



## United States Senate

June 11, 2020

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo  
Secretary  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf  
Acting Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Pompeo and Acting Secretary Wolf,

I write to request that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of State (DOS) issue clear guidance to our nation's universities and colleges as they face unprecedented uncertainty for their international students, scholars and researchers.

Over one million international students and their families contributed approximately \$45 billion to our national economy in the 2018-2019 academic year. Over the 2018-2019 academic year, international students created or supported more than 458,000 jobs – creating three jobs for every seven international students.

Many of the best and brightest come to the United States, to teach and train the best of the next generation, and to conduct innovative research to further the economic strength of our country.

Issuing guidance related to remote learning and the prioritization of medical residents and fellows would be particularly helpful to both institutions and their students, residents, and fellows. Additionally, healthcare-related optional practical training (OPT) programs are vital to our country's response to the coronavirus pandemic and these employment authorization applications should be a high priority. Non-immigrant visas relating to study or research at an institution of higher education should be exempted from future executive action.

Providing this guidance will help ensure that our institutions of higher education remain strong both during and after this pandemic. They provide much needed economic support to many communities.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator