

## BUDDHIST ACTION NOW LETTER WRITING

Here is a potential framework for writing as blocking or holding action against destructive legislation, policies, or other official measures. It might be used in a letter to a Congressman, state representative, government official, newspaper editor, or any public forum. Modify it to suit your needs, for example, in support of something you want to advocate *for*:

Dear [Member of Congress, Newspaper Editor]

I am a concerned constituent [or concerned reader], living in Austin, Texas. As Buddhists, we are in opposition to [HB 42, the transgender military ban, the Muslim travel ban, the proposed budget, etc.] because it does not accord with American values. It is:

- Unfair
- Unjust
- Unwise
- Unkind

It is *unfair* because it [impacts (one group) more severely than (another group); has not been created through a public process, fosters inequality, etc.]. **Reasons having to do with equality.**

It is *unjust* because [it punishes the innocent and vulnerable; does not address environmental impacts, etc.]. **Reasons having to do with justice.**

It is *unwise* because [it leaves a toxic environment for future generations; it creates conflicts and discord, etc.]. **Reasons having to do with wisdom, common sense, scientific evidence, and so on.**

It is *unkind* because it [harms living beings; tears families apart, etc.]. **Reasons having to do with human compassion for all beings.**

[in this section above you can elaborate on the reasons as you wish]

This is not who we are; this is not representative of our American values. Our culture has not always exemplified these values, to our discredit. We aim to change that.

You can help by opposing [HB 42, etc.] and standing up for our country's aspiration for fairness, justice, wisdom, and kindness. We living beings and future generations thank you.

With deep respect for our shared humanity,

[your name]

Buddhist Action Now

buddhistactionnow.org