



February 3, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

We write to convey our concern about the possible detrimental impact which the Executive Order on Immigration signed by you on January 27 is having, and will continue to have, on our nation's primary care workforce and the health and wellbeing of our communities.

The Association of Departments of Family Medicine (ADFM) is the nation's organization of medical school departments of family medicine and is devoted to transforming care, education, and research to promote health equity and improve the health of the nation. The Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors (AFMRD) is the nation's organization of leaders of family medicine residency programs supporting them to achieve excellence in family medicine residency training. The graduates of our family medicine training programs form the backbone of the nation's primary care system, working as family doctors in diverse communities across the nation, from remote rural towns to the inner city. Research conducted by our faculty has documented the factors that make for healthy communities, including freedom from fear of violence and discrimination.

Although the intent of your Executive Order may have been to enhance the nation's security, we believe that it will have extremely counterproductive effects on the health and wellbeing of our communities. Immigrants are a vital part of our departments of family medicine, the nation's primary care workforce, and the communities we serve. The Executive Order possibly jeopardizes the ability of our training programs to recruit and train the number of family physicians needed to overcome the nation's primary care physician shortage. Policies that discriminate against certain classes of immigrants on the basis of nation of origin or religion are antithetical to the values and mission of our organizations promoting health and wellbeing for all. Furthermore, it undermines the ability of our members to foster trusting, healing relationships with the patients and communities we serve. Measures that act to separate family members and impede family unification are contrary to the principles of family medicine.

We share the concerns articulated by the American Academy of Family Physicians in their letter to you of January 31, and their urgent request for you to reconsider your Executive Order. These concerns are widespread among the organizations representing both the nation's practicing family physicians and its family medicine academic constituencies.

Sincerely,

Joseph Hobbs, MD
President
Association of Departments of Family Medicine

James W. Jarvis, MD, FFAFP
President
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors