Supreme Court won't

decide if trans teen

gender rights in schools to

lower courts for now after

courts around the country

the one assigned at birth.

gender students' rights.

Monday's action

the boys' bathroom.

Trump signs second travel ban

NATION/WORLD

Revised order answers some issues from previously blocked action, but not all

> By GENE JOHNSON and SADIE GURMAN

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's revised travel ban eases some of the legal questions surrounding the previous order, but critics said it does not answer all of them, including accusations that the measure is a thinly veiled attempt to discriminate against Muslims.

Opponents promised to challenge the president again in court.

The new, narrower ban announced Monday temporarily bars new visas for citizens of six predominantly Muslim countries — one fewer than the original ban, with Iraq removed from the list. It also suspends the entire U.S. refugee program.

The measure applies only to refugees who are not already on their way to the United States and people seeking new visas. It removes language that gave priority to religious minorities. Critics said the language was designed to help Christians get into the U.S. and to exclude Muslims.

The changes will make the new executive order tougher to fight in court, but they "will not quell litigation or concerns," Stephen Yale-Loehr, an immigration law professor at Cornell University Law School. said in a written statement.

"U.S. relatives will still sue over the inability of their loved ones to join them in the United States," he said. "U.S. companies may sue because they cannot hire needed workers from the six countries. And U.S. universities will worry about the impact of the order on international students' willingness to attend college in the United States.

The American Civil Liberties Union promised "to move very quickly" to try to stop the order.

New York immigration attorney Ted Ruthizer said this ban will be "much, much tougher" for a federal judge to block.

Courts could find it compelling that the order does not cover all Muslims from all countries, he said. And judges have a history of upholding portions of immigration law that discriminate on the basis of race and nationality when national security is an issue

"There's still the argument that, when you take down all the window dressing, it's still a religion ban, but these are the kinds of nuances that the courts will look at," Ruthizer said.

Top Republicans welcomed Trump's changes. Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah said the revised order makes protecting the homeland. significant progress toward what sion: to avoid hindering innocent extent, saying the changes amounted next.



Men watch the news on television at a cafe in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, March 6, 2017. Iraq has welcomed its removal from a revised U.S. travel ban, calling it a "positive message" at a time when American and Iragi forces are battling the Islamic State group.

Iraq welcomes removal from revised travel ban

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq welcomed its removal from a revised U.S. travel ban on Monday, saying the move would strengthen its alliance with Washington as U.S.-backed Iraqi forces battle the Islamic State group in Mosul.

Iraq was among seven Muslim-majority countries whose nationals were temporarily banned from traveling to the United States in an earlier order issued by President Donald Trump in January, which sparked worldwide outrage and was blocked by the courts.

The White House says the ban is needed to prevent would-be terrorists from entering the country while stricter vetting measures are put in place. But it removed Iraq from the list under pressure from the State Department and the Defense Department, which had noted the close cooperation between the two countries in battling the IS

"Today our battle in Mosul is a battle that Iraqis are conducting on behalf of the entire world," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Jamal told The Associated Press, adding that the revision of the travel ban will "enhance" the U.S.-Iraqi partnership in that fight

The original order angered many Iragis, and prompted par-

travels and refugees fleeing violence He urged Trump "to continue the difficult work of crafting policies that

keep us safe while living up to our

liament to call for a reciprocal ban on Americans entering Iraq. Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declined to impose such a measure.

The revised U.S. travel order is narrower and specifies that a 90day ban on people from Sudan, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, and Yemen does not apply to those who already have valid visas.

A fact sheet detailing the order cited negotiations that resulted in Iraq agreeing to "increase cooperation with the U.S. government on the vetting of its citizens applying for a visa to travel to the United

Thousands of American forces are in Iraq providing air support and logistical help for a massive operation to drive IS militants from Mosul, the country's second largest city. Smaller numbers of U.S. special operations forces are embedded with some Iraqi units.

Support from a U.S.-led coalition has been critical in the fight against IS, helping Iraqi forces to slowly roll back the militants over the past two and a half years. Iraqi forces are now in the midst of their toughest battle yet against IS as they push to retake Mosul's west after the eastern half of the city was declared "full liberated"

to an "incredible concession" that the original order was flawed, as Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring, a

Herring and Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson, who success-House Speaker Paul Ryan said the fully sued to stop implementation of order "advances our shared goal of the original order after it created chaos at airports around the country, said States that challenged the origithey were reviewing the new order Hatch called for after the first ver- nal travel ban claimed victory to an to determine what legal steps to take

to be significantly scaled back, it still sends a horrible message to the world, to Muslim-Americans, and to minority communities across the country, without any demonstrable benefit to national security," Herring

Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, who joined in the court challenge, described the updated ban as "a clear attempt to resurrect a discredited order and fulfill a discriminatory and unconstitutional campaign promise.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who backed the first ban, said in a statement that the president had the authority to secure the nation's borders "in light of the looming threat of

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, a sharp critic of the first ban, said the new version was "nothing more than a wolf in sheep's clothing, different packaging intended to achieve the

A spokesman for the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which upheld a Seattle judge's restraining order in the Washington case, said the court was evaluating the new executive order's effect on the existing case. The Justice Department filed papers Monday in federal court in Seattle arguing that the restraining order should not block the new ban from taking effect as scheduled March 16.

