

U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Issues Statement Decrying Supreme Court Decision in Muslim Ban Case

July 13, 2018

Today, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, by majority vote, issued a statement disagreeing with the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in *Trump v. Hawaii*. The decision upholds the Presidential Proclamation - otherwise known as the Muslim ban - restricting entry of nationals from eight countries, six of which are Muslim-majority. Last year, the Commission majority issued a <u>statement</u> of concern over the discriminatory implications of the Executive Order that preceded the Presidential Proclamation the Court eventually reviewed. *Trump v. Hawaii* adds another regrettable chapter to our nation's history of unjustly decided cases. While we acknowledge the importance of the Supreme Court finally overturning its "gravely wrong" *Korematsu* decision, the Commission finds that it did so while simultaneously perpetuating the same mistake in giving too much deference to the President and dangerously ignoring the animus underlying both cases. The statement can be viewed on the Commission's <u>website</u>.

Chair Catherine E. Lhamon stated, "It is horrifying enough that the President would give voice to such anti-Muslim sentiment and then proceed to enshrine that same bias in national policy; the Supreme Court's decision to endorse those actions is a disturbing turn for all Americans. We all must stand against such religious tolerance as un-American."

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For more information about the Commission, please visit http://www.usccr.gov and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.