting measures to keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the  
3 United States.” Compl. ¶ 40. He also confirmed his intent to prioritize Christians in the  
4 Middle East for admission as refugees. Compl. ¶ 39.

5 The Executive Order has had immediate and significant effects in Washington. Most  
6 urgently, the Order is tearing Washington families apart. Husbands are separated from wives,  
7 brothers are separated from sisters, and parents are separated from their children. Compl.  
8 ¶¶ 20-22. Some who have waited decades to see family members had that reunion taken  
9 without warning or reason. Compl. ¶ 20. While the anecdotal stories are heartbreaking, Decl.  
10 of E. Chiang ¶¶ 11-13, the sheer number of people affected is also notable. Over 7,000  
11 noncitizen immigrants from the affected countries reside in Washington. Compl. ¶ 10; Decl.  
12 of N. Purcell ¶ 7; Ex. A. These Washingtonians now face considerable uncertainty about  
13 whether and when they may travel. Compl. ¶ 21. Additionally, an unknown but large number  
14 of Washington residents are originally from these countries but are now U.S. citizens, who  
15 wish to be able to receive visits from overseas relatives or see them move here as refugees or  
16 otherwise.

17 Washington’s businesses and economy are also impacted. Washington-based travel  
18 company Expedia is incurring costs to assist its customers who are now banned from travel  
19 to the United States. Decl. of R. Dzielak ¶¶ 12-14, 20. Washington companies Amazon,  
20 Expedia, and Microsoft depend on skilled immigrants to operate and grow their businesses.  
21 Compl. ¶¶ 11-12, 14-16; Decl. of A. Blackwell-Hawkins ¶¶ 3-4; Decl. of R. Dzielak ¶¶ 7, 9.  
22 At least 76 Microsoft employees are originally from the affected countries and hold  
temporary work visas. Compl. ¶ 14. As a result of the Executive Order, such employees may  
be banned from reentering the United States if they travel overseas. *Id.* The Executive Order  
will affect these companies’ ability to recruit and retain talented workers, to the detriment of

1 Washington’s economy and tax base. Compl. ¶ 13; Decl. of R. Dzielak ¶¶ 7, 21; *see also*  
2 Decl. of A. Blackwell-Hawkins ¶¶ 4, 11.

3 The Executive Order is also harming Washington’s educational institutions. More  
4 than 95 immigrants from the affected countries attend the University of Washington. Compl.  
5 ¶ 17; Decl. of J. Riedinger ¶ 5. More than 130 attend Washington State University. Decl. of  
6 A. Chaudhry ¶ 5. The Executive Order is already disrupting students’ personal and  
7 professional lives, preventing travel for research and scholarship, and harming the  
8 universities’ missions. Decl. of J. Riedinger ¶¶ 6-8; Decl. of A. Chaudhry ¶¶ 6-9.

9 As long as the Executive Order is in place, it will continue to have these serious,  
10 pointless effects on Washington’s families, businesses, and educational institutions.

11 **III. ARGUMENT**

12 **A. Standard for Granting Temporary Relief**

13 To obtain a temporary restraining order, the State must establish 1) a likelihood of  
14 success on the merits; 2) that irreparable harm is likely in the absence of preliminary relief;  
15 3) that the balance of equities tips in the State’s favor; and 4) that an injunction is in the  
16 public interest. *Winter v. Nat. Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 20, 129 S. Ct. 365, 172 L.  
17 Ed. 2d 249 (2008); Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(b)(1); *Stuhlberg Int’l Sales Co. v. John D. Brush &*  
18 *Co.*, 240 F.3d 832, 839 n. 7 (9th Cir. 2001). And while the State can establish all of these  
19 factors, “[h]ow strong a claim on the merits is enough depends on the balance of harms: the  
20 more net harm an injunction can prevent, the weaker the plaintiff’s claim on the merits can  
21 be while still supporting some preliminary relief.” *All. for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell*, 632  
22 F.3d 1127, 1133 (9th Cir. 2011) (quoting *Hoosier Energy Rural Elec. Co-op., Inc. v. John*  
*Hancock Life Ins. Co.*, 582 F.3d 721, 725 (7th Cir. 2009)). Thus, while the State’s claims on  
the merits are extremely strong, temporary relief would be appropriate even if they were less  
clearly meritorious given how sharply the balance of harms tips in the State’s favor.

1     **B.     The State is Likely to Prevail on the Merits Because the Executive Order is**  
2     **Illegal in Many Respects**

3             The Executive Order violates multiple provisions of the Constitution and federal  
4     statutes. As demonstrated below, the State is highly likely to prevail on the merits.

5             **1.     The State is Likely to Prevail on the Merits of Its Claim that the**  
6     **Executive Order Violates the Equal Protection Clause**

7             **a.     Standard of review**

8             The Fifth Amendment has an “equal protection component,” *Harris v. McRae*, 448  
9     U.S. 297, 297 (1980), and noncitizens “com[e] within the ambit of the equal protection  
10    component of the Due Process Clause,” *Kwai Fun Wong v. United States*, 373 F.3d 952, 974  
11    (9th Cir. 2004). In equal protection analysis, the court first decides whether a challenged  
12    classification burdens a suspect or quasi-suspect class. *Ball v. Massanari*, 254 F.3d 817, 823  
13    (9th Cir. 2001). “If the statute employs a suspect class (such as race, religion, or national  
14    origin) or burdens the exercise of a constitutional right, then courts must apply strict scrutiny,  
15    and ask whether the statute is narrowly tailored to serve a compelling governmental interest.”  
16    *Id.* “[C]lassifications based on alienage, like those based on nationality or race, are inherently  
17    suspect and subject to close judicial scrutiny.” *Graham v. Richardson*, 403 U.S. 365, 372  
18    (1971) (footnotes omitted); *see also City of New Orleans v. Dukes*, 427 U.S. 297, 303 (1976)  
19    (religion is an “inherently suspect distinction”). If no suspect classification is implicated, the  
20    court applies rational basis review, and determines whether the statute is rationally related to  
21    a legitimate governmental interest. *Ball*, 254 F.3d at 823.