Critics said the new order failed to address some other concerns, including the notion that the measure attempts to enact the Muslim ban Trump advocated during his campaign. Washington state, joined by Minnesota, argued that the order violated the First Amendment's separation of church and state.

The 9th Circuit's ruling did not deal with those arguments, but the court said it would evaluate them after further briefing. The states' claims "raise serious allegations and present significant constitutional questions," the judges wrote.

Larry E. Klayman, a founder of and lawyer for the conservative group Freedom Watch, supported the original ban when it was before the appellate court and called the new version "quite modest."

"Right now, we're in a state of war with certain countries, and this is a reasonable approach to it," Klayman

Additionally, a question remained over whether the new ban conflicted with federal immigration law, said Jorge Baron, executive director of the Seattle-based Northwest Immigrant Rights Project. His organization filed a class-action complaint over the initial ban and said it would amend its arguments in light of the

"Our immigration laws specifically say you cannot discriminate on basis of nationality in this process, Baron said. "The president can't rewrite the law by executive order."

DHS may separate parents, children at border

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Homeland Security Department is considering separating children from parents caught crossing the Mexican border illegally, Secretary John Kelly said Monday.

Kelly said such a move would be part of a broader effort to discourage families from making the dangerous trek across Mexico to the U.S. border.

He confirmed that he's considering the action during an interview with CNN Monday. The plan had previously been reported by several news outlets. Tens of thousands of par-

ents and children fleeing violence and poverty, mostly from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala, have been caught crossing the border illegally in recent years. Generally, the families are detained for a few days or weeks before being released into the United States to wait for an immigration judge to decide their fate.

"I would do almost anything to deter the people from Central America getting on this very, very dangerous network ... going through Mexico," Kelly said during his television interview.

Homeland Security officials have been trying to curb the flow of families since 2014 when a flood of both children and families overwhelmed immigration officials. The department launched a public relations campaign in Central America to warn about the dangers and advise families that there would be no free pass into the United States.

The Obama administration opened multiple detention centers that year, in part to deter others from crossing, to house families while immigration judges and asylum officers heard their cases

But a federal judge in California later ruled that detaining children violated a long-standing agreement that bars the government from detaining children in a jail-like setting, even if they are with their parents. That ruling prompted the government to start releasing families into the U.S.

U.S. moves parts of controversial missile defense to South Korea

(AP) — U.S. missile launchers and other equipment needed to set up a controversial missile defense system have arrived in South Korea, the U.S. and South Korean militaries said Tuesday, a day after North Korea test-launched four ballistic missiles into the ocean near Japan.

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

The plans to deploy the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system, or THAAD, by the end of this year have angered not only North Korea, but also China and Russia, which see the system's powerful radars as a security threat.

Washington and Seoul say the system is defensive and not meant to be a threat to Beijing or Moscow. The U.S. military said in

a statement that THAAD is meant to intercept and destroy short and medium range ballistic missiles during the last part of their flights. "Continued provocative actions by North Korea, to include yesterday's launch

of multiple missiles, only

confirm the prudence of our

alliance decision last year

to deploy THAAD to South

Korea," Adm. Harry Harris, head of the U.S. Pacific Command, said in the statement. Some South Korean liberal presidential candidates have said that the security benefits of having THAAD would be curtailed by wors-

ened relations with neighbors

named, citing office rules, said that the equipment that arrived in South Korea included launchers, but didn't confirm how many. On Monday, North Korea

In this photo provided by U.S. Forces Korea, trucks carrying parts of U.S. missile

launchers and other equipment needed to set up Terminal High Altitude Area De-

fense (THAAD) missile defense system arrive at Osan air base in Pyeongtaek,

its golf courses in southern fired four ballistic missiles in an apparent protest against South Korea as the site of THAAD. The South Korean ongoing U.S.-South Korean government also raised wormilitary drills that it views ries about a reported ban on as an invasion rehearsal. The Chinese tour groups visiting missiles flew about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) on av-An official from South Korea's Defense Minis-

and Japanese officials. The North's state media

according to South Korean

try, who didn't want to be its exclusive economic zone.

on Tuesday said leader Kim Jong Un supervised a ballistic rocket launching drill, a likely reference to the four launches reported by Seoul and Tokyo. Involved in the drills were artillery units tasked with striking "U.S. imperialist aggressor forces in Japan," according to the erage, three of them landing Korean Central News Agen-

people and Congress about

his wiretapping accusations.

