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17 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
18 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
19 SAN JOSE DIVISION

20 JANE DOE 1, et al.
21 Plaintiffs,
22 v.
23 KIRSTJEN NIELSEN, et al.
24 Defendants.

CASE NO. 5:18-cv-02349 BLF

**PLAINTIFFS' REPLY IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION FOR PARTIAL SUMMARY
JUDGMENT**

Hearing:
Date: June 22, 2018
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Courtroom 3 (5th Floor)

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1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 In opposing the Motion for Partial Summary Judgment, Defendants do not dispute that
3 when they deny refugee status to persecuted Iranian religious minorities protected by the
4 Lautenberg Amendment they have the mandatory duty to inform applicants of the reason for the
5 denial “to the maximum extent feasible.” Nevertheless, named plaintiffs and proposed class
6 members (together, “Plaintiffs”) who fled their homes in Iran to complete the processing of their
7 refugee applications under the Lautenberg Amendment in Vienna received only the same stock
8 response: their applications were all denied “as a matter of discretion.” Defendants further do
9 not dispute that this stock response gravely harms the refugee applicants’ ability to pursue a
10 meaningful request for review process and thus deprives them and their U.S.-based close family
11 members of a fair opportunity to be reunited in the safety of the United States.

12 Instead, in opposing Plaintiffs’ motion Defendants primarily argue that this Court has no
13 authority to order relief here because courts lack authority to review discretionary decisions to
14 admit or deny refugees and other foreign nationals. But this argument severely misconstrues
15 Plaintiffs’ claims. Plaintiffs are not challenging Defendants’ decision to admit or deny the
16 refugee applicants, but seeking to enforce a mandatory duty under the Lautenberg Amendment
17 and applicable regulations, which requires that the government “shall state, to the maximum
18 extent feasible, the reason for the denial.” Pub. L. 101-167, Title V, § 599 D (c) (1989), codified
19 as amended in 8 U.S.C. § 1157 (note). This claim is reviewable under Ninth Circuit precedent,
20 and Defendants have not argued otherwise.

21 Defendants’ arguments against the merits of Plaintiffs’ motion also fall short.
22 Defendants’ declaration that they *do* provide reasons for denials to the maximum extent feasible
23 is nothing more than an inadmissible and conclusory assertion of law that is not tied to the
24 denials Plaintiffs received and that fails to square with agency policies and practice. Similarly,
25 Defendants’ contention that 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(16) (2016) and the Adjudicator’s Field Manual
26 do not apply to refugee processing is no more than a self-serving legal assertion that fails to
27 square with the plain language of the regulation and policy. Finally, Defendants’ argument
28 against the Due Process claim misunderstands Ninth Circuit precedent that confirms that in this

1 circuit there is an established liberty interest in the relationship between parents and their
2 children.

3 Having invited the refugee applicants—including women, children, the elderly, and
4 people with severe disabilities—to leave their homes in Iran and travel to Vienna, Defendants
5 betrayed Plaintiffs’ trust and stranded them in a desperate situation by unexpectedly denying
6 their applications without providing any reason why. Plaintiffs are not asking that Defendants
7 admit them to the United States, they are merely asking that the Defendants be required to follow
8 the process Congress mandated and so they can have a fair opportunity to pursue their hope for
9 family reunification in the United States. At the very least, they are entitled to that.

10 **II. ARGUMENT**

11 As Defendants acknowledge in their Response to Plaintiffs’ Motion for Partial Summary
12 Judgment (“MSJ Response”) (ECF 71), there are no disputed issues of material fact on the
13 claims on which Plaintiffs filed the Motion for Partial Summary Judgment (“MSJ”) (ECF 25):
14 Plaintiffs are refugee applicants under the Lautenberg Amendment and their close family
15 members who submitted and sponsored the applications as U.S. ties, and Defendants issued
16 Notices of Ineligibility (“Notices”) to the applicants stating that they were being denied refugee
17 resettlement “as a matter of discretion,” with no other explanation or clarification as to why.
18 Partial Summary Judgment is thus proper even at this early stage of the proceedings. *See*
19 F.R.C.P. 56(b) (permitting summary judgment “at any time until 30 days after the close of all
20 discovery”); L.R. 56 (containing no limitations on timing of summary judgment); General Order
21 61 (permitting summary judgment at any time permitted by the federal and local rules). Because
22 the claims are judicially reviewable and none of Defendants’ defenses on the merits hold water,
23 as explained in more detail below, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court grant partial
24 summary judgment and order relief that allows them to review any re-issued denials in time to
25 prepare meaningful requests for review.

