Trump's travel ban impacts students at international school

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President Donald Trump has referred to his restrictions on refugees and traveler from certain countries as a ban, but both his press secretary and the head of Homeland Security said Tuesday it shouldn't be called that.

"This is not a travel ban," said John Kelly, the Department of Homeland Security secretary. "This is a temporary pause that allows us to better review the existing refugee and visa vetting system."

Trump's executive order imposes a 90-day moratorium on entry for seven Muslim-majority nations -- Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen. Kelly said those countries don't have the ability to track citizens and meet America's assurances that travelers are who they claim.

In New Mexico, the travel ban's impact is hitting hard at one high school that attracts international students. At the United World College in Montezuma, the travel ban is deeply personal for students Abdul, Mohamed and Makan. They are in New Mexico on student visas from Iraq, Somalia and Iran.

"I think this will have a negative impact on us humans in a globalized world in understanding each other," Abdul said.

"I chose UWC because I believed in the mission," Makan added. "It has the sacred mission of making education a force to unite people and what's happening right now is the exact opposite."

Even their American classmates feel the impact.

"I've had the incredible gift to be able to come to a school that has students from all over the world, and this year some of my closest friends happen to be from countries who … there may not be students from those countries next year if this order continues, and that's heartbreaking to me," said another student named Nadia.

It's an ironic twist for a campus, founded by oilman Armand Hammer, whose mission is bringing a diverse group of international students together as problem solvers in a world deeply divided over religious and cultural differences. Even the president of United World College is scrambling to explain the impact.

"We have a number of students from those conflict zones including those seven countries that have been named in the ban, and they're extremely worried at the moment on the most basic human level," school President Victoria Mora said. "They don't know what's next for them. They don't know what it means in terms of continuing their education and they don't know what it means in terms of their ability to go home and see their families between their breaks."

Unless the ban is lifted or modified, students like Abdul, Mohamed and Makan said they may be forced to leave their educations in the United States behind.

Meanwhile, a new national poll shows Trump's order has the nation sharply divided. Nearly half "strongly" or "somewhat" agree with the

president's action while 41 percent disagree and 10 percent say they aren't sure.

Credits

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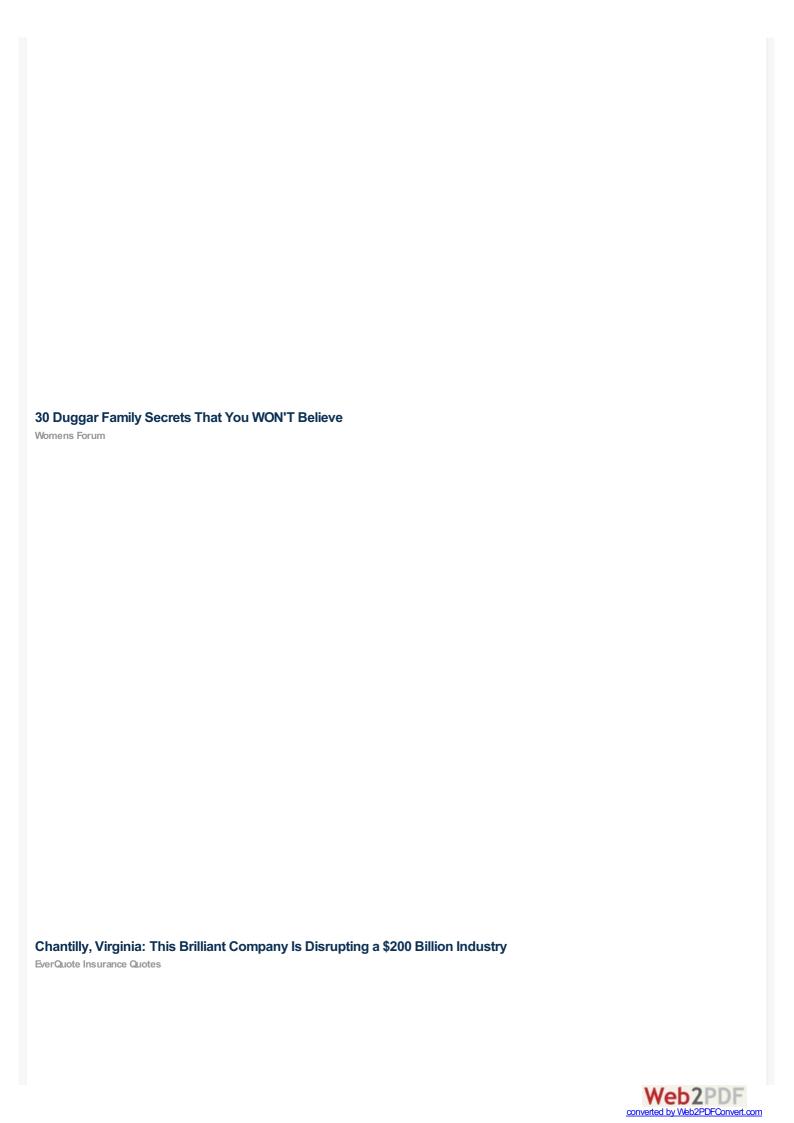**Legislature declares six bills as law, even though governor vetoed them**

