

Brian Masse M.P.
Member of Parliament
Windsor West



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Ottawa
Room 1000, The Valour Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Tel: 613-996-1541
Fax: 613-992-5397

Windsor
1398 Ouellette Avenue, Suite 2
Windsor, ON N8X 1J8
Tel: 519-255-1631
Fax: 519-255-7913

February 3, 2017

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

The Hon. Ahmed Hussen
Minister of Immigration,
Refugees and Citizenship
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

The Hon. Ralph Goodale
Minister of Public Safety &
Emergency Preparedness
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister Hussen & Minister Goodale,

I am writing you today for two urgent and connected reasons. The first one concerns your Government's failure to expeditiously address an issue I raised with you in a letter and in the House of Commons about cross-border access to medical services. These situations can be life or death and require your immediate attention.

The second issue again connects to border programming between Canada and the United States that requires your immediate attention. As you are aware, Canada and the United States have a number of bi-lateral programs that facilitate trade and travel between our two countries. It has come to my attention that the United States is now revoking access to individuals previously approved for the Trusted Traveller program jointly administered by Canada and the United States.

Attached is a document demonstrating clearly that eligibility for this program is now connected to an individual's country of origin as a result of President Trump's Executive Order restricting travel into the United States. In this specific instance it is my understanding that this individual is a valid Permanent Resident card holder whose country of origin is one of the states identified in the Executive Order.

The FAST Program is designed to facilitate commercial trade between Canada and the United States by vetting commercial freight drivers for accelerated border processing when they present at Canada-U.S. check points.

As a result of the revocation of his eligibility for this Trusted Traveller Program he has been laid off indefinitely from his job. It is my understanding that there are dozens already who have had their eligibility revoked.

What is unclear at this time, and what I am urging your government to address immediately is to definitively ascertain the scope of the new restrictions to this program since it would seem to contradict your government's stated understanding of the scope of the Executive Order.

What you are saying does not reflect the reality.

The full scope of the impacts to the range of bi-lateral border programs that are impacted by this Executive Order are still unknown. The health and well-being of people living in Canada is at stake, our economy, jobs and the entire framework of the bi-lateral arrangements that exist between our two economies.

Some communication of these changes would be helpful.

President Trump has identified the manufacturing sector as an area that he intends to focus upon, industry stakeholders have indicated changes to U.S. policy could impact investment in Canada moving forward. Reducing the capacity of the Trusted Traveller Program by barring the entry of previously vetted and approved drivers should put your Government on high alert. This unravelling of cross-border programs is conceivably a step in a broader strategy of utilizing non-tariff barriers as well as formal tariffs to stunt investment in Canada. Your Government's full and immediate attention is urgently required.

Sincerely,



Brian Masse M.P.
Windsor West

Encl. Revocation Letter from U.S. Customs and Border Protection
FAST Enrollment Centre (REDACTED)

Brian Masse M.P. letter to Hon. Ahmed Hussen dated

c.c. Hon. Navdeep Bains
Hon. Jane Philpott
Kathleen Wynne