26 **A. The Claims Are Judicially Reviewable**

27 Defendants’ leading argument in opposing partial summary judgment is that Plaintiffs’
28 claims are not judicially reviewable, MSJ Response at 6-12, but this rests wholly on a

1 misunderstanding of Plaintiffs’ claims and the requested relief. Specifically, the cases
 2 Defendants cite in their non-reviewability argument stand only for the limited position that
 3 judicial review is limited where Congress delegates decisional authority to the Executive branch,
 4 such as consular decisions to issue or deny visas. *See, e.g., Fiallo v. Bell*, 430 U.S. 787, 792-93
 5 (1977) (limiting, but not precluding, judicial review of constitutionality of immigration
 6 legislation); *United States ex rel. Knauff v. Shaughnessy*, 338 U.S. 537, 543 (1950) (precluding
 7 review of “the determination . . . to exclude a given alien” where Congress delegated discretion
 8 to the Executive); *Hassan v. Chertoff*, 593 F.3d 785, 788-89 (9th Cir. 2010) (holding that the
 9 discretionary decision to deny adjustment of status is not reviewable, but reviewing a due
 10 process claim that the government failed to follow its own regulations); *Li Hing of Hong Kong*
 11 *Inc. v. Levin*, 800 F.2d 970 (9th Cir. 1986) (explaining that a consular official’s decision to issue
 12 or withhold a visa is not subject to judicial review); *Saavedra Bruno v. Albright*, 197 F.3d 1153,
 13 1157, 1159 (D.C. Cir. 1999) (same). These concerns are not implicated here because Plaintiffs
 14 are not challenging a decision that was delegated to the Executive branch, but rather are seeking
 15 enforcement of a Congressionally mandated obligation that Defendants must follow. *See* MSJ at
 16 24 (requesting that Defendants re-issue notices that comply with statutory and regulatory
 17 requirements, not admit the refugee applicants).¹

18 Similarly, Defendants’ non-reviewability argument based on the bar on judicial review of
 19 discretionary decisions under 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)(2)(B)(ii) is inapposite, because Plaintiffs are
 20 not challenging a substantive decision within Defendants’ discretion. *Compare* MSJ at 12-19
 21 (arguing that the Defendants have a legal, mandatory duty to provide a reason for the denial “to
 22 _____

23 ¹ Although one out-of-circuit case Defendants cite—*Haitian Refugee Center, Inc. v. Baker*, 953
 24 F.2d 1498 (11th Cir. 1992)—more broadly posited that APA review may not be available for
 25 violations of certain provisions of Refugee Act, *id.* at 1505-12, the decision conflicts with Ninth
 26 Circuit precedent, *see infra*, and is inapplicable to Plaintiffs’ challenge under the Lautenberg
 27 Amendment and applicable regulations. In any event, the *Haitian Refugee Center* court
 28 appeared to recognize that non-reviewability under APA does not affect its powers to review the
 Refugee Act and associated claims under its equitable powers. *See* 953 F.2d at 1509-11; *see also*
Armstrong v. Exceptional Child Center, Inc., 135 S. Ct. 1378, 1384-85 (2015) (noting general
 availability of injunctive relief to violations of federal law by federal officials). Notably, the
 Supreme Court did not address the unavailability of review under the APA when reviewing the
 merits of a similar challenge a year later over the government’s non-reviewability objection. *See*
Sale v. Haitian Crts. Council, Inc., 509 U.S. 155 (1993); MSJ Response at 8-9.

