

April 10, 2017

To Members of the Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee:

I have lived in Colorado for 57 years. I am deeply concerned about the polarization of politics in the United States. I am proud of the fact that Colorado is a purple state.

I admire much of the Compassionate Conservative philosophy, and I urge the Republican members of the Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee to keep that in mind as they consider HB17—1230 today.

Not only are we called to be compassionate and to want for each other what we want for ourselves, compassion is critical to devising policies that affect persons who might otherwise be susceptible to the narrative of extremist groups. Policies which treat certain groups as suspect, as some policies of the current Administration do, can be self-fulfilling. Compassion is the best antidote to that.

I know there has been some disagreement as to what rights apply to citizens only, as opposed to other persons residing in Colorado. I believe the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution is clear enough that due process and equal protection of the laws apply to everyone, not just citizens. Although most Muslim Americans are indeed citizens, some are not, but they are entitled to not be singled out by any of the sorts of federal policies this bill contemplates. The same applies to any other category of persons, whether that category is based on race, religion, nationality, or anything else.

And if non-citizens are entitled to due process and equal protection of the laws, than certainly every citizen is as well.

May Compassion prevail today.

Sincerely,

Todd Buchanan

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