22             While courts generally give more latitude to the political branches in the immigration  
context, *see, e.g., Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 695 (2001), this does not mean that the  
political branches can act with impunity. In protecting its borders, this country does not set  
aside its values or its Constitution. *Id.* (the political branches’ “power is subject to important



1 constitutional limitations”); *INS v. Chadha*, 462 U.S. 919, 941-42 (1983) (Congress must  
2 choose “a constitutionally permissible means of implementing” its power over immigration).

3 Here, the Executive Order cannot pass muster under any standard of review. Its  
4 blunderbuss approach—prompted by irrational fear and blind animus—is at odds with the  
5 fundamental American promise that all are entitled to equal protection under the law.

6 **b. Strict scrutiny applies**

7 The Court should apply strict scrutiny to the Executive Order. While courts often  
8 defer to the political branches’ reasoned judgments on immigration policy, they do not give a  
9 blank check to ignore the law. Here, the State challenges not an act of Congress or a carefully  
10 formulated regulation, but an Executive Order that was written largely by the President’s  
11 political advisers without consultation of legal experts or the National Security Council and  
12 that flatly discriminates on the basis of national origin and religion, in at least three ways.

13 First, the executive order discriminates based on national origin by singling out  
14 people from seven countries for an outright ban on admission to the United States. Notably,  
15 the Executive Order on its face applies to lawful permanent residents from the listed  
16 countries who live in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Lawful permanent residents are accorded the same  
17 constitutional protections as United States citizens. *See Kwong Hai Chew v. Colding*, 344  
18 U.S. 590, 596 (1953); *see also Bridges v. Wixon*, 326 U.S. 135 (1945) (“[O]nce an alien  
19 lawfully enters and resides in this country he becomes invested with the rights guaranteed by  
20 the Constitution to all people within our borders. Such rights include those protected by the  
21 First and the Fifth Amendments and by the due process clause of the Fourteenth  
22 Amendment.”). The Order’s blatant distinction between green-card holders currently residing  
in the United States on the basis of national origin demands strict scrutiny. “[C]lassifications

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<sup>1</sup> Although administration officials have since suggested that, despite the plain language of the Executive Order, the ban might not be fully implemented against lawful permanent residents, the text of the Executive Order remains in effect regardless of the ever-changing instructions from Defendants.

1 . . . based on nationality . . . are inherently suspect and subject to close judicial scrutiny,”  
 2 *Graham*, 403 U.S. at 372, and are “odious to a free people whose institutions are founded  
 3 upon the doctrine of equality.” *Oyama v. California*, 332 U.S. 633, 646 (1948) (quoting  
 4 *Hirabayashi v. United States*, 320 U.S. 81, 100 (1943)).

5 Second, the executive order singles out refugees from Syria for differential treatment,  
 6 indefinitely suspending their entry whether they be toddlers or grandmothers. Syrian-  
 7 American families in Washington and across the country awaiting their refugee relatives are  
 8 left with no idea when their relatives will be allowed to come, solely based on nationality.

9 Third and finally, as discussed in more detail in Part B.2, the Executive Order  
 10 discriminates based on religion. On its face, the Executive Order requires immigration  
 11 officials to “prioritize refugee claims made by individuals on the basis of religious-based  
 12 persecution, provided that the religion of the individual is a minority religion in the  
 13 individual’s country of nationality.” Sec. 5(b). As detailed below, comments by President  
 14 Trump and his advisers make clear that the intent of this provision is to give preference to  
 15 Christian refugees while disadvantaging Muslim refugees.<sup>2</sup> Compl. ¶ 39; Ex. 8. Importantly,  
 16 the State need not show that intent to discriminate against Muslims “was the sole purpose of  
 17 the challenged action, but only that it was a ‘motivating factor.’” *Arce v. Douglas*, 793 F.3d  
 18 968, 977 (9th Cir. 2015) (quoting *Vill. of Arlington Heights v. Metro. Hous. Dev. Corp.*, 429  
 19 U.S. 252, 265–66 (1977)). That standard is plainly met here based on the evidence presented.

20 There thus can be no dispute that the executive order uses suspect classifications. And  
 21 it does so not in furtherance of a congressionally authorized purpose, but rather in direct  
 22 violation of federal law (as discussed in Part B.4), which prohibits discrimination “in the  
 issuance of an immigrant visa because of the person’s . . . nationality.” 8 U.S.C.

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<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/825721153142521858>;  
<http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/27/politics/trump-christian-refugees/index.html>; Compl. ¶ 29.

1 § 1152(a)(1)(A). In short, this is an extraordinary case that falls well outside the run-of-the-  
2 mill immigration context in which deference to the political branches applies. The  
3 President’s decision to adopt suspect classifications in violation of federal law deserves strict  
4 scrutiny.

5 **c. The Executive Order fails strict scrutiny**

6 The Executive Order cannot withstand strict scrutiny. Neither the temporary ban on  
7 admission of aliens from certain countries nor the barring of refugees is narrowly tailored to  
8 further a compelling government interest.

