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October 8, 2019

To the Celebrants of CAIR:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to highlight the important work of CAIR in Santa Clara County. As an elected official, my most crucial work is ensuring that each and every one of my constituents is able to thrive in our community. In so many cases, government cannot do that work alone. We need the partnership of trusted, culturally competent, and expert non-profits to do our jobs—which is why it's so important that CAIR has stepped up.

At a time when incidents of religious-based discrimination are rising, and the actions of the federal government threaten long-held values around the treatment of immigrants, these partnerships are even more critical. When County residents feel threatened because of their faith, or when federal actions threaten the rights of Muslim community members, CAIR fights for the rights of our community members, to live without fear of discrimination or hate.

At a time when government surveillance needs meaningful safeguards and oversight, CAIR's engagement helps to ensure that Muslim community members – indeed, all community members – have a voice in building systems that will protect their rights.

In Santa Clara County we believe that our community and our economy is stronger because of our diversity. Thank you for your important work, and for your effort in protecting the rights of our diverse community.

Sincerely,

S. Joseph Simitian
President, Board of Supervisors