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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Dear Friends:

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, I am concerned about growing reports of discrimination and ethnic profiling of Iranian Americans. Civil liberties violations contradict the principles upon which this country was founded and compromise our ability to establish an effective counterterrorism policy.

Iranian Americans contribute greatly to the economic and social fabric of America, serving as government officials, industry leaders, and in the military and law enforcement. Massachusetts is proud to be home to a vibrant Iranian American community. I am pleased that IAPAC has joined other civil liberties organizations to create a coalition to educate Iranian Americans about their rights and create an environment in which the community can unite and share their experiences. These coordinated efforts will help prevent infringements on civil liberties from becoming accepted or systematic.

To complement the coalition's work, I will be introducing a House resolution condemning bigotry, violence, and discrimination against Iranian Americans. The purpose is to raise awareness of acts of bigotry and discrimination against Iranian Americans and to urge law enforcement officials to respond effectively. The resolution will also serve to encourage Iranian Americans to share their experiences with members of Congress as a means of correcting misperceptions and educating the American public about the inequities suffered by Iranian Americans.

It is important that we increase awareness of the rise in discrimination against the Iranian American community. Combating discrimination against any group of Americans is critical to protecting the civil liberties of all Americans.

Thank you for your support in defending the rights of all Americans. I wish you luck as you move forward with the coalition's efforts.

Sincerely,

Marty Meehan
Member of Congress