



CAL STATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (CSSA)
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Author(s): CSSA Board of Directors & AS/ASI Board Members across the CSU

WHEREAS, the California State Student Association (CSSA) is the official voice of over 487,000 students in the California State University (CSU), including the 16,122 international students within the CSU;¹ and

WHEREAS, the mission of CSSA is to, “improve the lives of California State University (CSU) students by advocating for student needs,”² and international students are CSU students whose basic needs and rights are being threatened by recent actions; and

WHEREAS, international students right to equitable education through California State University is just as important as any and all other CSU students; and

WHEREAS, CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White announced that all 23 CSU campuses will be offering courses in the Fall 2020 semester primarily in a virtual instructional format;³ and

WHEREAS, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency released modifications on July 6th, 2020, regarding the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) exemptions for nonimmigrant students taking online classes for the Fall 2020 semester, and plans to publish the procedures and responsibilities in the Federal Register as a Temporary Final Rule;⁴ and

WHEREAS, these modifications state that nonimmigrant F-1 and M-1 students attending schools operating entirely online, will not be allowed to take a fully online course load and remain living in the United States, as the US Department of State will refuse to issue visas to students enrolled in these fully online schools;⁴ and

WHEREAS, the CSU Graduation Initiative 2025 aims “to increase graduation rates” while “eliminating opportunity and achievement gaps” for students, yet the modifications released by ICE would have detracted from these efforts due to the limitations of available campus resources, 5, 6 and

WHEREAS, international students pay fees that fund on-campus services such as; “Materials, Services,” “Facilities, Health Services & Health Facilities,” “Instructionally Related Activities,” etc,

and under the modifications released by ICE, access to such services will be hindered and inaccessible;⁷ and

WHEREAS, international students studying at U.S. colleges and universities contributed \$41 billion and supported more than 458,000 jobs to the US economy during the 2018-2019 academic year alone,⁸ and

WHEREAS, according to the Pew Research Center, “Most countries in the world have imposed partial or complete border closures to foreign nationals due to [the] Coronavirus outbreak,”⁹ thus, leaving students rendered with no place to legally reside; and

WHEREAS, current traveling restrictions would cause undue harm and difficulty to students due to travel bans; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “Some healthcare systems are overwhelmed and there may be limited access to adequate medical care in affected areas. If you choose to travel internationally, your travel plans may be disrupted, and you may have to remain outside the United States for an indefinite length of time,”¹⁰ and

WHEREAS, the likelihood of contracting COVID-19 may be higher in countries that the students are returning to; and

WHEREAS, the stress of the journey during this current pandemic would cause undue stress and damage to students’ mental and physical health; and

WHEREAS, international students have an invested livelihood in California such as paid leases, prepaid insurance, license and vehicle registration, etc; and

WHEREAS, a country’s regulations regarding the sharing of information may hinder students access to resources. Students may not be able to attend classes in their home countries due to censorship, being locked out of technology, or may be subject to hostility that endangers their well-being and safety when studying subjects sensitive to their home countries;^{11, 12} and

WHEREAS, Title IX, addendum B would preclude the CSU from addressing sexual misconduct with the new regulations and policies within title IX

WHEREAS, the admission application deadline for other colleges and universities has passed and CSU students will not have an opportunity to transfer to other universities in compliance with ICE guidelines; and

Whereas: The Honorable Judge Allison Burroughs of the District Court of Massachusetts stated in a court docket that ""The Government has agreed to rescind the July 6, 2020 Policy Directive and the July 7, 2020 FAQ, and has also agreed to rescind their implementation." <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/07/14/891125619/ice-agrees-to-rescind-policy-barring-foreign-students-from-online-study-in-the-u>

Whereas: The Executive Director of the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, Miriam Feldblum, stated, "First, we recommend that ICE clarify in the March (now July) FAQs that the guidance applies to all schools in making adjustments in instructional delivery, including hybrid model schools." And "Second, our organization also impresses upon ICE to issue further guidance on CPT/OPT eligibility for initial students."

<https://www.presidentsimmigrationalliance.org/2020/07/17/letter-on-recommended-changes-to-updated-july-15-2020-faqs-to-stakeholders-regarding-impact-of-covid-19-on-sevp-certified-schools-and-f-and-m-students/>

RESOLVED: CSSA condemns the attempt by the federal government to use the health and wellbeing of international students as collateral to force campuses to reopen.

RESOLVED, CSSA supports the use of CSU's legal resources to assess what legal flexibility we have in supporting our students in preventing any deportations for CSU students; and be it further

RESOLVED: CSSA supports the use of CSU's legal resources to ensure that the CPT and OPT programs for F-1 students can continue unhindered by ICE guidelines.

RESOLVED, CSSA supports the creation of a system-wide policy for fulfilling the F-1 visa requirements for international students to stay in the country; and be it further

RESOLVED, CSSA supports the implementation of stringent social distancing measures for students, staff, and faculty if in-person classes are added; and be it further

RESOLVED, CSSA supports the streamlining of counseling services specifically for international students during this crisis; and be it further

RESOLVED, In parallel to the proclamation released by the CSSA President, CSSA, "urge[s] Immigration and Customs Enforcement to rescind the Student Exchange and Visitor Program modifications; taking careful consideration when determining life alternating decisions and to always put the health and safety of students at the forefront"; and be it further

RESOLVED, CSSA encourages CSU Chancellor Timothy White to mandate all 23 CSU campuses to submit academic plans for the Fall 2020 academic semester that fulfill said F-1

visa requirements with the utmost urgency in order to ensure the access to education and the personal well-being and safety of international students for Fall 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be distributed to Donald Trump, Thomas Homan, Chancellor Timothy P. White, each of the 23 CSU Presidents, Academic Senate Chair Robert Collins, Vice Chancellor Leovan Cleve, U.S. House Judiciary Committee, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, U.S. House Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee, U.S. Senate Border Security and Immigration Subcommittee, Senator Kamala Harris, Senator Diane Feinstein, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Governor Gavin Newsom, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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