1 the maximum extent feasible”) with *Kucana v. Holder*, 558 U.S. 233, 248 (2010) (explaining that
2 under § 1252(a)(2)(B)(ii), a decision in the discretion of the agency, like the substantive decision
3 to grant or deny refugee status, is unreviewable). The § 1252(a)(2)(B)(ii) bar, which must be
4 read narrowly consistent with the strong presumption of judicial review, *id.* at 237, does not
5 preclude challenges like this one because Defendants do not enjoy discretion to violate the law
6 by ignoring mandatory obligations. *See Singh v. Holder*, 638 F.3d 1196, 1202 (9th Cir. 2011)
7 (holding that “§ 1252(a)(2)(B)(ii) restricts jurisdiction only with respect to the executive’s
8 exercise of discretion” and not over “questions of law, . . . including application of law to
9 undisputed facts” (internal quotation marks and citations omitted)); *Kwai Fun Wong v. U.S.*, 373
10 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 2004) (explaining that “decisions made on a purely legal basis may be
11 reviewed [despite § 1252(a)(2)(B)], as they do not turn on discretionary judgment” and review of
12 constitutional claims also is available because “decisions that violate the Constitution cannot be
13 ‘discretionary’”). The Lautenberg Amendment imposes such an obligation on Defendants, as it
14 expressly states that Defendants “shall state, to the maximum extent feasible, the reason for the
15 denial,” and the applicable regulations, policies, and practices provide guidance as to how
16 Defendants fulfill that duty. *See* MSJ at 12-17; *Spencer Enterprises, Inc. v. United States*, 345
17 F.3d 683, 692 (9th Cir. 2003) (finding jurisdiction to review the denial of an immigrant investor
18 visa where statute used the word “shall” and noting that even if it did not, regulations and agency
19 practice could guide the agency’s discretion).

20 Contrary to Defendants’ contention that “Plaintiffs have identified no statute that
21 authorizes judicial review,” MSJ Response at 7, Plaintiffs explained that the APA and the
22 Mandamus Act provide appropriate causes of action for both the refugee applicants and the U.S.
23 ties who submitted the applications. Defendants have not disputed Plaintiffs’ constitutional and
24 statutory standing to raise those claims. *See* MSJ at 11-12 (explaining that both U.S. and foreign
25 Plaintiffs have standing because actual case or controversy exists as a result of injury); *id.* at 19,
26 23 (explaining that both U.S. and foreign Plaintiffs fall within the zone of interest of the
27 Lautenberg Amendment).

28 Moreover, courts in the Ninth Circuit have heard analogous challenges under the APA,

1 the Mandamus Act, and the Declaratory Judgment Act where, as here, the challenge was to “the
 2 authority of the consul to take or fail to take an action as opposed to a decision within the
 3 consul’s discretion.” *Rivas v. Napolitano*, 714 F.3d 1108, 1110-12 (9th Cir. 2013) (holding that
 4 consular non-reviewability does not bar using the APA, the Mandamus Act, and the Declaratory
 5 Judgment Act to enforce the non-discretionary duty of acting on a request for reconsideration of
 6 the visa application once the duty is triggered). Plaintiffs cited a number of such cases in the
 7 opening papers. *See* MSJ at 21, 23; *Singh v. Clinton*, 618 F.3d 1085, 1088, 1093 (9th Cir. 2010)
 8 (remanding to set aside visa termination that failed to follow statutory requirements and noting
 9 that the government correctly abandoned its non-reviewability argument); *Patel v. Reno*, 134
 10 F.3d 929, 931-32 (9th Cir. 1997) (finding jurisdiction in a challenge to authority to suspend visa
 11 applications, which is not a challenge to “a decision within the discretion of the consul”);
 12 *Ibrahim v. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, 62 F. Supp. 3d 909, 932-34 (N.D. Cal. 2014) (rejecting
 13 consular non-reviewability and ordering that plaintiff be granted an opportunity to apply for a
 14 waiver of ineligibility for a visa given consul’s failure to advise of the opportunity); *Atiffi v.*
 15 *Kerry*, CIV. S-12-3001 LKK/DAN, 2013 WL 5954818, at *7 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 6, 2013) (holding
 16 that Plaintiff states a reviewable claim under the APA and *Din* for consul’s failure to provide an
 17 explanation for the visa denial);² *Amidi v. Chertoff*, No. 07 Civ. 710, 2008 WL 2662599, *3-4
 18 (S.D. Cal. Mar. 17, 2008) (finding reviewable consulate’s decision to terminate or cancel the visa
 19 application because it does not challenge “the discretionary decision of whether to approve or
 20 deny the application”). While Defendants fault the Plaintiffs for not identifying “precedent
 21 holding that the type of refugee denials at issue here are judicially reviewable,” MSJ Response at
 22 12, Defendants have not even attempted to distinguish these analogous cases where courts
 23 certainly were able to review an agency’s non-compliance with a mandatory duty.

