



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
CONGRESS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Resolution

28th Congress of Graduate Students

Resolution #: 8

Sponsored by: Representative Hirsch

Date: July 20th, 2020

International Students Support.

Read: 7/20/2020
COGS Vote: 5-0-0

PASSED: July 20, 2020

CERTIFIED TO THE STUDENT BODY,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. J. B.', written over a horizontal line.

7/28/2020

Speaker of the Congress of Graduate Students

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Caitlyn Blake-Hedges', written over a horizontal line.

7/27/20

Deputy Speaker for Finance



Resolution

28th Congress of Graduate Students

Resolution #: 8

Sponsored by: Representative Hirsch

Date: Monday, July 20th, 2020

Whereas: The international student body at Florida State University comprises about 2,500 students from 130 different countries (FSU Center for Global Engagement);

Whereas: Approximately 46% of international students are enrolled in graduate and professional programs at FSU as of the 2018/2019 Academic Year (2019 Open Doors Data for Fall 2018 Enrollment - FSU Center for Global Engagement);

Whereas: Approximately 89% of all international students enrolled at FSU hold a F-1 visa as of the 2018/2019 Academic Year (2019 Open Doors Data for Fall 2018 Enrollment - FSU Center for Global Engagement);

Whereas: International students are an invaluable and vibrant minority group within the Graduate Student Body at Florida State University;

Whereas: The Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19, has reached a pandemic level and lead to the movement of in-person instruction to remote learning at most universities in the United States, including FSU, who has been offering online-only instruction since March 2020;

Whereas: FSU's Fall 2020 Plan for reopening the campus involve offering synchronous and asynchronous online courses, hybrid courses, and select in-person courses with no in-person courses meeting after Thanksgiving break (FSU Fall 2020 Plan);

Whereas: On Monday July 6, 2020, U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) set forth new regulations stating international students holding F-1 and M-1 visas will not be able to remain in the United States if their university or program was offering instruction fully online (Student and Exchange Visitor Program - ICE News Release 7/6/2020);



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Whereas: Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology have filed a joint lawsuit against ICE and the Department of Homeland Security due to the new regulations (MIT and Harvard file suit against new ICE regulations - MIT News Office 7/8/2020);

Whereas: Other universities, such as the University of Central Florida (Taking Steps to Support Our International Students - UCF Today 7/8/2020) or New York University (Statement from NYU President Andrew Hamilton on New ICE Policy Regarding International Students - New Release 7/7/2020), are offering hybrid programs in the fall and will assist international students to ensure they meet in-person course requirements to maintain their visa status;

Whereas: On July 14, 2020, the presidential administration agreed to rescind the 7/6/2020 ICE regulation (USA Today - 7/14/2020);

Whereas: Though the ICE regulations have been rescinded, international students are negatively impacted; In particular, those international students who need to return to the United States for the Fall 2020 semester;

Whereas: As of June 15, 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has travel restrictions in place impacting 36 countries, with no clear exemptions for students holding an F-1 or M-1 visa (Travelers Prohibited from Entry to the United States CDC - 6/15/2020);

Be it resolved by the Twenty-Eighth Congress of Graduate Students of Florida State University that: As the representative organization for the graduate student body, we value the international student population as an important part of our community and the greater student body at FSU.

Be it further resolved: We implore that FSU leadership, the Center for Global Engagement, and any other relevant FSU departments or programs assist currently and newly enrolled international students on F-1 and M-1 visas by finding solutions and creating a plan so they can remain in or return to Tallahassee for the Fall 2020 semester.

Be it further resolved: We urge our state senators and congressional representatives to take action against current travel restrictions by allowing international students to be able to return to the country if they are enrolled at a university in the United States under an F-1 or M-1 visa.



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Be it further resolved: Copies of this resolution be sent to the SGA accounting staff, the Director of SGA, Dr. Danielle Morgan Acosta, the Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Amy Hecht, and FSU President John Thrasher.

Be it further resolved: Copies of this resolution also be sent to:

U.S. Senators for the State of Florida

1. Marco Rubio
2. Rick Scott

U.S. Congressional Representatives for the State of Florida

1. Matt Gaetz
2. Neal Dunn
3. Ted Yoho
4. John Rutherford
5. Al Lawson
6. Michael Waltz
7. Stephanie Murphy
8. Bill Posey
9. Darren Soto
10. Val Demings
11. Daniel Webster
12. Gus M. Bilirakis
13. Charlie Crist
14. Kathy Castor
15. Ross Spano
16. Vern Buchanan
17. Gregory W. Steube
18. Brian Mast
19. Francis Rooney
20. Alcee L. Hastings
21. Lois Frankel
22. Ted Deutch
23. Debbie Wasserman Schultz
24. Frederica Wilson
25. Mario Diaz-Balart
26. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
27. Donna E. Shalala