



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Organization: [National Association of Graduate-Professional Students](http://NationalAssociationofGraduate-ProfessionalStudents.org)

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### **Travel Ban Will Hurt Higher Ed**

On June 26th, 2018, the United States Supreme Court decided to uphold President Trump's travel ban in a 5-to-4 decision. We believe that this order is unfair, discriminatory, and against the very ideals on which the United States was founded upon. The ban will adversely impact a large number of graduate students from seven countries including Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen. Restricting travel based on one's nationality or religion is a direct assault on the fundamental constitutional values of equal protection and religious freedom.

We believe that this blanket ban will have a long-term negative impact on higher education, research, innovation, startups, global competitiveness, and the economy of the United States. The ecosystem of academia shall be adversely affected by the ban. American universities will face difficulties in recruiting and retaining international students, scholars, and educators not only from the listed countries but from other countries as well. International graduate student enrollment has declined by ~6% after years of steady growth. The research community will also suffer as they will not be able to travel between the banned countries and the United States for presenting and discussing their cutting-edge research findings. Current graduate-professional students, researchers, and teaching staff from the listed countries are under pressure and will face prolonged separation from family members that will adversely impact their ability to deliver their duties.

People come from all over the world to experience higher education in the United States, and to live the American dream. They contribute to bodies of research, teach classes, and benefit the US economy. Higher education is one of the nation's greatest exports. Prohibiting scholars from these countries from studying in the United States will hinder the country's ability to attract the best and brightest. It will also continue a chilling effect on international students studying the US, who are contributing to America's competitiveness, and advancing research and technology in the United States.

The NAGPS reaffirms its stand that this travel ban is extremely unfortunate, and will continue fighting for its reversal by organizing the fellow graduate students, talking to the university administrators, collaborating with sister organizations, and reaching out to immigration authorities, policymakers, and advocates of higher education, global scholarship, research, and innovation.

We urge the Trump Administration to rethink about this immigration ban decision, especially for the students, considering the long-lasting negative impacts it will bring to the higher education, global competitiveness, and the US economy. We urge the administration to allow our fellow international scholars to travel with the due vetting process. We also call upon Congress and the administration to take action to modify this ban for students from these countries who want to study in the United States.

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*[NAGPS](http://NAGPS.org) is a national non-profit composed of graduate and professional student governments across the US that represents hundreds of thousands graduate and professional students at a diverse group of member institutions.*