



Dilawar Syed Deserves A Vote

“no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.” — U.S. Constitution, Article VI, Section 3

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DILAWAR SYED MAIL/ACTION PAGE TEMPLATES

National Day of Action / Email-in Day Sign-Up Form

[Action GOP Target](#)

[Sample Email to List:](#)

[Sample Action Page](#)

[Sample Email To Senators](#)

[Action Democratic Target:](#)

[Sample Email to List:](#)

[Sample Action Page Template](#)

[Sample Email on Action Page](#)

Action GOP Target

Roger Marshall (KS)

Jim Inhofe (OK)

Jim Risch (ID)

Joni Ernst (IA)

Todd Young (IN)

Rand Paul (KY)
Marco Rubio (FL)
Tim Scott (SC)

Action Timing:

Sept. 17

Action Email Ask:

Republican ask: Demand Republican SBC members show up for the vote on Sept. 21 and allow a confirmation vote on Dilawar.

Sample Email To List:

Sender: XX, Organization Name

Subject Line A/B test

A: Act Now: No religious test

B: Act Now: Anti-Muslim bias in the Senate

Preview Text: Highest ranking American Muslim nominee stalled.

Image

Body:

Hi Friend/First Name,

Back in March, President Biden nominated Dilawar Syed to be the deputy administrator of the Small Business Administration — his confirmation would make him the highest-ranking American Muslim in the Biden administration (and in any administration in U.S. history).

It's a matter of pride for every American Muslim and all those who believe that anyone, no matter their background, can rise up to serve our nation. Unfortunately, several senators have repeatedly not shown up to committee meetings and denied quorum — a first-ever in the history of the Small Business Committee — to stall Syed's nomination. They have emphasized his national origin in memos and his connection and work in the American Muslim community all the while ignoring his record as a business leader and public servant.

This is un-American.

Our Constitution explicitly states that “**no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.**” The Religious Test Clause protects all Americans who aspire to serve in government from religious discrimination.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT FOR A NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION TO ALLOW A VOTE ON SYED’S NOMINATION.

SEND AN EMAIL NOW TO SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS CALLING ON THEM TO SHOW UP AND ALLOW SYED TO RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION VOTE!

Syed is eminently qualified. An entrepreneur with 20+ years of business experience alongside a history of public service from his role as the founding chairman of Gov. Newsom’s California Entrepreneurship Task Force to his recent responsibilities on the Silicon Valley Recovery Roundtable helping the region bounce back from COVID-19. During the Obama Administration, he chaired the White House AAPI Economic Growth Committee to help small businesses recover after the 2008 financial crisis in under-served regions. He has been endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and more than 40 business and industry groups.

The Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship held a hearing on Syed’s nomination in April. Under normal circumstances, he would have received a vote by now.

But **some committee members are refusing to even allow a simple “yes” or “no” vote on Syed’s nomination** — they’re denying something as simple as a quorum.

Led by Bend the Arc Jewish Action, Jewish American organizations are speaking out and have joined forces with Muslim Advocates, AAPI Victory Fund, American Jewish Congress, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, South Asians for America and many other groups to call on the Senate Republicans to stop playing offensive partisan games and show up to vote on his nomination.

Join us in telling senators to oppose the anti-Muslim religious test and allow a vote on Syed’s nomination.

Syed is an American Muslim entrepreneur and public servant who worked hard to live the American Dream and dedicated his life to helping entrepreneurs in under-served communities across the country.

It is **well-past time for the Senate to perform its constitutional duty and end the blockade on Syed** — and finally allow him to receive a confirmation vote so he can start lifting small business owners across America, especially as another COVID surge and natural disasters ravage Main Street business.

Fortunately, you can make a big difference right now. Several senators are on the fence and need to hear from their constituents on this nomination.

TAKE ACTION NOW and tell senators to show up and allow a vote on Syed's nomination.

For religious liberty,

XX

XX, Organization Name

Sample Action Page Template:

Image

TAKE ACTION: Tell senators to show up and provide quorum for a vote on Dilawar Syed's nomination on Tuesday, Sept. 21 at 10am ET

Syed's confirmation by the U.S. Senate would make him the highest-ranking American Muslim in the Biden Administration and his nomination to be the deputy administrator of the Small Business Administration is currently being blocked by several senators. Internal memos and statements by these senators make implicit references to Dilawar Syed's place of birth and background.

