July 8, 2020

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to respectfully request that you reconsider and rescind the new temporary final rules announced on Monday which prohibits international students from staying in the United States if they are enrolled in an American college or university that implements an online-only platform for instruction. We understand that the guidance also applies to an institution that moves to exclusively online mid-semester in response to rising COVID-19 cases on campus, and to students who are living on campuses that are open, but offering classes online-only to protect the health and safety of their faculty and campus community.

As you know, since March our colleges and universities have been in furious upheaval, navigating an unprecedented pandemic and formulating strategies to continue teaching students without putting them, faculty and staff at risk. Our institutions have sought to balance concerns for public health with their academic mission of teaching and scholarship. This work has been both difficult and costly, and the new rules will add more uncertainty and disruption. Moreover, the new rules leave international students with the choice of either transferring to another institution that provides in person or hybrid instruction, or to depart the country and risk not being able to return. Students who fail to comply with this guidance may face deportation.

We also note that the new rules were introduced without notice, without an opportunity for public comment, and put undo pressure on campuses to stay open when it is unsafe to do so. This comes at a time when the United States has been setting daily records for the number of new infections, with more than 300,000 new cases reported since July 1. And the policy effectively reverses course from the spring and summer, when ICE temporarily suspended pre-pandemic rules banning international students from residing in the U.S. and taking online-only courses.

More than a million international students come to the US every year to earn a degree that will help them land better jobs, and many remain in the US after graduation. They contribute to the cultural diversity of our campuses and many pay full tuition, which helps our institutions, especially in these times of economic difficulty and uncertainty. In Massachusetts there are 77,000 international students with active US study visas and another 32,000 in the rest of New England. Our state ranks fourth nationwide for its number of international students, and Northeastern University, with 16,000, ranks third in the country. Nationwide, international
students contribute a $41 billion economic impact that supports more than 450,000 jobs. As one of our University Presidents observed, no public good is served by these efforts to deprive international students from continuing to make valuable and necessary contributions to the prosperity of the nation and the impact on the economic interests will be negative and potentially irreversible.

This policy is not only punitive to these international students, it also threatens the safety of other students and the communities surrounding college campuses. Additionally, transporting international students who may have been exposed to the coronavirus to other campuses or to airports to fly back to their home countries poses a myriad of health risks.

Finally, we understand that both Harvard University and MIT filed suit seeking a preliminary injunction this morning and I am sure others will follow. This litigation will be costly, will take time, and will waste precious judicial resources at a time when we should be focusing on rebuilding our nation.

Accordingly, we request that, in the best interest of our nation, you reconsider and rescind the temporary rules to help preserve our higher education system which is, indeed, the envy of the world.

Most respectfully,

Robert A. DeLeo
Speaker of the House

Jeffrey N. Roy
House Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Anne Gobi
Senate Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Claire Cronin
House Chair
Committee on Judiciary

Paul McMurtry
House Chair
Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development

Patricia A. Haddad
Speaker Pro Tempore

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.
House Minority Leader
20th Middlesex District

Alice H. Peisch
House Chair
Committee on Education

Joanne M. Comerford
Senate Chair
Committee on Public Health

William H. Straus
House Chair
Committee on Transportation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lori A. Ehrlich</td>
<td>House Chair</td>
<td>Committee on Export Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Mark</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>House Committee on Redistricting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann-Margaret Ferrante</td>
<td>House Chair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tackey Chan</td>
<td>House Chair</td>
<td>Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Galvin</td>
<td>House Chair</td>
<td>Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kay Khan</td>
<td>House Chair</td>
<td>Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smitty Pignatelli</td>
<td>House Chair</td>
<td>Committee on Environment, Natural Resources &amp; Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin G. Honan</td>
<td>House Chair</td>
<td>Committee on Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danielle W. Gregoire</td>
<td>House Chair</td>
<td>Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James O'Day</td>
<td>House Chair</td>
<td>Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth B. Balser</td>
<td>House Chair</td>
<td>Committee on Elder Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marc R. Pacheco</td>
<td>Senate Chair</td>
<td>Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Hinds</td>
<td>Senate Vice-Chair</td>
<td>Committee on Revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh S. Cutler</td>
<td>House Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank A. Moran</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>House Committee on Personnel and Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David P. Linsky</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>House Committee on Post Audit and Oversight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth I. Gordon</td>
<td>House Vice Chair</td>
<td>Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas A. Golden, Jr.</td>
<td>House Chair</td>
<td>Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marjorie C. Decker  
House Chair  
Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery

Theodore C. Speliotis  
Chair  
House Committee on Bills in the Third Reading

Linda D. Campbell  
House Chair  
Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs

