



## How to Be an Advocate for International Students: Student Government Action Items Guide

Notre Dame Student Government is spearheading a day of action to defend our international students and fight for their protections. If you are committed to standing in solidarity with and taking action for international members of the Notre Dame family, sign the pledge [here](#).

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### **Petitions to Sign**

Petitions are one way to make your voice heard. We are calling upon as many Notre Dame students as possible to sign the following petition to pledge their support to our international student body. All you need to do is write your first name, last name, and email on the website below!

- a. [White House petition to allow F-1 students to stay in the US through the fall semester if instruction is online due to the pandemic.](#)

This petition, hosted on the [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov) website, calls upon the current Administration to make ICE rescind their decision to force international students back to their home countries in the midst of a pandemic. If it gets 100,000 signatures in 30 days, White House petitions such as this one get an official government response or update.

### **How to Contact Law and Policymakers**

To directly address US lawmakers and policymakers and voice your opposition to this ICE policy, we have compiled a list of resources to walk you through the steps of discerning relevant Senators, Representatives, and government officials; contacting their offices; and voicing your opinion with our suggested **email templates and phone script**. We have also included **a list of the US Senators and Representatives who serve on the committees that are the most directly involved in immigration law and policy**, and we would especially encourage you to reach out to them specifically.

a. [Find your Representative here.](#)

Simply type in your zip code to find your Representative in the House. From there, you will be redirected to that Representative's web page, where you can find the contact information for their office.

b. [Find your Senator here.](#)

Select your home state from the dropdown menu. This directory lists each Senator's office phone number as well as their website, where you can find an email address or contact submission form.

### **Email Template for Representatives and Senators**

Dear [Sen./Rep. Name],

My name is [Name], and I am a [Year] student at the University of Notre Dame. I am writing to you in regards to the July 6 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) update on international students' status in the United States. This policy update states that, if an American university is to transition totally online, international students holding F-1 and M-1 visas will be forced to leave the U.S. in 10 days or face deportation. This policy is a hindrance to international students working diligently to receive higher education in our country, and is adding unnecessary stress in a time in which many college students are already facing unprecedented difficulties due to the coronavirus pandemic.

This policy is neglectful and disrespectful toward international students, and it is not representative of the values our country is built upon. They deserve to be able to study in the United States without living in fear of losing their visas or being deported. On behalf of my international friends and peers, I urge you to oppose this policy and seek justice for international students.

Sincerely,

[Name]

## **Phone Call Script for Representatives and Senators**

Hello,

My name is [Name], and I am calling to voice my opinion to Senator [Name]/Representative [Name], as I am a resident of [Senator's state/Representative's district]. I am a student at the University of Notre Dame who is very concerned about the July 6th ICE policy change regarding international students with F-1 and M-1 visas, and so I am reaching out to demand that Senator [Name]/Representative [Name] oppose this policy. This new ICE policy states that, in the instance of an American university transferring to totally online instruction, international students who are currently studying at these institutions *may not* remain in the US and must return to their home countries within 10 days of their university's announcement to go online. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the myriad of challenges it poses to all of our work, life, and school schedules, we must not needlessly displace international students in the midst of a global crisis.

International students should have the right to continue their education in the United States, even if classes are not in person. On behalf of my fellow classmates who are international students, I would like to call upon legislators like Senator [Name]/Representative [Name] to work to ensure that international students can keep their visas. Thank you.

## **Email Template for the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) Response Center of the Department of Homeland Security**

[Click here](#) for information about the [Student and Exchange Visitor Program \(SEVP\) Response Center](#), a program of the Department of Homeland Security that provides approval and oversight to schools authorized to enroll F and M nonimmigrant students and gives guidance to both schools and students about the requirements for maintaining their status.

Email: [SEVP@dhs.gov](mailto:SEVP@dhs.gov)

To whom it may concern:

Hello, my name is [Name], and I am a [Year] student at the University of Notre Dame. I am writing in response to the recent ICE policy regarding international students studying in the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic. I understand that this policy states that international students holding F-1 and M-1 visas, in the instance that their universities transition entirely online, will be forced to leave the U.S. within 10 days or face deportation and loss of their visas.

As a program under the Department of Homeland Security and ICE, the SEVP aims to aid international students in their efforts to receive higher education. This policy in no way helps these students, but instead it places an unprecedented amount of stress and anxiety on these students in a time in which the Coronavirus pandemic is already creating obstacles for many college students.

On behalf of my international friends and peers, I am urging the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) to reassess the situation at hand and rework the recent ICE policy to be a resource to international students, rather than be a hindrance to them.