This is un-American.

Our Constitution explicitly states that "no religious Test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

Several senators on the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship are on the fence and need to hear from their constituents on Syed's nomination.

Send an email to senators telling them to show up and finally allow a vote on Syed's nomination (Their latest goal post of Planned Parenthood has nothing to do with Syed):

Sample Email on Action Page:

Dear [Senator],

I respectfully urge you to attend the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 21 at 10am ET and allow a vote on Dilawar Syed's nomination for Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Syed's nomination is matter of pride for every Muslim American and all those who believe that anyone, no matter their background or origin, can rise up to serve in our nation. As a constituent

of yours, it is extremely important to me that he is treated fairly and moves through the process as he is entitled.

Syed is eminently qualified. An entrepreneur with 20+ years of business and technology experience alongside a history of public service from his role as the founding chairman of the California Entrepreneurship Task Force where he drove economic growth in rural areas to his responsibilities on the Silicon Valley Recovery Roundtable helping the region bounce back from COVID-19. During the Obama Administration, he chaired the White House AAPI Economic Growth Committee to help small businesses recover after the 2008 financial crisis in under-served regions across the country.

He has been endorsed by more than 150 business, industry, and civic organizations including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Black Chamber of Commerce and regional groups such as Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

The Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship held a hearing on Syed's nomination in April. He received bi-partisan support from the Committee in a voice vote in June (which was invalidated on a "technicality"). It's time to put an end to the effort to stall Syed's nomination and move forward with a confirmation vote so he can get to work for the American entrepreneurs, innovators, and small business owners. With COVID surging again, and natural disasters wreaking havoc on our communities, vulnerable small businesses need SBA's help and SBA needs Syed's leadership. Your latest goal post of Planned Parenthood has nothing to do with Syed! I urge you to show up on Tuesday, Sept. 21, allow for quorum, and advance him to the Senate floor as he deserves.

Action Democratic Target:

Chuck Schumer (NY)

Action Timing:

September 17

Action Email Ask:

Democratic Ask: Demand Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer advance Dilawar Syed's nomination out of the committee and bring it to a vote on the Senate floor.

Sample Email to List:

Sender: XX, Organization Name

Subject Line A/B test

A: Act Now: No religious litmus test

B: Act Now: Anti-Muslim bias in the Senate

Preview Text: An American Muslim nominee is being blocked.

Image

Body:

Hi Friend/First Name,

Back in March, President Biden nominated Dilawar Syed to be the deputy administrator of the Small Business Administration — his confirmation would make him the highest-ranking American Muslim in the Biden Administration. Unfortunately, several senators are deploying anti-Muslim bias to block a vote on his nomination.

This is un-American.

Our Constitution explicitly states that “**no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.**” The Religious Test Clause protects all Americans who aspire to serve in government from religious discrimination.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT FOR A NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION TO END THE BLOCKADE ON SYED.

We are doing everything we can to ensure that Republican’s show up to the next vote, but — in the case that they don’t — **ask Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer to bring Syed’s nomination out of committee and to the Senate floor for a confirmation vote.**

Leader Schumer holds the power to overcome Republican obstructionism and force it out of committee — without the need for a committee vote — any nomination. It is near time that Syed is given the courtesy of a vote by the whole Senate, especially if SBC Republicans boycott his committee vote once again.

Syed is eminently qualified. An entrepreneur with 20+ years of business experience alongside a history of public service from his role as the chairman of Gov. Newsom’s California Entrepreneurship Task Force to his responsibilities on the Silicon Valley Recovery Roundtable helping the region bounce back from COVID-19. During the Obama Administration, he chaired the White House AAPI Economic Growth Committee to help small businesses recover after the 2008 financial crisis.

But instead of focusing on the Syed's qualifications and history of public service, some senators deployed offensive anti-Muslim tropes to unfairly and falsely paint Syed an anti-Israel.

Led by Bend the Arc Jewish Action, Jewish American organizations have come to Syed's defense and joined forces with Muslim Advocates, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, AAPI Victory Fund, South Asians for America and many other groups to call on the Senate to stop playing offensive games and finally vote on his nomination.