9 The order cites three rationales to support its temporary ban on admission of nationals  
10 of seven countries: “To temporarily reduce investigative burdens on relevant agencies . . . , to  
11 ensure the proper review and maximum utilization of available resources for the screening of  
12 foreign nationals, and to ensure that adequate standards are established to prevent infiltration  
13 by foreign terrorists or criminals.” Sec. 3(c). The first rationale—essentially a desire to  
14 conserve resources by discriminating—is not compelling,<sup>3</sup> and in any case the order is not  
15 narrowly tailored to achieve any of these goals.

16 To begin with, the Order is profoundly overbroad. Section 3(c) bans those from  
17 disfavored countries without any evidence that any individual poses a threat of terrorism. It  
18 sweeps within its ambit infant children, the disabled, long-time U.S. residents, those fleeing  
19 terrorism, those who assisted the United States in conflicts overseas, and many others who  
20 the government has no reason to suspect are terrorists. The government simply cannot  
21 establish any factual basis for *presuming* that all people from a given country pose such a  
22 great risk that an outright entry ban—rather than less extreme measures—is warranted.

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<sup>3</sup> *Memorial Hospital v. Maricopa Cnty.*, 415 U.S. 250, 263 (1974) (“a state may not protect the public  
fisc by drawing an invidious distinction between classes” of people); *Oregon Advocacy Ctr. v. Mink*, 322 F.3d  
1101, 1121 (9th Cir. 2003) (simply saving money is not a compelling interest).

1 At the same time, the order is also underinclusive to achieve its purported ends. By  
 2 way of example, the Executive Order recites the tragic events of September 11, 2001, but  
 3 imposes no entry restrictions on people from the countries whose nationals carried out those  
 4 attacks (Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates). Decl. N. Purcell ¶8;  
 5 Ex. B. As to admission of refugees, the order claims that a temporary prohibition is necessary  
 6 “to determine what additional procedures should be taken to ensure that those approved for  
 7 refugee admission do not pose a threat to the security and welfare of the United States.” Sec.  
 8 5. Citing no evidence at all, the Order declares that “the entry of nationals of Syria as  
 9 refugees is detrimental to the interests of the United States.” Sec. 5(c). But assertion is not  
 10 evidence, and there is no evidence that refugees pose any unique risk to the United States.<sup>4</sup>

11 “[S]trict scrutiny requires a direct rather than approximate fit of means to ends.”  
 12 *Hunter ex rel. Brandt v. Regents of Univ. of Cal.*, 190 F.3d 1061, 1077 (9th Cir. 1999)  
 13 (internal quotation marks omitted). The Supreme Court has emphasized that equal protection  
 14 guards against sweeping generalizations about categories of people based on traits such as  
 15 national origin or religion.<sup>5</sup> Here, there is no “fit” between the rationales advanced to support  
 16 the Executive Order and the means used to further those rationales.

17 **d. Even under rational basis review, the Executive Order fails**

18 The State is also likely to prevail on the merits of its equal protection claim should the  
 19 Court employ rational basis review.

20 <sup>4</sup> A recent and exhaustive study concluded that the chance of an American being killed by a refugee in  
 a terrorist attack is 1 in 3.64 billion a year. Alex Nowrasteh, *Terrorism and Immigration: A Risk Analysis*, at 2,  
 Cato Institute (Sept. 13, 2016) (Cato Institute).

21 <sup>5</sup> See, e.g., *Shaw v. Reno*, 509 U.S. 630, 647 (1993) (striking down racial gerrymander because “[i]t  
 22 reinforces the perception that members of the same racial group . . . think alike, share the same political  
 interests, and will prefer the same candidates at the polls”); *City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co.*, 488 U.S. 469,  
 493 (1989) (strict scrutiny “ensures that the means chosen ‘fit’ [a purported] compelling goal so closely that  
 there is little or no possibility that the motive for the classification was illegitimate . . . prejudice or stereotype”).

1           There are “two versions of the rational basis test—traditional rational basis review  
2 and a more rigorous rational basis standard.” *United States v. Wilde*, 74 F. Supp. 3d 1092,  
3 1096 (N.D. Cal. 2014). Where “a law neither burdens a fundamental right nor targets a  
4 suspect class,” the classification must be upheld “so long as it bears a rational relation to  
5 some legitimate end.” *Romer v. Evans*, 517 U.S. 620, 631 (1996). When a classification *does*,  
6 in fact, “adversely affect[] an unpopular group, courts apply a ‘more searching’ rational basis  
7 review.” *Golinski v. U.S. Office of Pers. Mgmt.*, 824 F. Supp. 2d 968, 996 (N.D. Cal. 2012)  
(citing *Diaz v. Brewer*, 656 F.3d 1008, 1012 (9th Cir. 2011)).

8           “The Constitution’s guarantee of equality ‘must at the very least mean that a bare  
9 [legislative] desire to harm a politically unpopular group cannot’ justify disparate treatment  
10 of that group.” *United States v. Windsor*, 133 S. Ct. 2675, 2693 (2013) (quoting *Dep’t of*  
11 *Agriculture v. Moreno*, 413 U.S. 528, 534-35 (1973)). Thus, courts cast a more skeptical eye  
12 toward legislation that “has the peculiar property of imposing a broad and undifferentiated  
13 disability on a single named group.” *Romer*, 517 U.S. at 632. Accordingly, when legislation  
14 “seems inexplicable by anything but animus toward the class it affects[,] it lacks a rational  
15 relationship to legitimate state interests.” *Id.* Likewise, the government has no legitimate  
16 interest in catering to “mere negative attitudes, or fears” that some residents may have  
17 against a disfavored minority. *See City of Cleburne, Tex. v. Cleburne Living Ctr.*, 473 U.S.  
18 432, 448 (1985). Simply put, the government “may not avoid the strictures of [equal  
19 protection] by deferring to the wishes or objections of some fraction of the body politic.” *Id.*