Antonio F. D. Cabral  
Chair  
House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets

Jerald A. Parisella  
House Chair  
Committee on Public Service

Elizabeth A. Malia  
Assistant Vice Chair  
House Committee on Ways and Means

Aaron Vega  
House Vice Chair  
Committee on Technology & Intergovernmental Affairs

Brian M. Ashe  
House Vice Chair  
Committee on Export Development

Kate Hogan  
State Representative  
3rd Middlesex District

Joan B. Lovely  
Senate Chair  
Committee on Rules

Alan Silvia  
House Vice Chair  
Committee on Public Safety & Homeland Security

Natalie M. Higgins  
Vice Chair  
House Committee on Personnel and Administration

Carolyn C. Dykema  
House Vice Chair  
Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy

Elizabeth A. Poirier  
Ranking Minority  
House Committee on Ethics

Michael S. Day  
House Vice Chair  
Committee on the Judiciary

Cynthia S. Creem  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Personnel and Administration

Sean Garballey  
House Vice-Chair  
Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Steven Ultrino  
State Representative  
33rd Middlesex District
James Arciero
State Representative
2nd Middlesex District

Michael O. Moore
Senate Chair
Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr
House Vice Chair
Committee on Housing

Thomas M. Stanley
House Vice Chair
Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government

Tricia Farley-Bouvier
House Vice Chair
Committee on Elder Affairs

Michael J. Barrett
Senate Chair
Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy

Paul F. Tucker
House Vice Chair
Committee on Education

Jay D. Livingstone
House Vice Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure

Patricia D. Jehlen
Senate Chair
Committee on Elder Affairs

Mary S. Keefe
House Vice Chair
Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change

Harriette L. Chandler
Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Bills in the Third Reading

Daniel J. Ryan
Vice Chair
House Committee on Post Audit and Oversight

Daniel Cahill
House Vice Chair
Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

Eric P. Lesser
Chair
Senate Committee on Ethics

Barry R. Finegold
Senate Chair
Committee on Election Laws

Julian Cyr
Senate Chair
Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery

Nika C. Elugardo
State Representative
15th Suffolk District

Carole Fiola
State Representative
6th Bristol District
Mindy Domb  
State Representative  
3rd Hampshire District

Timothy R. Whelan  
State Representative  
1st Barnstable District

Tram T. Nguyen  
State Representative  
18th Essex District

Louis L. Kafka  
State Representative  
8th Norfolk District

Tami L. Gouveia  
State Representative  
14th Middlesex District

Maria D. Robinson  
State Representative  
6th Middlesex District

Susan L. Moran  
State Senator  
Plymouth and Barnstable District

Christine P. Barber  
House Vice Chair  
Committee on Financial Services

Stephan Hay  
House Vice Chair  
Committee on Labor and Workforce Development

Tommy Vitolo  
State Representative  
15th Norfolk District

Jack Lewis  
State Representative  
7th Middlesex District

Joan Meschino  
State Representative  
3rd Plymouth District

William J. Driscoll, Jr.  
State Representative  
7th Norfolk District

Jonathan Hecht  
State Representative  
29th Middlesex District

Lindsay Sabadosa  
State Representative  
1st Hampshire District

Adrian C. Madaro  
State Representative  
1st Suffolk District

Denise Provost  
State Representative  
27th Middlesex District

Danillo A. Sena  
State Representative  
37th Middlesex District

Jon Santiago  
State Representative  
9th Suffolk District

Jonathan D. Zlotnik  
State Representative  
2nd Worcester District

Senator Becca Rausch  
State Senator  
Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex District

Michael J. Soter  
State Representative  
8th Worcester District
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christina A. Minicucci</td>
<td>State Representative</td>
<td>14th Essex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</td>
<td>State Representative</td>
<td>32nd Middlesex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susannah M. Whipps</td>
<td>State Representative</td>
<td>2nd Franklin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick M. O'Connor</td>
<td>State Senator</td>
<td>Plymouth and Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Connolly</td>
<td>State Representative</td>
<td>26th Middlesex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Hendricks</td>
<td>State Representative</td>
<td>11th Bristol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalie M. Blais</td>
<td>State Representative</td>
<td>1st Franklin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian W. Murray</td>
<td>State Representative</td>
<td>10th Worcester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James K. Hawkins</td>
<td>State Representative</td>
<td>2nd Bristol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David H. A. LeBoeuf</td>
<td>State Representative</td>
<td>17th Worcester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel R. Carey</td>
<td>State Representative</td>
<td>2nd Hampshire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>