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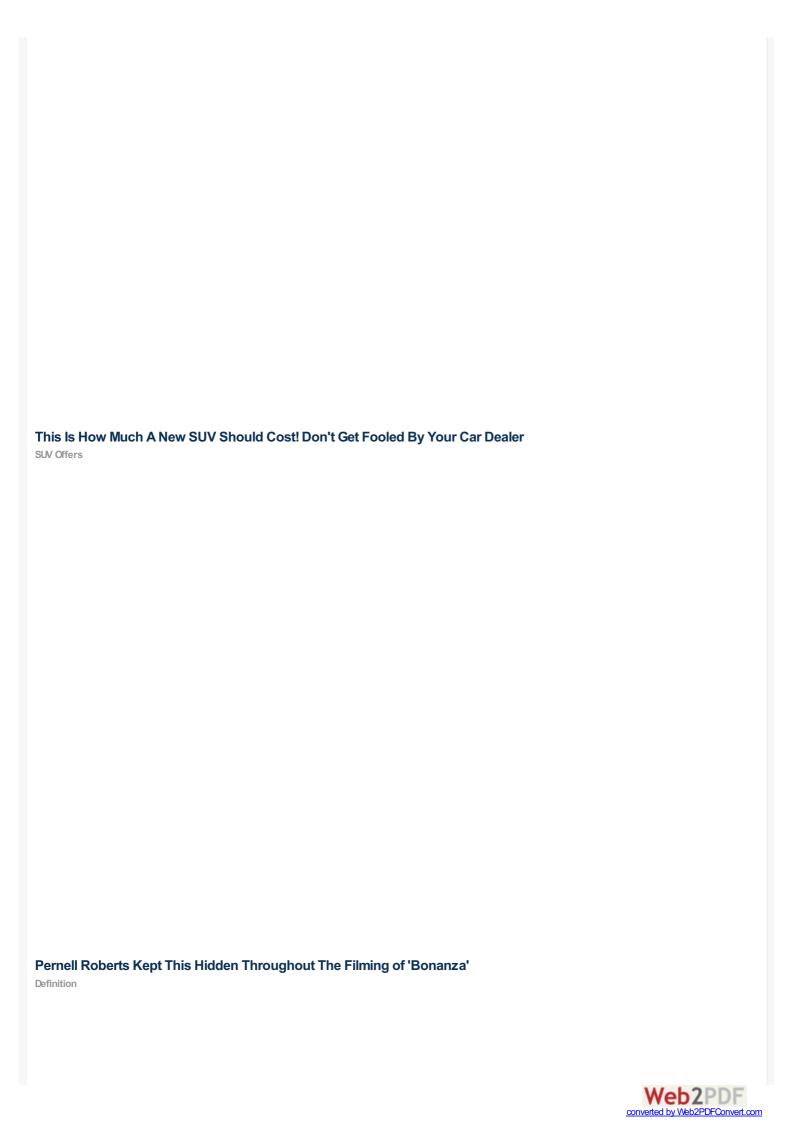
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