

Statement from the South Asian Bar Association of North America on the Supreme Court's Decision on Birthright Citizenship

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Today, the United State Supreme Court voted, 6-3, granting a request by the administration to narrow the scope of nationwide injunctions imposed by judges. While the Court did not determine the merits of the "birthright citizenship" Executive Order issued by President Trump, this decision will directly impact the same.

To be clear, the South Asian Bar Association of North America stands behind the fundamental constitutional right of birthright citizenship. Birthright citizenship provides individuals with dignity, status, and legitimacy to not only prosper in the United States but also serve as a productive member of society. This right has shaped our nation since its inception and eroding its legitimacy is a direct threat to not only the rule of law including the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Section 1401 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, but our identity as a community.

The United States with its rich diversity and our South Asian community was built on the principles and concepts of the Fourteenth Amendment. The recent Supreme Court ruling puts into uncertainty the futures of millions of productive members of society in the United States and will undoubtedly result in a loss of talent and innovation in the United States as some of our most skilled individuals will decide to leave the United States. Therefore, this ruling puts at risk all future progress and innovation as many productive members will decide to leave the United States and subsequent generations of some of the brightest and best will grow up in another country.

We reaffirm our commitment to the rule of law and supporting the status and dignity of all members in our South Asian community. To quote Justice Sotomayor from her dissent, "The rule of law is not a given in this Nation, nor any other. It is a precept of our democracy that will endure only if those brave enough in every branch fight for its survival."

To that end, we encourage our members to continue to fight for this principle's survival. Our advocacy team has created toolkits that members and the greater community can access and use to write into their Congressional members and Senators discussing the importance of keeping this sacred principle. You can find the toolkit <u>here</u>.