June 28, 2018

APSA Statement on Trump v. Hawaii Ruling

The American Political Science Association stands by its previous condemnations (from January 30, 2017 and March 7, 2017) of the administration’s executive actions to restrict entry to the United States for residents, refugees, and visa holders from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen, and North Korea. The Supreme Court's decision to uphold the ban deeply harms academic freedom in a fundamental way by restricting the ability of scholars to meet, learn and exchange ideas on campuses of American colleges and universities.

The decision, as Justice Sotomayor notes in her dissent, will have “deleterious effects on our higher education system; national security; healthcare; artistic culture; and the Nation's technology industry and overall economy.” As scholars and teachers, we deplore the interruption of research, teaching, and intellectual engagement that this order causes. The academic community is witnessing chilling effects on international travel for the purpose of the free exchange of ideas. Justice Kennedy, in his concurrence, urges government officials to protect the freedoms of belief and expression “in all their actions.” The travel ban impairs both of those freedoms.

APSA is ready to support any colleague directly or indirectly affected by this executive action. Please visit this link for resources or request support here.

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*Founded in 1903, the American Political Science Association is the leading professional organization for the study of political science and serves more than 13,000 members in more than 80 countries. With a range of programs and services for individuals, departments, and institutions, APSA brings together political scientists from all fields of inquiry, regions, and occupational endeavors within and outside academe to deepen our understanding of politics, democracy, and citizenship throughout the world.*