20           There is little doubt that the Executive Order is prompted by animus to those of the  
21 Islamic faith, which was one of the pillars of President Trump’s campaign. On December 7,  
22 2015, President Trump’s Campaign released a statement indicating that “Donald J. Trump is  
calling for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States.” *See*  
Compl. ¶ 29; Ex. 1. The Campaign’s spokesperson thereafter defended President Trump

1 against criticism as follows: “So what? They’re Muslim.” *See* Decl. of N. Purcell ¶ 9; Ex. C.  
 2 In the face of significant criticism, President Trump announced that he would “expand” his  
 3 proposed blanket ban to “any nation that has been compromised by terrorism” but use  
 4 different words to describe it:

5 I actually don’t think it’s a rollback. In fact, you could say it’s an  
 6 expansion. . . . I’m looking now at territory. People were so upset when  
 I used the word Muslim. Oh, you can’t use the word Muslim.  
 Remember this. And I’m OK with that, because I’m talking territory  
 instead of Muslim.

7 Comp. ¶ 32; Ex. 4. Even after issuing the order, President Trump’s statements confirm that it  
 8 is designed to disfavor Muslims. Compl. ¶ 39; Ex. 8. The bottom line is that the Executive  
 9 Order is designed to “adversely affect[] an unpopular group,” calling for the “court [ to ]  
 10 apply a ‘more searching’ rational basis review.” *Golinski*, 824 F. Supp. 2d at 996 (citing  
*Diaz*, 656 F.3d at 1012).

11 Even assuming the absence of animus and the application of ordinary rational basis  
 12 review, the Executive Order bears no “rational relationship to a legitimate governmental  
 13 purpose.” *Romer*, 517 U.S. at 635. There is simply no basis to conclude that existing  
 14 screening procedures are uniquely failing as to individuals from the listed countries or as to  
 15 refugees. Instead, the Executive Order panders to irrational fears about Muslims and  
 16 refugees, and bears no *rational* relationship to any government interest.

17 **2. The State is Likely to Prevail on the Merits of Its Claim that the  
 Executive Order Violates the Establishment Clause**

18 The Executive Order violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment  
 19 because both its purpose and effect are to favor one religion over another. “The clearest  
 20 command of the Establishment Clause is that one religious denomination cannot be officially  
 21 preferred over another.” *Larson v. Valente*, 456 U.S. 228, 244 (1982). Thus, where a law  
 22 “grant[s] a denominational preference, our precedents demand that we treat the law as  
 suspect and that we apply strict scrutiny in adjudging its constitutionality.” *Id.* at 246. In

1 | *Larson*, the law at issue did not mention any religious denomination by name, but drew a  
2 | distinction between religious groups based on the percentage of their revenue received from  
3 | non-members, which had the effect of harming certain religious groups. *Id.* at 231-32.  
4 | Because the law was focused on religious entities and had the effect of distinguishing  
5 | between them in a way that favored some, the Court applied strict scrutiny. *Id.* at 246-47.

6 |         The Court should apply the *Larson* approach here. The Executive Order’s refugee  
7 | provisions explicitly distinguish between members of religious faiths, granting priority to  
8 | “refugee claims made by individuals on the basis of religious-based persecution” only if “the  
9 | religion of the individual is a minority religion in the individual’s country of nationality.”  
10 | Section 5(b). President Trump and his advisers have made clear that the very purpose of this  
11 | order is to tilt the scales in favor of Christian refugees at the expense of Muslims. Compl.  
12 | ¶ 39; Ex. 8. This case thus involves just the sort of discrimination among denominations that  
13 | failed strict scrutiny in *Larson*, and the Executive Order should likewise be invalidated.

14 |         Even if the Executive Order did not explicitly distinguish between denominations, the  
15 | Court would still need to apply the three-part “*Lemon* test” to determine whether the  
16 | government has violated the Establishment Clause. *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 403 U.S. 602 (1971).  
17 | “First, the statute must have a secular legislative purpose; second, its principal or primary  
18 | effect must be one that neither advances nor inhibits religion; finally, the statute must not  
19 | foster ‘an excessive government entanglement with religion.’” *Id.* at 612. While the  
20 | government must satisfy all three prongs, here it can satisfy none.

21 |         First, the Executive Order’s purpose is not “secular” because President Trump’s  
22 | purpose in issuing this Order—as confirmed by his own public statements—is to “endorse or  
disapprove of religion.” *Wallace v. Jaffree*, 472 U.S. 38, 75-76 (1985). In analyzing  
government purpose, it is “the duty of the courts” to distinguish a “sincere” secular purpose  
from one that is either a “sham” or that is “secondary” to a “predominantly religious”

1 | purpose. *McCreary Cty., Ky. v. Am. Civil Liberties Union of Ky.*, 545 U.S. 844, 865 (2005)  
2 | (internal quotation marks and citations omitted). This duty requires a Court to scrutinize all  
3 | “probative evidence,” to exercise “common sense,” and to refuse “to turn a blind eye to the  
4 | context in which [the] policy arose.” *Id.* at 866 (alteration in original). In so doing, a court  
5 | looks carefully at both the “historical context” of the government’s action and “the specific  
6 | sequence of events leading to [its] passage.” *Id.* (alteration in original). As the Supreme  
7 | Court has explained, this inquiry into purpose at times requires invalidation of an action that  
8 | otherwise would have been constitutional: “One consequence of taking account of the  
9 | purpose underlying past actions is that the same government action may be constitutional if  
10 | taken in the first instance and unconstitutional if it has a sectarian heritage.” *Id.* at 866 n.14.  
11 | In short, given that President Trump’s “actual purpose” in issuing this Order is to “endorse or  
12 | disapprove of religion,” *Wallace*, 472 U.S. at 75-76, the Order violates the first prong of the  
13 | *Lemon* test.