Join us in asking Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer to bring Syed's nomination out of committee and to the Senate floor for a confirmation vote.

Syed is an American Muslim entrepreneur who worked hard to live the American Dream and also dedicated his life to lifting entrepreneurs in under-served communities. The campaign to block his confirmation vote is an un-American religious litmus test.

It is **well-past time for the Senate's leader to sideline this biased and unfair blockade** — and allow a vote on his nomination so he can start working for the American entrepreneurs and small business owners.

You can make a big difference right now. Leader. Schumer needs to hear from all of us. If Syed is brought in front of the whole Senate, he will almost certainly be confirmed.

TAKE ACTION NOW and tell Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer to speak out against the religious litmus test and allow a vote on Syed's nomination.

For religious liberty,

XX

XX, Organization Name

Sample Action Page Template:

Image

TAKE ACTION: Ask Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer to bring Syed's nomination out of committee and to the Senate floor for a confirmation vote.

Dilawar Syed's nomination to be the deputy administrator of the Small Business Administration — his confirmation would make him the highest-ranking American Muslim in the Biden Administration — **is being blocked in committee by some senators.** Internal memos and statements by these senators make implicit references to Dilawar Syed's place of birth and background, and his advocacy on behalf of the American Muslim community.

This is un-American.

Our Constitution explicitly states that “no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.”

It's time for Leader Schumer to say enough is enough to the anti-Muslim obstructionists — and advance Syed's nomination out of committee and bring it to the Senate floor for a vote.

Send an email to Leader Schumer asking him to move against this unprecedented GOP boycott and advance Syed's nomination:

Sample Email on Action Page:

Dear Leader Schumer,

Thank you for your leadership during these challenging times. I am reaching out to make you aware of a disturbing situation currently happening within the Senate Small Business Committee.

Back in March, President Biden nominated Dilawar Syed to be the deputy administrator of the Small Business Administration — his confirmation would make him the highest-ranking American Muslim in the Biden administration (and in any administration in US history). Syed's nomination is a matter of pride for every Muslim American and all those who believe that anyone, no matter their background or origin, anyone can rise up to serve in our nation. Unfortunately, several senators have repeatedly not shown up to committee meetings and denied quorum — a first in the history of the Small Business Committee, historically a bi-partisan committee — to stall his nomination. They have projected his national origin and immigrant background in memos, and his connection and work in the American Muslim community all the while ignoring his stellar record as a business leader and public servant.

This is a religious test that is un-American and unconstitutional. Senators have unfairly and offensively used Syed's immigrant background to attack him. Now some are even trying to use Syed's nomination as a chip in their war against Planned Parenthood and women's healthcare.

Syed is eminently qualified. An entrepreneur with 20+ years of business experience alongside a history of public service from his role as the founding chairman of Gov. Newsom's California Entrepreneurship Task Force to his responsibilities on the Silicon Valley Recovery Roundtable helping the region bounce back from COVID-19. During the Obama Administration, he chaired the White House AAPI Economic Growth Committee to help small businesses recover after the 2008 financial crisis.

The Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship held a hearing on Syed's nomination in April. He received bi-partisan support in a voice vote in June which was invalidated over a "technicality" after Republicans complained. Since then, two committee votes have been noticed, both of which were boycotted by all Republicans on the SBC. A final committee vote has been noticed for September 21, but we expect committee Republicans to boycott once again.

It's time to put an end to the effort to block Syed by sidelining the obstructionists. If SBC Republicans boycott a third time, I respectfully ask you to move Syed's nomination out of committee and finally allow Syed to receive a confirmation vote.

In the case this unprecedented boycott continues, I urge you to bring an end to the blockade of Dilawar Syed's nomination to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration by bringing it to a vote on the Senate floor.

Thank you for all you do, we deeply appreciate your consideration on this matter.

UPDATED July 2022



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Action GOP Target

Joni Ernst (IA)

Todd Young (IN)

Marco Rubio (FL)

Tim Scott (SC)

Action Timing:

July 18 - July 31

Action Email Ask:

Republican ask: Support small business entrepreneurs and all who depend on them by confirming President Biden's Deputy SBA nominee, Dilawar Syed

Sample Email To List:

Sender: XX, Organization Name

Subject Line A/B test

A: Act Now: Small businesses over divisive politics

Preview Text: Small businesses hurting while highest ranking American Muslim nominee stalled.