"The dimensions of this are

huge," McCain said. "It's ac-

cusing a former president of

the United States of violating

the law. That's never hap-

possible wiretap, it is pos-

sible the president was re-

As for the genesis of a

pened before.'

the one assigned at birth The justices rejected a call from both sides to de-

> by the election of President Donald Trump.

can pick bathroom WASHINGTON (AP) scheduled for argument in — The Supreme Court is late March. Instead, a lowleaving the issue of trans- er court in Virginia will be tasked with evaluating the federal law known as Title

IX and the extent to which backing out of a high-profile case Monday of a Vir- it applies to transgender ginia high school student students. Lawsuits involvwho sued to be able to use ing transgender students are making their way through The court's order in the the courts in at least five case of teenager Gavin other states: Illinois, North Grimm means that atten-Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvation now will turn to lower nia and Wisconsin. For Grimm, the order means that he probably will

that are grappling with graduate with the issue unrights of transgender students to use school bathresolved. Now, his wish to rooms that correspond to use the boys' bathroom is their chosen gender, not blocked by a policy of the Gloucester County school board. Although he won a Richmond, Virginia, and court order allowing him other appellate panels hanto use the boys' bathroom dling similar cases around at Gloucester High School. the country will have the Supreme Court put it the first chance to decide on hold last August, before whether federal anti-disthe school year began. crimination law or the Talking to reporters by

Constitution protects transtelephone Monday, Grimm said the situation has added stress to the usual senior a court that has been year worries of applying short-handed for more to college because the than a year comes after "school board has sent this the Trump administration direct message ... that there is something about you pulled back federal guidance advising schools to let that deserves to be segrestudents use the bathroom gated from the rest of the of their chosen gender, not student body.

The court case has drawn attention from all over the world. Apple cide the issue in a case that IBM and Microsoft were was dramatically altered among the 53 companies that signed onto a brief filed last week urging the Grimm's case had been court to rule in his favor.

U.S. warning to Israel

signals new backpedaling JERUSALEM (AP) — citizenship or be allowed

the occupied West Bank, saying it would trigger an "immediate crisis" between the two close allies, Israel's defense minister

said Monday. It was the latest indication that President Donald Trump is returning to more traditional U.S. policy and will not give Israel free rein to expand its control over the Palestinians, as Israeli nationalists had hoped.

The Trump administration to vote for the Knesset, or has explicitly warned Israel parliament. Although Neagainst annexing parts of tanyahu has not endorsed the one-state vision, many in his coalition do. "The two-state solu-

tion is dead," Zohar told i24NEWS, an Israeli TV channel. "What is left is a one-state solution with the Arabs here as, not as full vote to the Knesset."

"They will be able to city under administrative autonomy and under Israeli sovereignty and with complete security control," Zo-

WASHINGTON (AP)—If vision during the Obama adintelligence official, James ministration and a National Clapper, also said Trump's Trump needs to give more claims were false, and a U.S. information to the American

As president, Trump seeks answers on his own wiretap mystery

Donald Trump wants to know whether he was the subject of Security Council staff memsurveillance by the U.S. government, he may be uniquely positioned to get an answer.

In a series of weekend tweets, the president accused his predecessor, Barack Obama, of ordering wiretaps on his phones but offered no down by court earlier. A proof to back the claim. The White House then called on up with: "How low has Pres-Congress to investigate the allegations

But former government lawyers say Trump hardly needs Congress to answer this question.

"The intelligence community works for the president, so if a president wanted to surveillance, and officials had been conducted on a paraction. Through a spokesman, head of the Justice Depart- ever ordered surveillance on ment's National Security Diany U.S. citizen. Obama's top man of the Armed Services

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UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

ber under George W. Bush. official said the FBI asked the The latest storm began Justice Department to rebut Trump's assertions. Trump spokesman

Saturday when Trump tweeted: "Is it legal for a sitting President to be 'wire tapping' a race for president prior to an election? Turned NEW LOW!" He followed ident Obama gone to tapp my phones during the very sacred election process. This is Nixon/Watergate. Bad (or

sick) guy!'

China and Russia

China's condemnation of

South Korean plans to de-

ploy THAAD has triggered

protests against South Kore-

an retail giant, Lotte, which

agreed to provide one of

The Justice Department, not the president, would have the authority to conduct such know whether surveillance have not confirmed any such from the intelligence comticular target, all he'd have to Obama said neither he nor suggested the president was in the U.S. whose commudo is ask," said Todd Hinnen, any White House official had acting on other information. nications are monitored as a

"My understanding is that the president directing the Department of Justice to do something with respect to an investigation that may or

Spicer was asked Monday.

Why turn to Congress,

may not occur with evidence may be seen as trying to interfere," Spicer said. "And I think that we're trying to do this in the proper way.' He indicated that Trump was responding to media reports rather than any word

munity. Other officials have

ferring to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, a 1978 law that permits investigators, with a warrant, to collect the communications of someone they suspect of being an agent of a foreign power. That can include foreign ambassadors or other

foreign officials who operate Sen. John McCain, chair- matter of routine for counter-

citizenship, because full the West Bank and sideline vote and be elected in their Speaking in parliament, Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said U.S. offihar added



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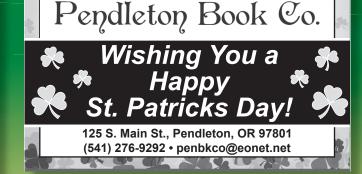


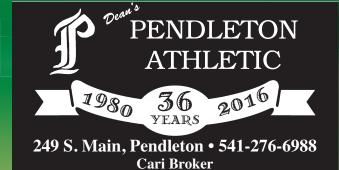
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