



**Press Release:**

**Skagit Immigrant Rights Council Statement on Trump Administration Executive Orders**

President L. Rafael Reif, President of Massachusetts Institute of Technology released the following statement this Monday:

**“The Executive Order on Friday [is] a stunning violation of our deepest American values, the values of a nation of immigrants: fairness, equality, openness, generosity, courage. The Statue of Liberty is the “Mother of Exiles”; how can we slam the door on desperate refugees? Religious liberty is a founding American value; how can our government discriminate against people of any religion? In a nation made rich by immigrants, why would we signal to the world that we no longer welcome new talent? In a nation of laws, how can we reject students and others who have established legal rights to be here? And if we accept this injustice, where will it end? Which group will be singled out for suspicion tomorrow?”**

The Skagit Immigrant Rights Council joins with many of the good people of this county, state and across this country in denouncing the autocratic actions and statements of Donald Trump, particularly as they affect immigrant members of our community.

We applaud the statements of our governor, Jay Inslee, and the actions of Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson, in filing suit to demand a stop to the unconstitutional actions of the Trump Administration. The actions include closing our borders to immigrants from seven predominately Muslim countries, affecting people with legally processed visas, and even Legal Permanent Residents who have been heavily scrutinized before acquiring that status. They also include creating a climate of fear that is threatening our local immigrant community.

We also stand with our sister organization, the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, which has filed suit to denounce the unconstitutionality of Trump’s Executive Orders. And we are encouraged by multiple efforts around the country to ensure that freedoms and rights are not taken away from any of us based on religious beliefs, country of origin, language, sexual

identity, or mental or physical disability.

We commit to join with other organizations and individuals in northwest Washington to provide education about civil and human rights and immigration issues, and to promote and inform our community about options for providing Sanctuary to our brothers and sisters who are threatened by these egregious assaults on our nation's fundamental values.

Finally, we commit to our immigrant community to protect you in any way we can, to protest any actions against you, and to continue to recognize you as a gift to us and as productive members of our towns, counties and state. We ask you to let us know what you need from us, and to know that you can count on our support.

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