



January 30, 2017

Rebecca M. Blank, PhD
Chancellor
University of Wisconsin–Madison
165 Bascom Hall
500 Lincoln Drive
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Chancellor Blank,

We of the **American Association of University Professors – University of Wisconsin–Madison Chapter** write to express our strong condemnation of President Trump’s executive order “*Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States.*”

We ask for your support in opposing and working to end this counterproductive, unwarranted, potentially unconstitutional, corrosive, and un-American action. AAUP’s primary mission is the protection of academic freedom, and all that nurtures, enables and otherwise makes free inquiry possible. Banning people from our shores, and therefore our universities, due to national origin, with disparate negative impact on Muslims, severely limits the free pursuit of knowledge. It flatly contradicts America’s stated core values, ones inextricably linked to our mission to find knowledge and truth. U.S. universities depend on this freedom; it is what has allowed us to be the best in the world. Make no mistake, this action will harm our national interests in knowledge production and all the economic benefits that accrue from that production.

We also urge our university administration to assure our Muslim brothers and sisters that we will not in any way participate in their further stigmatization and exclusion. We will resist.

We ask our congressional delegation to speak and act against this violation of our self-professed best qualities, and one that will surely do more harm than good.

Sincerely,

The American Association of University Professors – University of Wisconsin–Madison Chapter

cc: U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senator Ron Johnson
Sarah Mangelsdorf, UW–Madison provost
U.S. Representative Mark Pocan
UW System Board of Regents