14 |         The Order also violates *Lemon*’s second prong, which requires that the “principal or  
15 | primary effect . . . be one that neither advances nor inhibits religion.” Governmental action  
16 | violates this prong “if it is sufficiently likely to be perceived by adherents of the controlling  
17 | denominations as an endorsement, and by the nonadherents as a disapproval, of their  
18 | individual religious choices.” *Vasquez v. Los Angeles Cnty.*, 487 F.3d 1246, 1256 (9th Cir.  
19 | 2007) (internal quotation marks omitted). The court analyzes this prong “from the point of  
20 | view of a reasonable observer who is informed . . . [and] familiar with the history of the  
21 | government practice at issue.” *See id.* (alteration in original) (internal quotation marks  
22 | omitted). Thus, the question here is whether an informed, reasonable observer would  
perceive this Executive Order as an endorsement of one religion, as disapproval of another,  
or both? In light of the evidence cited above, there is little question that the answer to this  
question is in the affirmative.



1 As to the third prong, the Order “foster[s] ‘an excessive governmental entanglement  
2 with religion” by favoring one religious group over another, which “engender[s] a risk of  
3 politicizing religion.” *Larson*, 456 U.S. at 252-53. Selectively burdening those of the Muslim  
4 faith and favoring those of the Christian faith creates improper “entanglement with religion.”

5 In short, because the Executive Order fails the *Larson* test and every prong of the  
6 *Lemon* test, it emphatically violates the Establishment Clause.

7 **3. The State is Likely to Prevail on the Merits of Its Claim that the  
8 Executive Order Violates Due Process**

9 The Executive Order violates the procedural due process rights of immigrants and  
10 non-immigrants from the seven impacted countries, including those who reside and work in  
11 Washington, are professors and students at Washington universities, and want to travel to  
12 Washington to visit their families. First, due process requires that the United States at a  
13 minimum provide notice and an opportunity to be heard before denying re-entry to legal  
14 permanent residents or visaholders with longer term residency rights such as under an H-1B  
15 visa (workers) and f visas (students). Moreover, the United States must provide due process  
16 before restricting their vital liberty interests in travelling across United States borders.  
17 Second, Congress’s grant of a statutory right to seek asylum or protection under the  
18 Convention Against Torture requires that the United States administer those policies and  
19 procedures consistent with due process. The Order’s blanket prohibition on all refugees for  
20 120 days and on Syrian refugees indefinitely contravenes refugees’ due process rights.

21 **a. The denial of re-entry to and de facto travel ban on certain legal  
22 permanent residents and visaholders violates their due process  
rights**

Section 3(c) of the Executive Order denies entry to the United States to all persons  
from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, including visaholders and legal

1 permanent residents with the legal right to leave and re-enter the United States.<sup>6</sup> Under that  
 2 policy, legal permanent residents and visaholders travelling abroad will be deported if they  
 3 attempt to re-enter the United States, and those who remain will be forced to refrain from  
 4 international travel to avoid that devastating result. This draconian restriction violates the due  
 5 process rights of those individuals.

6 The Fifth Amendment protects all persons who have entered the United States “from  
 7 deprivation of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.” *Mathews v. Diaz*, 426  
 8 U.S. 67, 69, 77 (1976) (internal citation omitted). This protection applies to all persons  
 9 within our borders, regardless of immigration status. *Id.* (Due Process Clause of the Fifth  
 10 Amendment extends even to those “whose presence in this country is unlawful, involuntary,  
 11 or transitory”); *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 693 (2001); *United States v. Raya-Vaca*,  
 12 771 F.3d 1195, 1202 (9th Cir. 2014). There is “no exception” to this rule. *Id.*, 771 F.3d at  
 13 1203.

14 A “temporary absence from our shores” does not deprive visaholders and legal  
 15 permanent residents of their right to due process. *Shaughnessy v. United States ex rel. Mezei*,  
 16 345 U.S. 206, 213 (1953) (citing *Kwong Hai Chew v. Colding*, 344 U.S. 590, 601 (1953)  
 17 (holding that denial of re-entry to legal permanent resident must comport with due process  
 18 where resident had spent four months abroad); *Ricketts v. Simonse*, No. 16 CIV. 6662 (LGS),  
 19 2016 WL 7335675, at \*2–3 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 16, 2016) (legal permanent resident who had  
 20 spent a few weeks abroad and was caught with drugs upon re-entry entitled to due process).

21 Due process requires that legal permanent residents and visaholders not be denied re-  
 22 entry to the United States without “at a minimum, notice and an opportunity to respond.”

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<sup>6</sup> The Executive Order excludes from this restriction only “those foreign nationals traveling on diplomatic visas, North Atlantic Treaty Organization visas, C-2 visas for travel to the United Nations, and G-1, G-2, G-3, and G-4 visas.” Executive Order Sec. 3(c). This group is limited essentially to diplomatic visas.