24 Defendants’ final argument is that “[b]ecause USCIS did provide Plaintiffs with notices,
 25 relief under the § 702(1) and the Mandamus Act is inappropriate.” MSJ Response at 12. But the
 26

27 ² In the opening brief, Plaintiffs mistakenly stated that *Atiffi* ordered the agency to state the
 28 ground for visa denial, MSJ at 23, but in the case the court only found jurisdiction and did not
 order relief because of factual disputes.

1 action that Defendants are required to take here, of course, is not to simply issue a notice denying
2 an application, but to provide the reason for that denial. This Court has the power to compel
3 Defendants to comply with this mandatory obligation and should order the requested relief.

4 **B. The Notices Violate the Lautenberg Amendment**

5 Defendants' substantive response to Plaintiffs' claim under the Lautenberg Amendment
6 boils down to the self-serving and conclusory assertion that "USCIS provides, to the maximum
7 extent feasible, the reasons for each denial, taking into account the inability to disclose classified
8 information or to protect the safety of the sources of derogatory information that led to the
9 adverse exercise of discretion." Declaration of Joanna Ruppel ("Ruppel Decl.") ¶ 5 (ECF 72-1).
10 This assertion is inadmissible, devoid of any specific facts relating to Plaintiffs' denials, and
11 insufficient to overcome Plaintiffs' arguments that the Notices failed to state a reason for the
12 denial to the maximum extent feasible.

13 As an initial matter, the assertion is inadmissible to support the legal conclusion that
14 Plaintiffs' denials stated reasons "to the maximum extent feasible," as the assertion is an
15 impermissible legal conclusion lacking any factual support—including even whether the
16 assertion applies specifically to Plaintiffs' denials. *See* F.R.C.P. 56(c)(4) (requiring affidavits
17 submitted in opposition to summary judgment to set out facts that would be admissible); *see,*
18 *e.g., Kalani v. Starbucks Corp.*, 81 F. Supp. 3d 876, 882-83 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (holding that
19 unsupported paragraphs in an expert declaration asserting that defendants are in compliance with
20 the law are inadmissible). In addition, given that Ms. Ruppel's testimony is not offered as expert
21 testimony, it is also an inadmissible opinion of a witness that is not "rationally based on the
22 witness's perception" or "helpful to clearly understanding the witness's testimony or to
23 determining a fact in issue." F.R.E. 701; *see United States v. Preston*, 873 F.3d 829, 836-37 (9th
24 Cir. 2017) (finding lay opinion of a therapist to be improper).

25 Moreover, the law is clear that Defendants cannot avoid summary judgment with a
26 conclusory declaration devoid of any specific facts. *See Lujan v. Nat'l Wildlife Federation*, 497
27 U.S. 871, 888 (1990) (stating that the "object" of Rule 56 is "not to replace conclusory
28 allegations of the complaint or answer with conclusory allegations of an affidavit"); *Nigro v.*

1 *Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 784 F.3d 495, 497 (9th Cir. 2015) (“The district court can disregard a
2 self-serving declaration that states only conclusions and not facts that would be admissible
3 evidence); *F.T.C. v. Publishing Clearing House, Inc.*, 104 F.3d 1168, 1171 (9th Cir. 1997)
4 (holding that a “conclusory, self-serving affidavit, lacking detailed facts and any supporting
5 evidence,” is insufficient to defeat summary judgment). Neither the Ruppel Declaration nor
6 anything else in the record indicates it would be infeasible to provide Does 3-5—mothers with
7 children, some of them with significant disabilities—or any of the other Plaintiffs with
8 substantive reasons for the denial. In fact, Defendants concede that there *were individualized*
9 *reasons* for the denials, as they assert each denial was “based on the facts of that individual
10 case.” Ruppel Decl. ¶ 4. Defendants have provided no evidence that, notwithstanding those
11 individualized decisions, Plaintiffs received reasons for their denials “to the maximum extent
12 feasible,” or that Defendants were prevented from giving Plaintiffs more information because of
13 “inability to disclose classified information,” “to protect the safety of the sources of derogatory
14 information,” or for any other reason.

