



## **Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.**

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*Empowering refugees and immigrants since 1983*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ECDC Responds to Supreme Court Decision on President Trump's Travel Ban**

**Arlington, VA**—Following the Supreme Court's decision to uphold a Hawaii court's ruling on extended family, and to stay U.S. District Court Judge Derrick Watson's ruling on refugee assurances pending appeal at the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit, Dr. Tsehaye Teferra, President of the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. released the following statement:

“We are pleased that the Supreme Court has ruled in support of a sensible interpretation of close family ties to include grandparents and grandchildren. However, we remain concerned for those refugees who do not have family ties in the United States and depend on assurances from the U.S. government and U.S. resettlement agencies.

“We must remember that refugees are among the most vulnerable populations in the world and seek only safety and freedom in this country. Despite their challenging journeys, they quickly become contributors to their new communities. This order, as it stands, will keep tens of thousands of already thoroughly vetted refugees out of the U.S. and in harm's way.

“We call upon the administration and our nation's leaders to reconsider their policies towards refugees, which have caused immense confusion and harm. We support an approach where those eligible and deserving refugees can call the U.S. home. The United States must retake its rightful place as a world leader on the critical refugee humanitarian issue.”

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*ECDC is one of nine resettlement agencies working in partnership with the Department of State and the Office of Refugee Resettlement to provide initial placement and support services to refugees being resettled in the United States. ECDC promotes cultural, educational and socio-economic development programs to assist refugees and immigrants in becoming productive members of their new homeland.*