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## **Statement for the Record**

### **House Committee on Homeland Security**

#### **“The Extent of Radicalization in the American Muslim Community and that Community's Response”**

**March 10, 2011**

The National Immigration Forum works to uphold America's tradition as a nation of immigrants. The Forum advocates for the value of immigrants and immigration to the nation, building support for public policies that reunite families, recognize the importance of immigration to our economy and our communities, protect refugees, encourage newcomers to become new Americans and promote equal protection under the law.

We are submitting our views about the subject of this hearing, “the extent of radicalization in the American Muslim community.” It is regrettable that the Committee has decided to look at extremist behavior in one particular religious group. This is yet another hearing where the House leadership is pitting one set of Americans against others, as we have seen repeatedly in this Congress in hearings pertaining to immigrants and New American communities.

Racial profiling doesn't work for identifying terrorists. Extremist behavior is not isolated to individuals of a particular religion or race, and the implication that the Muslim community is extremist is a distraction from the serious work of deterring extremist threats. To the contrary, pitting community against community undermines our ability to gain the critical information we need to detect those who intend to harm us. Putting an entire community under suspicion undermines the efforts of law enforcement to gain the trust of immigrant and other minority communities. The task of law enforcement—protecting public safety—is made that much more difficult when individuals in a particular community fear stepping forward to report a crime or act as witnesses.

Law enforcement on its own will never be able to anticipate every crime or act of terrorism. It will take all of us to do our part. For that, we need all people living and working permanently in this country to feel they are a part of it. Instead of isolating communities, we should be doing what we can to strengthen them.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our view on this matter.