



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
120 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10271

ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

(212) 416-8050

December 19, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As the chief law enforcement officer of New York State, I write to urge your Administration to rescind the regulatory framework of the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS). As you are aware, NSEERS sought to track and register non-immigrant males from primarily Arab, Muslim, and South Asian countries who were not suspected or accused of any wrongdoing. The program did not achieve its intended purpose of reducing terrorist activity in the United States. Instead, NSEERS undermined trust and hindered open communications between law enforcement and community members, thus hampering the ability of law enforcement to promote public safety.

In April 2011, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) terminated the NSEERS registration process while leaving the regulatory framework in place. The reasons then cited by DHS for terminating the registration process—that essential information was obtained through other, less costly methods—remain equally valid today. DHS's current automated systems capture the same data initially sought through NSEERS' manual documentation processes. Moreover, despite registering more than 80,000 teenage boys and men, NSEERS failed to result in a single terrorism-related conviction. Instead, more than 13,000 men who registered with NSEERS were placed in removal proceedings, leaving their families and communities devastated. Far from being a successful law enforcement tool, the NSEERS regulatory framework serves only as a dormant reminder of a misguided and discriminatory policy.

Indeed, by facilitating the government's ability to single out individuals for special registration, the NSEERS framework echoes policies that many Americans, including law enforcement officers, have disavowed as bearing no relationship to safety or security. We must never return to that dark era in our history so chillingly represented by *Korematsu v. U.S.*, 323 U.S. 214 (1944).



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I believe that DHS took steps in the right direction with its April 2011 decision to end registration, and now encourage the Administration to fully dismantle what is left of NSEERS so that it can no longer be used to instill fear and mistrust within the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric T. Schneiderman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eric T. Schneiderman