1     *Raya-Vaca*, 771 F.3d at 1204. “Aliens who have entered the United States—whether legally  
2     or illegally—cannot be expelled without the government following established procedures  
3     consistent with the requirements of due process.” *Lanza v. Ashcroft*, 389 F.3d 917, 927 (9th  
4     Cir. 2004) (citing *Mezei*, 345 U.S. at 212). Specifically, due process guarantees that  
5     individuals denied re-entry be provided a “full and fair hearing of his [or her] claims” and “a  
6     reasonable opportunity to present evidence on his [or her] behalf.” *Colmenar v. INS*, 210  
7     F.3d 967, 971 (9th Cir. 2000); *Gutierrez v. Holder*, 662 F.3d 1083, 1091 (9th Cir. 2011)  
8     (same). Although Congress has prescribed certain circumstances under which an individual  
9     may be denied re-entry to the United States, those procedures must comport with due  
10    process. *See, e.g., Pantoja-Gayton v. Holder*, 366 F. App’x 739, 741 (9th Cir. 2010) (legal  
11    permanent resident deemed inadmissible upon re-entry for child smuggling, but entitled to a  
12    full hearing before an immigration judge to contest that finding).

13           The denial of re-entry to all visaholders and legal permanent residents from the  
14    impacted countries, without an opportunity to be heard, is a prima facie violation of those  
15    due process principles. The Executive Order provides that all individuals from the impacted  
16    countries be denied entry to the United States, irrespective of their immigration status. On its  
17    face, the Order bars legal permanent residents from impacted countries from reentry into the  
18    United States if they travel abroad. The Order also denies the rights of H-1B visa holders  
19    from re-entry if they travel abroad. As noted, there are a significant number of workers at  
20    Washington businesses and students at Washington universities impacted. Similarly, the  
21    Order on its face denies the rights to students here on f visas to reenter if they leave the  
22    country at any time during their studies. The denial of re-entry to legal permanent residents  
   and such visaholders absent an opportunity to be heard, much less “proceedings conforming  
   to . . . due process of law,” is patently unconstitutional. *Shaughnessy*, 345 U.S. at 212.

1           The Order’s impact on the right to travel also violates due process. In determining  
2 whether a new policy such as the Order violates due process, “courts must consider the  
3 interest at stake for the individual, the risk of an erroneous deprivation of the interest through  
4 the procedures used as well as the probable value of additional or different procedural  
5 safeguards, and the interest of the government in using the current procedures rather than  
6 additional or different procedures.” *Landon v. Plasencia*, 459 U.S. 21, 34 (1982) (citing  
7 *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 334-35 (1976)). Here, the Executive Order deprives  
8 noncitizens of the right to travel, a constitutionally protected liberty interest. *Kent v. Dulles*,  
9 357 U.S. 116, 125 (1958) (holding that Secretary of State could not deny passports to  
10 Communists on the basis that right to travel abroad is a constitutionally protected liberty  
11 interest). The right to travel “may be as close to the heart of the individual as the choice of  
12 what he eats, or wears, or reads,” and is “basic in our scheme of values.” *Id.* at 126. And for  
13 many noncitizens residing in Washington pursuant to H-1B visas, international travel is a  
14 central component of their work. *See id.* (noting that “[t]ravel abroad, like travel within the  
15 country, may be necessary for a livelihood”). For visaholders or legal permanent residents  
16 with family abroad, the de facto travel ban also denies the right to connect with their families,  
17 “a right that ranks high among the interests of the individual.” *Id.* In contrast to these vital  
18 liberty interests, the denial of re-entry to noncitizens with lawful immigration status does  
19 nothing to advance the government’s interest in the “efficient administration of the  
20 immigration laws at the border.” *Landon*, 459 U.S. at 34. The denial of re-entry to all persons  
21 from the seven affected countries, irrespective of immigration status, and resulting travel ban  
22 violate the due process rights of legal permanent residents and visaholders.

1                   **b.     The blanket ban on all refugees violates their due process right to**  
2                   **the fair administration of congressionally enacted policies and**  
3                   **procedures**

4                   Congress has created a statutory right whereby persons persecuted in their own  
5                   country may petition for asylum in the United States. U.S.C. § 1158(a)(1) (“[a]ny alien who  
6                   is physically present in the United States or who arrives in the United States. . . irrespective of  
7                   such alien’s status, may apply for asylum in accordance with this section”). Federal law  
8                   prohibits the return of a noncitizen to a country where he may face torture or persecution. *See*  
9                   8 U.S.C. § 1231(b); United Nations Convention Against Torture (“CAT”), implemented in  
10                  the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998, Pub. L. No. 105-277, div. G, Title  
11                  XXII, § 2242, 112 Stat. 2681, 2681-822 (1998) (codified as Note to 8 U.S.C. § 1231).  
12                  Congress has established procedures to implement those statutory rights, which includes  
13                  providing refugees the right to present evidence in support of a claim for asylum or CAT  
14                  protection, to move for reconsideration of an adverse decision, and to seek judicial review of  
15                  a final order denying their claims. *Lanza v. Ashcroft*, 389 F.3d 917, 927 (9th Cir. 2004).

16                  In enacting these statutory rights, Congress “created, at a minimum, a constitutionally  
17                  protected right to petition our government for political asylum.” *Haitian Refugee Ctr. v.*  
18                  *Smith*, 676 F.2d 1023, 1038 (5th Cir. 1982). The constitutionally protected right to petition  
19                  for asylum “invoke[s] the guarantee of due process.” *Id.* at 1039; *Andriasian v. I.N.S.*, 180  
20                  F.3d 1033, 1041 (9th Cir. 1999); *see also Lanza*, 389 F.3d at 927 (“The due process afforded  
21                  aliens stems from those statutory rights granted by Congress and the principle that minimum  
22                  due process rights attach to statutory rights.”) (internal marks and quotation omitted). Due  
23                  process requires at a minimum that refugees seeking asylum receive a “full and fair hearing.”  
*Zetino v. Holder*, 622 F.3d 1007, 1013 (9th Cir. 2010). It also requires that refugees have the  
24                  opportunity to consult with an attorney.

