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Tanenbaum Supports Religious Pluralism and Condemns the RAISE Act

Tanenbaum strongly condemns the proposed amendments to current U.S. immigration policy. As outlined in the Reforming American Immigration for Strong Economy Act (RAISE) and supported by the current Administration, the proposals are alarming. By seeking to cut legal immigration to the U.S. in half by 2027 and to cap the number of refugees at 50,000, the RAISE Act would actually institutionalize bias against people who practice one of the minority religions in the U.S. Tanenbaum therefore calls on Congress to reject the bill.

Tanenbaum's CEO, Joyce Dubensky, notes, "The White House is telling us that this bill is not meant to target any particular group. But the truth is that this bill would thwart immigration, especially by people from minority religions in our country—like Muslims and Hindus, who have increasingly needed to come to this nation for safety, opportunity and better lives." Dubensky believes this proposal should concern all of us.

"This is a critical moment in America's history. Not only are we deeply polarized, but nationally, we are conflicted about whether to embrace our traditional values of welcoming the stranger. Many are more concerned with insulating themselves from current demographic shifts. Yet, these shifts are part of our global reality," Dubensky said. "So the real question for all of us is, what does it mean to be an American? Do we welcome the stranger like our many religious and secular values urge? Or do we turn from the people who need us?"

Tanenbaum cautions our government's leaders that passing the RAISE Act would backfire. Rather than protect our nation, it would amplify Islamophobia, legitimize irrational fears of refugees and immigrants, and fuel hate crimes against people from religious minorities that are already reaching epidemic levels. We urge, instead, that our nation's leaders prove that they value inclusivity by passing policies that honor and uphold religious freedom and diversity, which RAISE does not.

As Dubensky explains, "Simply stated, RAISE would raze our nation's foundational values in the guise of sound immigration policy."