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## **CITY OF SAN DIEGO JOINS LEGAL FIGHT TO DEFEND BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP AND PROTECT LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

**(SAN DIEGO – April 18)** The City of San Diego joined a coalition of local governments across the country in filing an amicus brief in support of several state Attorneys General, including California’s, challenging the Federal Administration’s attempt to eliminate birthright citizenship through executive order. Led by San Diego City Attorney Heather Ferbert, this action underscores San Diego’s commitment to upholding constitutional rights, preserving community stability, and safeguarding access to essential public services.

The amicus brief, filed last Friday, challenges Executive Order (EO) 14160, issued on January 20, 2025, which undermines the U.S. Constitution, directly contradicts the Fourteenth Amendment’s guarantee of citizenship by birth, and poses immediate harm to communities throughout the United States. Citizenship by birth is not subject to executive discretion, it is a constitutional guarantee.

If the executive order moves forward, it will strip citizenship from children born on U.S. soil, an action that legal experts and advocates argue is unconstitutional and discriminatory. This move would also create confusion within federal and local agencies, compromise access to federally funded services, and shift significant burdens onto local governments.

“Stripping individuals of their constitutional right to citizenship not only defies our nation’s founding principles, but it also threatens the health, stability, and economic wellbeing of our communities,” **said San Diego City Attorney Heather Ferbert.** “We are proud to join this legal fight to defend the Constitution and protect the rights of all people born in the United States.”

Without clarity on citizenship status, many residents may lose eligibility for vital programs, leaving cities like San Diego to fill the gap with limited local resources. It would force local governments to address the fallout from disrupted access to healthcare, education, and social services traditionally supported by federal programs.

The lawsuits and amicus brief were filed in federal district courts and are now on appeal before the United States Courts of Appeals for the Ninth, First, and Fourth Circuits. The coalition anticipates the matter will be taken up by the United States Supreme Court and will continue to support legal efforts to ensure that birthright citizenship remains protected under the Constitution.

The cases include *State of Washington v. Trump*, No. 25-cv-127, and *Franco Aleman v. Trump*, No. 25-cv-163, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, both of which are now on appeal in *State of Washington v. Trump*, Nos. 25-807 and 25-674, before the Ninth Circuit. In the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, *CASA, Inc. v. Trump*, No. 25-cv-201, is now on appeal in the Fourth Circuit as *CASA, Inc. v. Trump*, No. 25-1153. In the District of Massachusetts, *State of New Jersey v. Trump*, No. 25-cv-10139, is currently on appeal before the First Circuit as *State of New Jersey v. Trump*, Nos. 25-1158, 25-1170, and 25-1200. Petitions for review are also pending before the United States Supreme Court in *Trump v. State of Washington*, No. 24A884, and *Trump v. CASA, Inc.*, No. 24A885.

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