1 The Executive Order violates the due process rights of refugees because it provides  
 2 no avenue for refugees to have their asylum claims heard. Instead, it explicitly states that the  
 3 United States will not entertain asylum claims from certain groups for a specified period of  
 4 time, regardless of the merits of individual asylum claims. This contravenes the due process  
 5 requirement that refugees receive a “full and fair hearing” on their claims for relief. *Zetino*,  
 6 622 F.3d at 1013. It also denies refugees their constitutionally protected right to the effective  
 7 assistance of counsel. *Jie Lin v. Ashcroft*, 377 F.3d 1014, 1023 (9th Cir. 2004).

8 Moreover, the denial of refugees’ constitutionally protected right to petition for  
 9 asylum does nothing to advance the government’s interest in the “efficient administration of  
 10 the immigration laws at the border.” *Landon*, 459 U.S. at 34. That interest is satisfied by the  
 11 rigorous procedures already in place to vet requests for asylum. Refugees are subject to “the  
 12 highest level of background and security checks of any category of traveler to the United  
 13 States,” in a process that often takes years to complete.<sup>7</sup> Accordingly, the ban on refugees  
 14 violates the due process rights of refugees seeking asylum within the United States.

13 **4. The State is Likely to Prevail on the Merits of Its Claim that the**  
 14 **Executive Order Violates the Immigration and Nationality Act**

15 The State is also likely to establish that Sections 3(c) and 5(c) of the Executive Order  
 16 violate the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Enacted in 1965, 8 U.S.C.  
 17 § 1152(a)(1)(A) clearly states, “no person shall receive any preference or priority or be  
 18 discriminated against in the issuance of an immigrant visa because of the person’s race, sex,  
 19 nationality, place of birth, or place of residence.” By suspending entry of refugees from Syria  
 20 indefinitely, and immigrants from Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, for

20 <sup>7</sup> U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, USCIS, Refugee Processing and Security Screening (2015),  
 21 available at <https://www.uscis.gov/refugeescreening>; see also White House, President Barack Obama,  
 22 Infographic: The Screening Process for Refugee Entry into the United States (Nov. 2015), available at  
[https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2015/11/20/infographic-screening-process-refugee-entry-united-](https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2015/11/20/infographic-screening-process-refugee-entry-united-states)  
 states (noting that “[r]efugees undergo more rigorous screening than anyone else we allow into the United  
 States” and are “subject to the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler”).

1 90 days, the Executive Order squarely violates the INA. *See U.S. v. Ron Pair Enterprises,*  
2 *Inc.*, 489 U.S. 235, 242, 109 S.Ct. 1026 (1989) (holding the “plain meaning of legislation  
3 should be conclusive”). While the INA refers only to discrimination in the “issuance of an  
4 immigrant visa,” the statute would be rendered meaningless if it did not equally prohibit  
5 attempts, like President Trump’s, to deny an immigrant’s entry into the country altogether.  
6 *See Legal Assistance for Vietnamese Asylum Seekers v. Dep’t of State.*, 45 F.3d 469 (D.C.  
7 Cir. 1995) (holding that Congress, in enacting section 1152, “unambiguously directed that no  
nationality-based discrimination shall occur”).

8 Defendants may argue the President has power to suspend the entry of any class of  
9 aliens when their entry is detrimental to the interests of the United States. *See* 8 U.S.C.  
10 § 1182(f). Such an argument, however, is unavailing. Congress enacted Section 1182 in  
11 1952, well before it passed section 1152. Whatever section 1182 meant when it was adopted,  
12 the enactment of the INA amendments in 1965, including section 1152, marked a “profound  
13 change” in the law by abolishing the national origin quota system, establishing a uniform  
14 quota system, and prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race and national origin. *Olsen v.*  
15 *Albright*, 990 F. Supp. 31 (D.D.C. 1997) (citing Pub. L. No. 89-236). Passed alongside the  
16 Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the legislative history of the  
17 INA Amendments of 1965 “is replete with the bold anti-discriminatory principles of the Civil  
18 Rights Era.” *Olsen*, 990 F.Supp. at 37. It is inconceivable that, in enacting anti-discrimination  
19 provisions in 1965, Congress intended to leave the President with the ability to adopt the  
20 same sort of overtly discriminatory measures Congress was outlawing. Accepting the  
21 President’s approach would take us back to a period in our history when distinctions based  
22 on national origin were accepted as the natural order of things, rather than outlawed as the  
pernicious discrimination that they are. *Cf. Chae Chan Ping v. U.S.*, 130 U.S. 581, 595, 606  
(1889) (sustaining the Chinese Exclusion Act because the Chinese “remained strangers in the

1 land,” constituted a “great danger [to the country]” unless “prompt action was taken to  
2 restrict their immigration,” and were “dangerous to [the country’s] peace and security”).

3 **C. The State, its Residents, and its Businesses Are Suffering and Will Continue to  
4 Suffer Irreparable Harm Due to the Executive Order**

5 To obtain preliminary relief, the State must show that irreparable harm is likely  
6 before a decision on the merits can be issued. The State meets this test on several grounds.

