



Advancing Justice-Atlanta applauds Governor Deal's decision to rescind the order to ban Syrian refugees from Georgia

NORCROSS, GA , January 6, 2016 — Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta (Advancing Justice-Atlanta) applauds the Governor Nathan Deal's decision to rescind an order that sought to stop the resettlement of Syrian refugees in Georgia. The governor's decision will pave the way for the state to process their applications for food stamps and Medicaid.

On November 16th, 2015 Governor Deal sent out an Executive Order that directed state agencies to "halt any involvement" in the acceptance of Syrian refugees until federal authorities change the process for vetting them. However, the Governor's decision on January 4th, 2016 will overturn the order that prevented state employees from processing any paperwork involving refugees from Syria.

"Our state and our nation should welcome refugees from Syria, who are seeking safety and an escape from four years of civil war and terror. We applaud the decision that will create a path for more Syrian refugees to come and settle in Georgia," said Stephanie Cho, Executive Director of Advancing Justice-Atlanta.

"We are pleased that the Governor's withdraw will pave the path for resettlement of Syrian refugees and continue the critical funding for refugees to resettle in the state of Georgia. We remain concerned about the increase in anti-refugee, anti-Muslim rhetoric. Advancing Justice-Atlanta will continue to speak out against such hateful discourse".

Advancing Justice-Atlanta is dedicated to promoting the rights of all immigrants, refugees, and individuals with questions about immigration. Any inquiries on ways to get involved in standing against hateful rhetoric can contact our Advancing Justice - Atlanta multilingual immigration hotline by calling (404) 890-5655 or visit us online at www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org.

About Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta (formerly Asian American Legal Advocacy Center or AALAC) is the first non-profit law center dedicated to Asian immigrants and refugees ("Asian Americans") in the Southeast.

Our goal is to engage, educate and empower under-represented Asian Americans to greater civic participation.

We are one of five independent organizations that make up the national Asian Americans Advancing Justice. Together with our affiliates in Chicago, DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco, we bring more than 100 years of collective experience in addressing the civil rights issues faced by Asian Americans and other vulnerable and underserved communities. Visit www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org.