

THE ADVOCATE

Letters: put all Americans first, not just some

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The damage done to our country in a little over a week may take at least one generation to repair. At issue is trust and stability. Who the hell will trust a nation and a system of government so volatile that within one presidential election cycle can go from trusted friend to fierce adversary, from a stable democracy to authoritarianism?

For those not familiar with the term, political scientists use the term "authoritarianism" to describe a way of governing that values order and control over personal freedom. A government run by authoritarianism is usually headed by a dictator." In our case, that dictator takes the form of a president and his puppeteer, a political operative, who believe themselves above the law.

Please note, it is not the executive order process itself which makes their actions illegal, but the lack of constitutionality of their motivation and intent.

The chaos that this political transition has caused will negatively impact many areas of our daily lives, including, but not limited to, academia, research and development, global consumerism, trade, medicine, agriculture and banking. Once the pomp and circumstance go silent, Americans, regardless of political affiliation, will have to pick up the pieces.

The attitudes which brought us here are based on the fear fueled by the presidential campaign rhetoric. Let us do a reality check. According to the conservative Cato Institute, "the chance of an American being murdered in a terrorist attack caused by a refugee is 1 in 3.64 billion per year, while the chance of being murdered in an attack committed by an illegal immigrant is an astronomical 1 in 10.9 billion per year."

For political reasons, this administration has thrown millions of people under the bus, many of them Americans. The global collateral damage is immense. When conservative billionaires such as Charles Koch make statements like this, "We have a tremendous danger because we can go the authoritarian route ... or we can move toward a free and open society," we know we are in big trouble. The president of his foundation was more direct: "The travel ban is the wrong approach and will likely be counterproductive."

The marches on the street and the chaos of policy implementation are not at the root of the situation. The unconstitutional and authoritarian policies forced upon the nation are.

It is neither prudent nor recommended for anyone who values the country to sit quietly on the sidelines. The slogan being repeated by the administration should not be "Let's put America first," as the United States of America is much more than its government. The slogan should be "LET'S PUT AMERICANS FIRST!" as in ALL of us, in complete disregard of race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, financial and social status, political and spiritual stance. When the United States puts its house in order, the world up until this moment has been known to follow it.