7 First, because the State has shown a likelihood of success on its Establishment Clause  
8 claim, harm is presumed. *See, e.g., Chaplaincy of Full Gospel Churches v. England*, 454  
9 F.3d 290, 303 (D.C. Cir. 2006) (“[W]here a movant alleges a violation of the Establishment  
10 Clause, this is sufficient, without more, to satisfy the irreparable harm prong for purposes of  
11 the preliminary injunction determination.”); *Parents’ Ass’n of P.S. 16 v. Quinones*, 803 F.2d  
12 1235, 1242 (2d Cir. 1986) (applying same rule).

13 Second, even aside from the Establishment Clause claim, the State’s complaint,  
14 motion, and supporting evidence demonstrate overwhelming irreparable harm. Irreparable  
15 harm is harm “for which there is no adequate legal remedy, such as an award of damages.”  
16 *Ariz. Dream Act Coal. v. Brewer*, 757 F.3d 1053, 1068 (9th Cir. 2014). The Ninth Circuit’s  
17 decision in Arizona Dream Act provides a directly applicable example. Undocumented  
18 persons who qualified for the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program  
19 (DACA) sought a preliminary injunction against Arizona’s policy of denying driver’s  
20 licenses to DACA recipients. *Id.* at 1057-58. The Ninth Circuit held that irreparable harm  
21 existed because the lack of a driver’s license stopped immigrants from getting to work,  
22 thereby hurting their ability to pursue their chosen professions. *Id.* at 1068. The same harm is  
experienced by workers or students prevented from entering or returning to the United States.  
“[A] delay, even if only a few months, pending trial represents . . . productive time  
irretrievably lost.” *Id.* (second alteration in original).



1 The injuries to Washington residents and families are not merely professional and  
2 financial, but also profound and irreparable psychological injuries. As detailed in the attached  
3 declarations, the Order is resulting in longtime Washington residents being separated from or  
4 kept apart from their families, often in heartbreaking situations. Decl. E. Chiang ¶¶ 5-7, 11-  
5 13.

6 Washington businesses are also suffering irreparable injuries. Immigrant and refugee-  
7 owned businesses employ 140,000 people in Washington. Washington's technology industry  
8 relies heavily on the H-1B visa program. Nationwide, Washington ranks ninth in the number  
9 of applications for high-tech visas. Microsoft, which is headquartered in Washington,  
10 employs nearly 5,000 people through the program. Other Washington companies, including  
11 Amazon, Expedia, and Starbucks, employ thousands of H-1B visa holders. Loss of highly  
12 skilled workers puts Washington companies at a competitive disadvantage with global  
13 competitors. "[I]ntangible injuries, such as damage to ongoing recruitment efforts and  
14 goodwill, qualify as irreparable harm." *Rent-A-Center, Inc. v. Canyon Tel. Appliance Rental,*  
15 *Inc.*, 944 F.2d 597, 603 (9th Cir. 1991).

16 The Executive Order is also causing irreparable harm to Washington's college  
17 students and universities. At the University of Washington, more than ninety-five students  
18 are immigrants from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Libya, and Yemen. Decl. of J.  
19 Riedinger ¶ 5. The number at Washington State University is over 135. Decl. J. Riedinger  
20 ¶¶ 6-8; Decl. of A. Chaudry 6-10. Because of the Executive Order, these students are missing  
21 out on research and educational opportunities, travel to visit their families, study abroad, and  
22 other irreplaceable activities that cannot be compensated through money damages. [cite decs]  
The universities also risk losing current and future students, a harm that cannot be remedied  
with monetary damages. *See Regents of Univ. of Cal. v. Am. Broad. Cos.*, 747 F.2d 511, 519-

1 20 (9th Cir. 1984) (loss of ability to recruit athletes, loss of national ranking, and dissipation  
2 of alumni goodwill are irreparable harm).

3 **D. The Balance of Equities and Public Interest Sharply Favor Preliminary Relief**

4 The Court “must balance the competing claims of injury and must consider the effect  
5 on each party of the granting or withholding of the requested relief.” *Winter*, 555 U.S. at 24.  
6 Since this case involves the government, the balance of equities factor merges with the fourth  
7 factor, public interest. *Drakes Bay Oyster Co. v. Jewell*, 747 F.3d 1073, 1092 (9th Cir. 2013).

8 The balance tips sharply in favor of the State. The balance of equities and public  
9 interest always favor “prevent[ing] the violation of a party’s constitutional rights.” *Melendres*  
10 *v. Arpaio*, 695 F.3d 990, 1002 (9th Cir. 2012) (internal quotation marks omitted). In addition,  
11 the State has shown irreparable, concrete harm to Washington residents, businesses, students,  
12 and universities. Meanwhile, as detailed above, the overbreadth and underbreadth of the  
13 order mean that it does little if anything to further its alleged purpose of preventing terrorism.  
14 And the requested relief is narrowly tailored to affect only those parts of the Order causing  
15 the State harm. While the State seeks a nationwide injunction, that relief is appropriate for  
16 two reasons: (1) Congress and the courts have emphasized the importance of uniformity in  
17 applying immigration policies nationwide; and (2) nationwide relief is necessary to ensure  
18 that State residents and those traveling to meet them are not stopped at other ports of entry  
19 around the country or interfered with by officials in Washington, DC, on their way to  
20 Washington State. *See, e.g., Texas v. United States*, 787 F.3d 733, 768-69 (5th Cir. 2015)  
21 (affirming nationwide injunction to ensure uniformity and provide full relief).  
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**II. CONCLUSION**

Sometimes federal courts are the only entities that can immediately halt abuses by the executive branch. This is such a case. The State asks this Court to play its constitutional role and grant a nationwide temporary restraining order until such time as the Court can further consider the merits.

DATED this 30th day of January, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

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