

Email Template

[Find your representative](#); [Find your senator](#)

Subject: Oppose the #StudentBan: SEVP modifications for nonimmigrant, international students

Dear Senator/Representative [LAST NAME],

My name is [INSERT NAME], and I am writing to you as your constituent and concerned citizen to swiftly oppose and take action against the #StudentBan and the recent announcement of SEVP modifications for nonimmigrant, international students.

On July 6th, 2020, the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement announced modifications to their Student and Exchange Visitor Program impacting F-1 and M-1 international students. Under the modified SEVP, F-1 and M-1 students with valid student visas will be forced to leave the United States if their institution is not offering in-person classes this fall. For colleges and universities that are offering hybrid models of in-person and online classes, this new modification unfairly burdens F-1 and M-1 students with leaving the country if schools suddenly have to switch to online instruction due to spikes in Covid-19 cases in the middle of a semester or quarter. Institutions are being asked to report if they have a fully online operational model for the fall in a very short amount of time -- by July 15th, 2020.

These new SEVP modifications will only make unnecessary and harmful disruptions and undue stress to the lives of international students because of the public health measures and policies of schools that are simply out of control of the students. This policy forces colleges and universities to make an impossible choice between public health and possible deportations of their international undergraduate students and graduate students who are researchers, scholars, instructors, and teaching assistants who contribute greatly to the universities in many ways.

It is immoral, unfair, and practically insensible to force international students to abruptly leave the country in the middle of a global pandemic while many travel restrictions are in place in countries worldwide. Taking online classes from students' home countries also poses many barriers of time zone differences, more difficult access to instructors and fellow students, and certain internet restrictions in some countries like China that would make it next to impossible for students to successfully continue their studies.

It would also be extremely difficult and financially costly for students to have to transfer to a school with in-person instruction in the midst of changing policies among colleges and universities that are responsive to the public health needs because of Covid-19. Further, the high

tuition fees that international students pay subsidize funding for domestic students and universities as a whole.

The SEVP modifications are essentially creating a #StudentBan that is cruel and unnecessary. Please do everything in your power to prevent this policy from going into effect.

Sincerely,
[YOUR NAME]
[Title & affiliation, if applicable]

Phonecall Script

Besides your representatives, recommended sub-committees to call: [Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship](#) and [Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration](#)
(Source: <https://twitter.com/ChrisMarsicano/status/1280334446844162050>)

“Hello, my name is [INSERT NAME] and I am your constituent from [INSERT CITY & STATE]. I am calling to ask [senator or representative’s name] to oppose and take action against the #StudentBan and the recent announcement of SEVP modifications for nonimmigrant, international students. The new SEVP modifications will only make unnecessary and harmful disruptions and undue stress to the lives of international students because of the public health measures and policies of schools that are simply out of control of the students. This policy also forces colleges and universities to make an impossible choice between public health and possible deportations of their international students and scholars. Please take swift action against this policy from going into effect.”