



Statement on Executive Order on Immigration School Social Work Association of America

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The School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA) opposes any attempts to target, isolate, intimidate, or harass individuals of a particular ethnicity, culture, or religion. School social workers are bound by the School Social Work Code of Ethics (NASW 2012) which calls for providing "services within the context of multicultural understanding and competence," and for this understanding to be "applied in a manner that results in a positive school climate that respects and values differences."

School social workers value and respect every student and family in their school communities. The profession was founded over 100 years ago in the settlement houses of Boston, New York and Chicago, helping new immigrants and their children become a part of the great fabric of this country. Social workers following in their footsteps continue to stand with immigrant families to ensure they are protected and afforded equal educational and economic opportunities while, in turn, contributing the best of their cultures to American society.

School social workers are called upon daily to address the trauma experienced by children and youth who fear deportation or other forms of intimidation. With calls for bans on certain religious and cultural groups, school social workers saw during the presidential campaign and continue to see since the election a great increase in students exhibiting anxiety, depression, and fear. These students cannot be expected to perform in school or elsewhere while carrying such concerns.

SSWAA assures all the children and families who walk through the schoolhouse door that school social workers are "safe havens" and will work with other community leaders to oppose the Administration's harmful order. This is simply not the action of a free democratic country.