Image

Body:

Hi Friend/First Name,

Over 15 months ago, President Biden nominated Dilawar Syed to be the deputy administrator of the Small Business Administration — his confirmation would make him the highest-ranking American Muslim in any administration and among top Asian American officials in President Biden's administration.

It is a matter of pride for every American Muslim, Asian American, immigrant and all those who believe that anyone, no matter their background, can rise up to serve our nation. Unfortunately, the Republican Senators on the Committee have repeatedly not shown up to committee meetings and blocked his nomination five times by denying a simple yes/no vote — a first-ever in the history of the Small Business Committee. These Senators clearly favor divisive partisan politics over the needs of our small business entrepreneurs who are struggling amidst pandemic recovery, labor shortages, supply chain issues and inflation.

This is unacceptable.

Syed is eminently qualified. An entrepreneur with 20+ years of business experience alongside a history of public service from his role as the founding chairman of Gov. Newsom's California Entrepreneurship Task Force to his recent responsibilities as the United States Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs at the US Department of State. During the Obama Administration, he chaired the White House AAPI Economic Growth Committee to help small businesses recover after the 2008 financial crisis in under-served regions. He has been endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and more than 150 business and industry groups.

Syed continues to be in this fight. Despite being unjustly delayed, blocked five times, renominated and appointed to a coveted public service role at the State Department; Dilawar has stayed the course to become the next SBA Deputy Administrator. For Dilawar, this is a fight for all marginalized communities against systemic racism and to give up would be to give in to injustice, hypocrisy and marginalization.

Led by Bend the Arc Jewish Action, Jewish American organizations are speaking out and have joined forces with Muslim Advocates, AAPI Victory Fund, American Jewish Congress, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, South Asians for America and many other groups to call on the Senate Republicans to stop playing offensive partisan games and show up to vote on his nomination.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO GET JUST ONE REPUBLICAN SENATOR ON THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE TO SHOW UP - NOT VOTE, JUST SHOW UP. TOGETHER WE CAN GET SYED'S NOMINATION TO THE FULL SENATE AND ULTIMATELY A CONFIRMATION VOTE. TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE HISTORY!

Join Team Dilawar in telling senators to support small business entrepreneurs and all who depend on them by allowing a vote on his nomination.

Sample Email on Action Page:

Dear [Senator],

I respectfully urge you to actively pursue and allow a vote on Dilawar Syed's nomination for Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Syed's nomination is a matter of pride for every American Muslim, Asian American, immigrant and all those who believe that anyone, no matter their background, can rise up to serve our nation. Unfortunately, he has been in political gridlock and denied a simple yes/no vote — a first-ever in the history of the Small Business Committee. As a constituent, it is extremely important to me that you say no to divisive partisan politics and prioritize the needs of our small business entrepreneurs who are struggling amidst pandemic recovery, labor shortages, supply chain issues and inflation.

Syed is eminently qualified. An entrepreneur with 20+ years of business experience alongside a history of public service from his role as the founding chairman of Gov. Newsom's California Entrepreneurship Task Force to his recent responsibilities as the United States Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs at the US Department of State. During the

Obama Administration, he chaired the White House AAPI Economic Growth Committee to help small businesses recover after the 2008 financial crisis in under-served regions.

He has been endorsed by more than 150 business, industry, and civic organizations including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Black Chamber of Commerce and regional groups such as Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

The Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship held a hearing on Syed's nomination in April 2021 - more than a year ago. Subsequently, he received bi-partisan support from the Committee in a voice vote in June 2021 which was invalidated on a "technicality". It's time to put an end to the effort to stall Syed's nomination and move forward with a confirmation vote so he can get to work for the American entrepreneurs, innovators, and small business owners. With the looming threat of a new COVID variant, inflation, supply chain issues and labor shortages wreaking havoc on our communities, vulnerable small businesses need SBA's help and SBA needs Syed's leadership. Senator Paul's goal post of Planned Parenthood has nothing to do with Syed or with the issues most concerning our state! I urge you to actively seek a confirmation vote for Syed, allow for quorum, and advance him to the Senate floor as he deserves.