

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 9, 2017

Dr. Emmett D. Carson
Chief Executive Officer
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
33 New Montgomery Street, 19th Floor,
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Dr. Carson:

We write to you today out of concern over the recent revelations that the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) has donated substantial funds to Islamic Relief USA and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). The SVCF has granted over \$330,000 to these organizations since 2008. When criticized for this, SVCF defended these donations by lashing out at its critics but failed to address the very real concerns about the two groups' links to extremism and terror.¹

The public conduct of the two organizations is deeply troubling. Islamic Relief USA has made some alarming donations, including one last year to a Hamas-linked organization in the Palestinian territories. Officials within this organization have called for Jerusalem to be "free ... from the filth of the most dirty Jews." CAIR, meanwhile, is a designated terrorist organization in the United Arab Emirates,² while the U.S. Justice Department has blacklisted it since 2008.³ The Anti-Defamation League has catalogued examples of CAIR promoting anti-Semitism.⁴ This sort of racist rhetoric incites violence and should deeply concern all people of goodwill. Furthermore, a 2011 poll of American Muslims found only 12% believing that CAIR represents their interests.⁵

Both these Islamist organizations have deep ties to the Muslim Brotherhood, a global Islamist network that a formal inquiry conducted by the British government concluded was "contrary to

¹ "Shooting The Messenger: Silicon Valley Foundation Lashes Out At Middle East Forum," Gregg Roman, March 22, 2017, The Daily Caller. Available at: <http://dailycaller.com/2017/03/22/shooting-the-messenger-silicon-valley-foundation-lashes-out-at-middle-east-forum/>

² "UAE Cabinet approves list of designated terrorist organisations, groups," November 16th, 2014. Available at: <http://wam.ae/en/details/1395272478814>

³ Review of the FBI Interactions with the Council on American-Islamic Relations, September 2013. Available at: <https://oig.justice.gov/reports/2013/e0707r-summary.pdf>

⁴ "The Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR)," Anti-Defamation League. Available at: <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/profiles/the-council-on-american-islamic-relations-cair>

⁵ "Vast Majority of Muslim Americans Don't Identify with CAIR," IPT News, August 3, 2011. Available at: <http://www.investigativeproject.org/3078/vast-majority-of-muslim-americans-dont-identify>

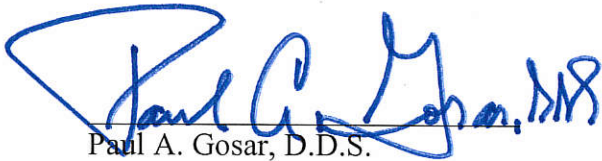
our values and has been contrary to our national interests and our national security.” In 2015, then-Prime Minister David Cameron noted that, “Both as an ideology and as a network it has been a rite of passage for some individuals and groups who have gone on to engage in violence and terrorism.”⁶

These are a few examples of the many problems with these two organizations. SVCF claims to be “champion of diversity and inclusion,” yet ignores Islamic Relief USA’s and CAIR’s long history of antisemitism, misogyny, and radicalism.

It is inconceivable to us as elected representatives of the American people that SVCF and its donors continue to be associated with such remarks and actions. We urge SVCF to commit immediately to end all donations to these groups. We are confident that there are other organizations worthy of support which better reflect our shared values of religious liberty and tolerance.

We appreciate your time and would be happy to answer whatever questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress

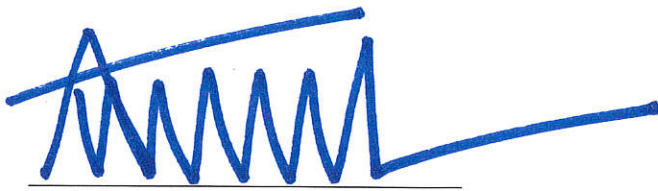


Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress

⁶ “Muslim Brotherhood review: statement by the Prime Minister,” December 17, 2015. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/muslim-brotherhood-review-statement-by-the-prime-minister>



Ted Poe
Member of Congress