15 Contrary to Defendants’ assertions that Plaintiffs’ argument that more information could
16 and should have been provided was “unsupported,” Opp. Br. at 13, Plaintiffs supported their
17 argument with reference to Defendants’ own regulations, policies, and practices with respect to
18 other applicants for refugee and other admissions. *See* MSJ at 12-15. Even if Defendants were
19 correct that 8 C.F.R. § 103.2 (b)(16) and the USCIS Adjudicator’s Field Manual (“AFM”) do not
20 apply to refugee processing (which, as explained below, they are not), those policies and
21 practices provide a measuring stick for what is maximally feasible here. Defendants do not
22 address Plaintiffs’ arguments that those provisions provide guidance as to what is feasible when
23 denying refugee applications—for example, that it is feasible to provide applicants with
24 derogatory information underlying a discretionary determination so long as the information is
25 unclassified. *See, e.g.*, 8 C.F.R. § 103.2 (b)(16)(i), (iii), (iv) (requiring disclosure of derogatory
26 information unless the information is appropriately classified); AFM 10.7(b)(3) (stating that a
27 decision should contain a description of the evidence in the case in question), attached as
28 Amended Exhibit S to the Lee Declaration (ECF 29-2). Plaintiffs should be given explanations

1 consistent with these regulations and policies.

2 **C. The Notices Also Violate Applicable Regulations**

3 In defending against Plaintiffs' *Accardi* claim, Defendants contend that 8 C.F.R. 103.2
4 (b)(16) and AFM 10.7(b)(3) are not specific to refugee applications and thus are not binding
5 here. This argument misses the mark because by their plain text these provisions apply generally
6 to all immigration applications, *including* refugee applications.

7 With respect to 8 C.F.R. 103.2(b)(16), its applicability to refugee applications is evident
8 from the fact that the regulatory section is titled "Submission and Adjudication of Benefit
9 Requests," and refugee processing begins with an "application," 8 C.F.R. § 207.1, which the
10 statute defines to include a "benefit request," 8 C.F.R. § 1.2. *See* MSJ at 14 n.9. Defendants'
11 argument that 8 C.F.R. § 103 does not reference the Refugee Act as a governing authority, MSJ
12 Response at 14, ignores the fact that the section explicitly references statutory authority granting
13 the head of each agency the power to promulgate departmental regulations. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 301.
14 In issuing 8 C.F.R. § 103, the Department of Homeland Security promulgated regulations that
15 apply broadly to the adjudication of benefit requests within its authority, including refugee
16 applications. Defendants do not respond to Plaintiffs' argument, and do not even attempt to
17 distinguish *Ghafoori v. Napolitano*, 713 F. Supp. 2d 871 (N.D. Cal. 2010), in which a court in
18 this district applied 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(16) to the processing of a Refugee/Asylee Relative
19 Petition, which is also a benefit request under the Refugee Act. *See id.* at 873, 880-81.

20 With respect to AFM 10.7(b)(3), which cites to 8 C.F.R. § 103.2, Defendants concede
21 that the provision applies generally to the adjudication of immigration benefits but contend that it
22 is agency practice to ignore the provision in the context of refugee applications. *See* MSJ
23 Response at 14-15 (stating that unspecified agency "guidance" is to follow such guidance over
24 the AFM where they conflict). This contention only strengthens Plaintiffs' *Accardi* argument, as
25 the *Accardi* doctrine exists to ensure that government agencies are not simply disregarding their
26 own regulations and policies when "the rights of individuals are affected." *Morton v. Ruiz*, 415
27 U.S. 199, 235 (1974) (holding that in such cases, "it is incumbent upon agencies to follow their
28 own procedures").

1 Under 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(16), an applicant “shall be permitted to inspect the record of
 2 proceeding which constitutes the basis for the decision,” following specified procedures
 3 including the disclosure of derogatory information unless it is appropriately classified. *See id.* §
 4 103.2 (16)(i), (iii), (iv). This obligation is further implemented by AFM 10.7(b)(3), which states
 5 that a decision should contain a “description of the evidence in the case in question” and that
 6 “[i]f the applicant . . . cannot reasonably be presumed to be already aware of the evidence, [they]
 7 must be given an opportunity to rebut the evidence before a decision is made.” The Notices of
 8 Ineligibility fell short of these standards, and Defendants’ acts were thus in breach of their own
 9 regulations. Accordingly, this Court should order Defendants to provide reasons for the denial in
 10 accordance with their own regulations.

11 **D. The Notices Violate Due Process**

12 Finally, as to Plaintiffs Does 1 and 2’s Due Process claims, Defendants correctly
 13 recognize the reviewability of such claims in the marital context but assert that “no case supports
 14 extending due-process rights to the entry of more distant family members, such as the parent of
 15 an adult child or an adult child himself.³ This is false.

