

Feb. 3, 2017

The Hon. Rep./Sen. (NAME)
United States (House/Senate)
ADDRESS

Dear Rep./Sen. (NAME)

On behalf of Providence St. Joseph Health, I would like to convey our concern with the impact of the recent Presidential Executive Order, "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States," establishing restrictions on travel and immigration into the United States.

Providence St. Joseph Health is committed to improving the health of the communities it serves, especially those who are poor and vulnerable. With 50 hospitals, 829 physician clinics, senior services, supportive housing and many other health and educational services, the health system and its partners employ more than 100,000 caregivers (employees) serving communities across seven states – Alaska, California, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas and Washington. With system offices based in Renton, Wash. and Irvine, Calif., Providence St. Joseph Health is the parent organization of Providence Health & Services and St. Joseph Health, enabling our family of organizations to work together to provide care and services where they are needed most, both today and into the future.

As an organization, we embrace the social justice teaching that calls us to advocate for the right of all people to receive necessary health care services, even those who must migrate across national borders to support themselves and their families. It has long been a priority for us to support the poor and vulnerable, both in our local communities and those across the world suffering from poverty, war and insufficient resources. These travel restrictions, which affect individuals and families with legal visitor status as well as refugees, have created concern and uncertainty for as many as 300 Providence St. Joseph Health caregivers. Many of those impacted are physicians. As our health care system continues to face shortages of health professionals, foreign visa programs, such as the H1-B program, fill critical needs in our hospitals, primary care clinics and other facilities.

We recognize that immigration is a complex and challenging issue. It is our hope that reforms to immigration policy balance our nation's historic embrace of new immigrants with our nation's security and economic needs. We encourage you to work with the Trump Administration to craft immigration and refugee policy that ensures human rights are protected, and that the inherent dignity of every person is recognized.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Hochman".

Rod Hochman, M.D.
President and CEO
Providence St. Joseph Health

For questions or if you would like more information, please contact Ali Santore, associate vice president, federal government affairs at 202.714.9134 or by email Ali.Santore@providence.org.