

Highlights 2017-2018



Work to End the Travel Ban

PAAIA has been working tirelessly to end President Trump's Travel Ban since its inception. We've made [legal challenges](#) to all three versions of the ban, filed an [amicus brief](#) with the Supreme Court, worked with Senators to reveal [statistics](#) about the ineffective implementation of the waiver provisions, and created a [Call to Action](#). We will continue fighting this discriminatory policy until it is officially blocked in Congress.

Capitol Hill Days

Every year, PAAIA members travel to DC to visit the offices of [Members of Congress](#) and discuss issues of importance to the Iranian American community. In 2018, we met with 21 senators and representatives from both sides of the aisle, raising the visibility of the Iranian American community and communicating the impact of certain policies on our community.



Emerging Leaders

PAAIA's [Emerging Leaders program](#) aims to bring together exceptional Iranian American young professionals who are passionate about public service and advancing the interests of the Iranian American community.

Innovation Campaign

In 2018, PAAIA launched an innovation campaign designed to increase the visibility of the Iranian American community and highlight some of the various ways Iranian Americans contribute to the United States. We launched an [ad campaign](#) targeting Capitol Hill, created an [innovation page](#) to attach to the ads, and created a [Call to Action](#) that allows Iranian Americans to share their contributions with their Members of Congress.



Nowruz on Capitol Hill

PAAIA heads to Capitol Hill each year to celebrate the [Persian New Year](#) with various Members of Congress, their staffs, and local Iranian Americans. With a gorgeous [haft-seen](#), delicious Iranian food, and prominent guest speakers, our annual Nowruz celebration is always a hit. We also have a representative introduce our [Nowruz Resolution](#) in the House of Representatives each year. The resolution commemorates the Nowruz holiday and acknowledges the lasting contributions of Persian civilization to the world as well as the noteworthy impact Iranian Americans have had on the social and economic fabric of America.

Public Sector Fellowships

PAAIA has two fellowship programs that help Iranian Americans interested in public service to obtain and fund unpaid internships on Capitol Hill. Our [CHIP program](#) provides opportunities to undergraduate students who want to intern on Capitol Hill. Our [2018](#) Spring CHIP Fellow was Josee Molavi and our Summer CHIP Fellow was Amir Rezvani. Our [Ansari Fellowship](#) provides stipends to one undergraduate and one graduate student to intern in the public service sector each year. This year our Ansari Fellows were Negeen Sadeghi-Movahed and Neeki Memarzadeh.



Briefings on Capitol Hill

PAAIA conducts various briefings on Capitol Hill throughout the year, updating Members of Congress and their staffs on current issues impacting the Iranian American community. This past year, we held a [briefing and panel discussion](#) about the people of Iran. The panel included four Iran experts and the pollster for our [annual surveys](#) served as the moderator. The briefing provided congressional staffers, members of the public, and representatives from various NGOs with a stronger understanding of the people of Iran. It also reinforced the necessity of separating the people from the regime.

IA-100 Retreat

Every year, members of the IA-100 gather together to listen to various panelists discuss relevant issues, engage in workshops, and network with each other. The purpose of these [retreats](#) is to thank members for their leadership, engage them in discussions on current events that impact the community, and provide an opportunity to network with other prominent Iranian Americans.