16 As a threshold matter, in *Lemire v. California Department of Corrections and*
 17 *Rehabilitation*, and similar cases, the Ninth Circuit affirmatively held that there *is* a liberty
 18 interest implicated by the parental-child relationship. *See* 726 F.3d 1062, 1075 (9th Cir. 2013)
 19 (noting that both parents and children have a “liberty interest in the companionship and society”
 20 of each other); *see also, e.g., Wilkinson v. Torres*, 610 F.3d 546, 554 (9th Cir. 2010) (finding that
 21 parents have a liberty interest in the companionship and society of their children); *Curnow By*

23 ³ Defendants also argue that “[n]o court has allowed a U.S.-citizen relative who did not file
 24 a petition on her relative’s behalf the same limited judicial review.” MSJ Response at 9 n.3. To
 25 the extent this argument is intended to apply to Plaintiffs Does 1 and 2 it is wrong, as they *did*
 26 file refugee applications on behalf of their family members and served as their U.S.-based
 27 sponsors. *See* Doe 1 Decl. (ECF No. 6) ¶¶ 2, 5; Doe 2 Decl. (ECF No. 7) ¶¶ 3, 6. Moreover, to
 28 the extent this is an argument regarding standing, the Ninth Circuit found standing for an
 individual plaintiff in *Hawai’i v. Trump* who had been harmed by the ban on entry of his mother-
 in-law, whose wife had filed the petition, not him. *See Hawai’i v. Trump*, 859 F.3d 741, 762 (9th
 Cir. 2017), *vacated as moot*, No. 16-1540, 2017 WL 4782860 (Oct. 24, 2017); *see also*
Orhorhaghe v. INS, 38 F.3d 488, 493 n.4 (9th Cir. 1994) (appellate opinions that have been
 vacated for mootness remain “persuasive authority”).

1 *and Through Curnow v. Ridgecrest Police*, 952 F.2d 321, 325 (9th Cir. 1991) (recognizing a
2 constitutionally protected liberty interest in the parent-child relationship). The out-of-circuit
3 cases Defendants cite to the contrary, MSJ Response at 10-11, are not relevant given this binding
4 precedent. The in-circuit district court cases Defendants cite also are irrelevant, as they either
5 did not discuss *Lemire* and its line of cases or were factually distinct. *See Santos v. Lynch*, No.
6 15-cv-00979, 2016 WL 3549366, at *3-4 (E.D. Cal. June 29, 2016) (neglecting to discuss *Lemire*
7 or similar cases in declining to extend a liberty interest to a parent-child relationship); *L.H. v.*
8 *Kerry*, No. 14-06-212, slip op. 3-4 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 26, 2017) (rejecting liberty interest with
9 respect to “a short-term, nonimmigrant visit” by a parent).

10 Furthermore, whether the government has violated that liberty interest in the parental-
11 child relationship depends on the nature of the claim at issue. In *Lemire* and similar contexts, a
12 substantive due process violation arises only where official conduct shocks the conscience. *See*
13 726 F.3d at 1075. However, under *Din* a procedural due process violation arises where, as here,
14 the liberty interest is infringed upon by the denial of an immigration benefit that fails to set forth
15 “a facially legitimate and bona fide reason” for the denial. *Kerry v. Din*, 135 S. Ct. 2128, 2140
16 (2016) (Kennedy, J., concurring in judgment); *see also Cardenas v. United States*, 826 F.3d
17 1164, 1172 (9th Cir. 2016). As Defendants do not assert that the denials “as a matter of
18 discretion,” without additional explanation or clarification, meet the “facially legitimate and
19 bona fide reason” standard, those denials violated Plaintiffs Does 1 and 2’s liberty interests. At
20 the very least, Plaintiffs were entitled to this measure of explanation for their denials, and this
21 Court must order Defendants to provide it.

22 **III. CONCLUSION**

23 For all the reasons stated above and in , the Court should grant Plaintiffs’ Motion for
24 Partial Summary Judgment, declare the Notices of Ineligibility unlawful, set the Notices of
25 Ineligibility aside, and order Defendants to re-issue decisions and for any re-issued Notices to
26 comply with the requirements of the Lautenberg Amendment and applicable regulations.

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Dated: June 11, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE
ASSISTANCE PROJECT

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