



1901 West Carroll Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60612
(312) 329-6299

Sent via US Mail and email

August 29, 2018

JB Pritzker

[REDACTED]

Chicago, IL 60610

jb@jbpritzker.com

Dear Mr. Pritzker:

As an Illinois Muslim, I was very dismayed to learn that the hotel chain owned by your family is hosting the country's largest anti-Muslim hate group, ACT for America, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City next week. As a member of the Pritzker family, which has significant influence over Hyatt Hotels, you are in a unique position to use your family connections to get this conference canceled. I am writing on behalf of the Action Center on Race and the Economy (ACRE) and our partners to call on you to publicly demand that Hyatt cancel ACT for America's National Conference next week, and to work to ensure that the conference actually gets canceled.

As I wrote in an article for [*In These Times*](#) magazine this week, which is enclosed:

ACT for America has pushed anti-Muslim legislation at the state and federal levels, including a spate of "anti-Sharia" bills that have spread across state capitols like wildfire in recent years. According to SPLC, ACT for America "pushes wild anti-Muslim conspiracy theories, denigrates American Muslims and deliberately conflates mainstream and radical Islam."

Last year, the group organized "March Against Sharia" rallies in cities across the country. These rallies attracted Neo-Nazis and white supremacists. One such march in Arkansas was organized by Billy Roper, a leader of the National Alliance, a Neo-Nazi group, and the founder of White Revolution. Brigitte Gabriel, ACT for America's founder, has said that "every practicing Muslim is a radical Muslim" and has called Muslims "a natural threat to civilized people of the world, particularly Western society."

On your campaign website, you point out that Trump "defended some neo-Nazis and white supremacists at a confederate rally in Charlottesville, Va." Your family is giving those same people a platform to spread their hatred. This week, news broke that Alex Michael Ramos, who has been charged with viciously beating an unarmed Black man at the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, had also been a participant in ACT for America's March Against Sharia rally in Atlanta last year. It is alarming that Hyatt is choosing to associate itself with this type of group.

On your campaign website, you say, "Under Bruce Rauner, hate crimes against Jews, Muslims, Arabs, and Hispanics in Chicago hit five-year highs in 2016," and that you "will bring people

together to create opportunity and stand firm against hate.” These are powerful words. We need them to be matched with powerful action.

You have the power to stop this anti-Muslim hate group. It is irrelevant whether you have a formal management role at Hyatt. You hold a lot of sway regardless because of the significant influence your family has over Hyatt Hotels. Your cousin, Thomas Pritzker, is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company. His son, Jason Pritzker, also sits on the Hyatt board. We urge you to talk to your family members and convince them to cancel this conference.

You want to lead “the Resistance” in Illinois. We are asking you to lead it in your family first. On your website, you say that you will “listen to the diverse experiences and views of Illinoisans and ensure those who have gone voiceless for far too long have a seat at the table.” We are asking you to be our voice at your family’s kitchen table. After all, if you cannot convince your cousins not to take money from Neo-Nazis, then how will you convince the Illinois General Assembly to fix our broken, regressive tax system?

Illinois Muslim families like mine don’t need talk, we need action. On behalf of ACRE and our partners, I urge you to publicly demand that Thomas Pritzker and Hyatt Hotels cancel the Act for America National Conference at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City next week, and to do everything it takes to ensure that the conference gets canceled. I have faith that you will do the right thing.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Saqib Bhatti
Co-Executive Director

Enclosure: *In These Times* magazine article