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**SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE**  
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING  
AND WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH, TAX AND  
CAPITAL ACCESS

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February 27, 2018

Dear Friends:

I write to express my deep appreciation for the work you do on behalf of the Muslim American and Arab American communities in central Florida. Your participation in today's "Solidarity—Roundtable to Address Muslim Concerns" is commendable. I regret that my work in Washington, DC did not allow me to attend in person, but I look forward to hearing about your specific concerns and your suggestions for steps the federal government can take to address those concerns.

There are over 1.6 billion Muslims around the world, approximately 50 Muslim-majority countries, and many nations in which Muslims are a sizeable minority of the population. Although Muslims are bound together by their shared religious faith and traditions, the global community of Muslims is not monolithic. Muslims enjoy varying opportunities and confront different challenges depending on their nation of birth and their station in life. There are a number of countries where Muslims, whether they are a majority or minority of the population, are enduring violent conflict or the deprivation of fundamental human rights. I support U.S. foreign policies that recognize the diversity and dynamism of the Muslim world, that are built upon respect for those of the Muslim faith, and that seek justice and peace in countries where those conditions are lacking.

Here at home, Muslim Americans have long been an integral part of our nation. They enrich our culture, contribute enormously to our economy, and make our communities better and our country stronger. In recent years, however, we have witnessed a troubling rise in anti-Muslim actions and rhetoric, including from certain political leaders whose behavior influences many citizens, especially our children. Let me be crystal clear: it is the duty of all proud and patriotic Americans, of every religious faith and ethnic background, to stand together in solidarity with our Muslim-American brothers and sisters and to speak out against such conduct. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. As a refugee whose family fled communism in Vietnam and found sanctuary in America, I am deeply committed to the principle that this is a country where individuals are judged by the content of their character—and not by the color of their skin, their country of origin, or the God they worship.

As a Member of Congress, my obligation is to ensure that all of my constituents are treated equally under the law and with the dignity they deserve. I look forward to continuing to have an open and constructive dialogue with faith leaders and families in central Florida's Muslim American community.

Thank you again for convening this forum. You can count on my support.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress