



UAW Local 4121

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December 14, 2015

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Office of U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

We are writing to urge your opposition to H.R. 158, or to any spending bill that comes before Congress, which would restrict the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) and scapegoat individuals of certain nationalities at a time of increased hatred and discrimination on the basis of national origin.

UAW Local 4121 represents over 4,000 student workers at the University of Washington, including more than 1,000 international students from virtually every country in the world, including Iran, Iraq, and other nations targeted by this legislation. International students are critical to the fabric of our instructional and research missions at the University, and not only contribute to the scholarship and cultural diversity of campus but also contribute to the economic growth of our region.

H.R. 158 as written would target these and other members of our community, based simply on their country of origin or their travel histories. Far from being a sensible measure to target those who intend to do harm, such a sweeping provision simply encourages a hostile environment for international students and ultimately restricts the free exchange of ideas and development of relationships that is so critical to any community – particularly one with a world-class university. Congress can take an important step to signaling a commitment to inclusion – and against reactionary policy decisions that are not simply race or nation-based

As with so many other issues during your tenure, your leadership here would be incredibly meaningful to our members and to the complicated and increasingly damaging political environment in which we find ourselves. Please vote no on this measure and urge your colleagues to do the same.

Sincerely,

David Parsons

President

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