



# LOWER CAPE INDIVISIBLE

September 20, 2017

The Honorable William Keating  
315 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Keating,

We at Lower Cape Indivisible are very concerned about immigration policy as it is being shaped by President Trump. We have reviewed your recent actions on immigration, since we feel it is essential that President Trump receive strong Congressional pushback against his discriminatory and un-American goals. We perceive some contradictions.

First, we appreciate your clearly expressed opposition to the outrageous Muslim ban and religious discrimination, as evidenced in letters you have signed and in your co-sponsorship of **"The Freedom of Religion Act" (HR 852)** and **"The Statue of Liberty's Values Act 2.0" (HR 1503)**.

We also thank you for your vote against the **"No Sanctuary for Criminals Act" (HR 3003)**. Your 'no' vote reflected the majority opinion of your constituents, as indicated by the numerous "Safe Communities" resolutions passed in various Cape towns, directing local police to work on local policing issues.

However, we are concerned by some of your votes which seemed inconsistent with the afore-mentioned positions: for instance, your vote for **"Kate's Law" (HR 3004)**. Your statement on your support says that the bill would allow the government to prosecute those who had been deported for violent crimes at a higher sentence upon their re-entry. While this is true, you neglect to say that the bill permits greater punishment for any person previously expelled from the country, regardless of whether they have committed any crimes other than lacking documentation—a civil, not criminal, offense.

You say that your experiences as a father and husband are among the factors that inform your votes and that you wished to prevent another family's heartbreak. While the murder of any innocent such as Kate is horrific and regrettable, we can see how this bill will easily foster its own form of heartbreak, likely on a massive scale. Families will be torn apart a second time, as even non-criminals reentering the country to re-unite with their American-citizen children or to escape persecution are apprehended and given jail sentences.

Similarly, we were also quite concerned to learn that you voted in favor of the disingenuously named **"Anti-Border Corruption Re-Authorization Act" (HR 2213)**, companion legislation to the Senate's more straight-forwardly titled **"Boots on the Border Act of 2017."** We believe you should be attempting to limit, not expand, available border control forces until such time as Congress enacts a humane and thoughtful overhaul of our broken immigration system.

And while we believe that **HR 3004** and **HR 2213** fail on their merits, the context in which they are being advanced also matters and must be borne in mind. The context is that of a President and Attorney General with white supremacist sympathies and inclinations who demonize immigrants and divide the country. It's time to take a stand as forcefully as possible for the American value of inclusion and to oppose bigotry and senseless cruelty.



Accordingly, we have other 'asks' in relation to pending immigration legislation:

- 1) Please join 126 of your colleagues in co-sponsoring "**The American Hope Act**" (**HR 3591**), which, if enacted, will protect the DREAMERS and those 800,000 with DACA status within the six-month time frame that Trump recently imposed.
- 2) Please exercise your power of the purse against Trump's deportation machine. Oppose funding for the border wall and for thousand-fold increases in detention beds and in agents at every step of the appropriation process.
- 3) Become a cosponsor of the "**Access to Counsel Act**" (**HR 1006**) mandating that any person in a deportation proceeding is entitled to representation.
- 4) Since you are already a cosponsor of HR 1503, which would nullify the "Muslim Ban" Executive Order, please sign on to other Democratic-sponsored bills nullifying other EO's, specifically the "**Protecting Our Border Communities Act of 2017**" (**HR 920**) and the "**Community Trust Act of 2017**" (**HR 921**).
- 5) Become a co-sponsor of **HR 2642, the "Indonesian Family Refugee Protection Act,"** allowing certain Indonesians in our country to re-file petitions for asylum. In the absence of comprehensive immigration reform, we hope you will support humane efforts such as this, however narrow their scope.

In summary, we deeply appreciate your determination to hold Trump accountable and fight the Trump agenda on many fronts at this critical time in our nation's history. This is also the goal of Lower Cape Indivisible. We believe that our Issues team is doing some wonderful research that might be of use to your office. We hope we could meet with you or one of your staff about this, and specifically about immigration. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Althea Schoen  
Member, Issues Team  
Lower Cape Indivisible