Sincerely,  
[Name]

**Contact Information for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)**

U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
500 12th St., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20536

**Contact Information for Leadership of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf  
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C., 20528

**Relevant House and Senate Committee Members**

- a. [Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs](#)
  - i. Senator James E. Risch (R-ID): [Contact](#)
  - ii. Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ): [Contact](#)
  - iii. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL): [Contact](#)
  - iv. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD): [Contact](#)
  - v. Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI): [Contact](#)
  - vi. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH): [Contact](#)
  - vii. Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO): [Contact](#)
  - viii. Senator Christopher Coons (D-DE): [Contact](#)
  - ix. Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT): [Contact](#)
  - x. Senator Tom Udall (D-NM): [Contact](#)
  - xi. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC): [Contact](#)
  - xii. Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT): [Contact](#)
  - xiii. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY): [Contact](#)
  - xiv. Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA): [Contact](#)

- xv. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH): [Contact](#)
- xvi. Senator Edward J. Markey (D-MA): [Contact](#)
- xvii. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY): [Contact](#)
- xviii. Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR): [Contact](#)
- xix. Senator Todd Young (R-IN): [Contact](#)
- xx. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ): [Contact](#)
- xxi. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX): [Contact](#)
- xxii. Senator David Perdue (R-GA): [Contact](#)

b. [Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs](#)

- i. Senator Gary Peters (D-MI) [Contact](#)
- ii. Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) [Contact](#)
- iii. Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH) [Contact](#)
- iv. Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) [Contact](#)
- v. Senator Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) [Contact](#)
- vi. Senator Jacky Rosen (D-NV) [Contact](#)
- vii. Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) [Contact](#)
- viii. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) [Contact](#)
- ix. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY): [Contact](#)
- x. Senator James Lankford (R-OK) [Contact](#)
- xi. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY) [Contact](#)
- xii. Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT): [Contact](#)
- xiii. Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) [Contact](#)
- xiv. Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) [Contact](#)

c. [House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs](#)

- i. Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY) [Contact](#)
- ii. Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA) [Contact](#)
- iii. Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY) [Contact](#)
- iv. Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ) [Contact](#)
- v. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA) [Contact](#)
- vi. Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL) [Contact](#)
- vii. Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA) [Contact](#)
- viii. Rep. Bill Keating (D-MA) [Contact](#)
- ix. Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI) [Contact](#)
- x. Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA) [Contact](#)
- xi. Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX) [Contact](#)
- xii. Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV) [Contact](#)
- xiii. Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY) [Contact](#)

- xiv. Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) [Contact](#)
- xv. Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA) [Contact](#)
- xvi. Rep. Dean Phillips (D-MN) [Contact](#)
- xvii. Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) [Contact](#)
- xviii. Rep. Colin Allred (D-TX) [Contact](#)
- xix. Rep. Andy Levin (D-MI) [Contact](#)
- xx. Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) [Contact](#)
- xxi. Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA) [Contact](#)
- xxii. Rep. Tom Malinowski (D-NJ) [Contact](#)
- xxiii. Rep. David Trone (D-MD) [Contact](#)
- xxiv. Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA) [Contact](#)
- xxv. Rep. Juan Vargas (D-CA) [Contact](#)
- xxvi. Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX) [Contact](#)
- xxvii. Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX) [Contact](#)
- xxviii. Rep. Chris Smith (R-TX) [Contact](#)
- xxix. Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH) [Contact](#)
- xxx. Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) [Contact](#)
- xxxi. Rep. Scott Perry (R-PA) [Contact](#)
- xxxii. Rep. Ted Yoho (R-FL) [Contact](#)
- xxxiii. Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) [Contact](#)
- xxxiv. Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY) [Contact](#)
- xxxv. Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) [Contact](#)
- xxxvi. Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO) [Contact](#)
- xxxvii. Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL) [Contact](#)
- xxxviii. Rep. Francis Rooney (R-FL) [Contact](#)
- xxxix. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) [Contact](#)
- xl. Rep. John Curtis (R-UT) [Contact](#)
- xli. Rep. Ken Buck (R-CO) [Contact](#)
- xlii. Rep. Ron Wright (R-RX) [Contact](#)
- xliii. Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA) [Contact](#)
- xliv. Rep. Tim Burchett (R-TN) [Contact](#)
- xlv. Rep. Greg Pence (R-IN) [Contact](#)
- xlvi. Rep. Steve Watkins (R-KS) [Contact](#)
- xlvii. Rep. Michael Guest (R-MS) [Contact](#)

### **Know Your Rights**

Educate yourself and share information on international students' [constitutional rights](#) as non-citizens in the event that they are confronted about their immigration status.

## **Mental Health Resources**

Recognize as well the immense stress that this news and its surrounding implications bring for international students at Notre Dame. We encourage everyone to take advantage of [the University's mental health resources](#) that are currently available to students during the pandemic.