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On behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism, whose over 900 congregations across North America encompass 1.5 million Reform Jews, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, which represents over 2,000 Reform rabbis, we submit these questions regarding the nomination of Gen. John Kelly as Secretary of Homeland Security. We urge Committee Members to make use of them during his nomination hearing.

The Reform Movement is the largest denomination in American Jewish life and strongly advocates for policies that reflect the dignity of all people, regardless of their religion, national origin or citizenship status. To that end, we remain in steadfast support of comprehensive immigration reform as the only way to truly address the deficiencies in our immigration system. Comprehensive reform must keep our borders secure, expand the legal channels of immigration and provide a path to citizenship for those already living here. Further, as a people who have at times in our history sought refuge from persecution, we intimately understand that our collective humanity compels us to welcome those who seek refuge at our borders.

Our Jewish tradition demands that we concern ourselves with the strangers in our midst. Leviticus commands, "When strangers sojourn with you in your land, you shall not do them wrong. The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (19:33-34). This principle permeates Jewish tradition and is echoed 35 times in the Torah.

Protecting Civil Liberties

1. President-elect Trump has advocated for a registration for American Muslims and Muslim immigrants entering the United States.¹ Targeting certain populations based solely on their religious beliefs is a clear violation of the Constitution. This country was built upon the promise of religious freedom, and as Americans it is our duty to defend that promise for ourselves and for others. Do you believe that individuals living in the United States or entering legally should be registered or monitored based solely upon their religious affiliations?
2. In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security suspended the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS), which was the Bush Administration's response to

¹ http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/11/20/donald-trump-says-hed-absolutely-require-muslims-to-register/?_r=0



the 9/11 terrorist attacks.² NSEERS singled out immigrant men and boys from primarily majority-Arab and Muslim countries for extraordinary registration requirements with the Department of Homeland Security. Despite its intrusive nature, the discriminatory program resulted in zero terrorism arrests. In December 2016, the Obama administration ended the program permanently. Do you believe that singling out immigrants primarily based on national origin or religion is an effective tool to counter terrorism? If so, how do you account for the contrary evidence provided by Bush Administration's NSEERS program?

Toward a Pathway to Citizenship

3. Under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, over 750,000 undocumented immigrants – those who were brought here as children and for whom the United States is the only place they know as home – have been able to stay, work and contribute in the country without fear of deportation.³ Since the November election, many Republicans and Democrats have signed on to support legislative efforts to protect these “DREAMers” from potential deportation efforts, understanding both their allegiance and value to the United States.⁴ As Secretary of Homeland Security, you will be intimately involved in the enforcement of laws pertaining to undocumented immigrants. How will you protect the 750,000 young people who fear deportation, and want to continue to contribute to the only country they call home?
4. In 2012, there were 4.5 million American citizens with at least one undocumented parent.⁵ In 2014, the Obama administration, through the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program, granted deferred action status to the undocumented parents of American citizens or lawful permanent residents.⁶ Although this program was stalled by the courts, the benefits of protecting these parents of American citizens are clear: keeping families together, allowing people living in and contributing to this country to continue to work, and facilitating better relations between immigrant communities and law enforcement – thereby making communities safer overall. Do you agree with this philosophy? If so, how do you plan to address the issue of protecting undocumented parents of American citizens given the court's actions? If not, what are the ways in which we can enforce immigration policy without separating families? How do you plan to prioritize the deportation of undocumented immigrants?

² <http://www.cnn.com/2016/11/18/politics/nseers-muslim-database-qa-trnd/vvvv>

³ <http://www.politico.com/agenda/story/2016/12/john-kelly-policies-immigration-homeland-security-000256>

⁴ <http://www.politico.com/story/2016/12/senators-republican-democrats-dreamers-immigrants-232431>

⁵ https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2015/08/20/how-many-children-born-to-undocumented-immigrants-are-there-in-the-u-s/?utm_term=.79515b862cb2

⁶ <https://www.nilc.org/issues/immigration-reform-and-executive-actions/dapa-and-expanded-daca-programs/>

Border Policies

5. President-elect Trump has advocated for building a 2,000-mile wall along the southern border to stop undocumented entry into the United States. Building such a wall has been widely criticized as a misuse of taxpayer money and unlikely to be an effective response to the issue.⁷ Do you believe that building a wall on our southern border will be an effective means of addressing the future flow of immigrants? What would be the most effective way to ensure the safety and well-being of border communities and the nation as a whole?
6. The nation is safer when immigrant communities are not discouraged from interacting with law enforcement because of fear of deportation. Immigrants, family members of immigrants, and individuals perceived to be immigrants should never feel vulnerable or fear retribution or deportation if they report being victim or witness to a crime. In your opinion, should police have the ability to report and detain those they believe to be undocumented? If yes, how will police create and sustain safety in largely immigrant communities?

Refugee Resettlement

7. With more than 65 million people worldwide forced to flee their homes due to violence and persecution, we are currently facing the worst refugee crisis in recent history.⁸ In the United States, refugees are subjected to the most rigorous and detailed security screenings of any category of person⁹ – immigrant or visitor – in a process that takes between 18 and 24 months, and involves over a dozen national security, law enforcement and intelligence agencies.¹⁰ What do you believe is the United States' responsibility to respond to this global crisis? Do you believe that this security screening adequately protects our national security interests? What would you suggest in its place that also balances the importance of maintaining civil liberties?

⁷ <http://www.businessinsider.com/can-donald-trumps-build-wall-mexico-2016-3>

⁸ <http://www.cnn.com/2016/06/20/world/unhcr-displaced-peoples-report/>

⁹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/11/20/infographic-screening-process-refugee-entry-united-states>

¹⁰ <http://www.cnn.com/2015/11/16/politics/syrian-refugees-u-s-applicants-explainer/>