

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONCERNS

Supporting and Cultivating International Intellectual Capital

We urge you to support and co-sponsor legislation that:

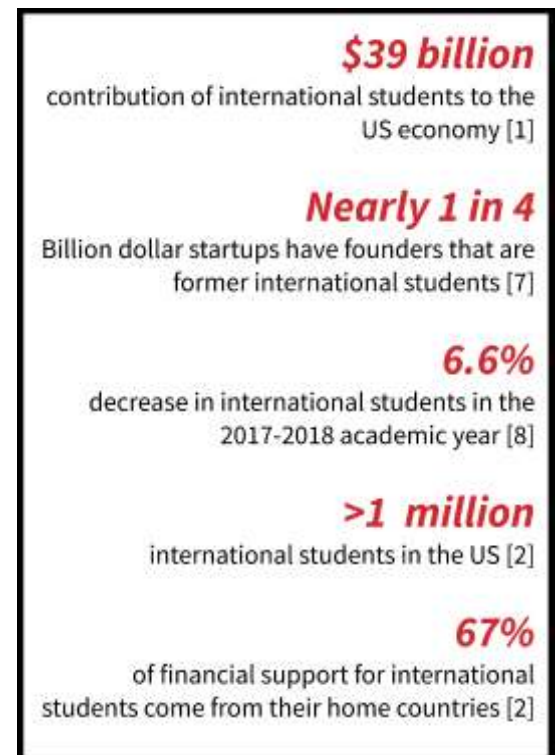
- Support amendments to **S 386/H.R. 1044**, Immigration and Nationality Act, that would **prioritize international students with advanced degrees from U.S. academic institutions** when processing Green Card applications
- Oppose efforts to change the **Duration of Status** provision for academic visas
- Support provisions that allow for **domestic renewal of F-type visas** at the offices of U.S. Consulate.

Prioritizing U.S. Educated International Students

- DHS has approved a rule that prioritizes U.S. Educated applicants for the issuance of H1-B visas [9]. Adopting a similar position for Green Card applicants makes sense.
- The proposed legislation (S 386/H.R. 1044) would likely result in even longer wait times for new U.S. educated applicants.
- Green card issuances are hard capped at 140,000 per year, half of which go to dependents [10].
- Currently, around 380,000 international students are studying in the U.S. at the graduate level [9].

Positive Economic Impact of International Students

- In the 2017-2018 academic year, international students contributed \$39 billion to the U.S. economy, a 5.8% increase from the previous year [1].
- 22% of billion dollar startups in the U.S. were founded by former international students [7].
- For every 2 international students enrolled, 1 U.S. job is created or supported [1, 2], often through creating their own U.S.-based companies [3].
- International student enrollment in graduate programs increases domestic enrollment [3].
- STEM companies rely on international students trained in the U.S. [3].



Changes to International Student Enrollment

- In 2017-18, there was a 6.6% decrease in international graduate student enrollment [8], largely due to changes in policy. This is significant compared to the 3.4% increase in enrollment from 2016 [2].
- Talented foreign students are being enticed to studying in other countries with more attractive student visa policies [4] [5].
- 50% of the decline in enrollment came from graduate programs in STEM field [3].
- US students in many institutions suffered from the impact of budget cut due to international enrollment drop [3].
- Many university majors and programs may be shut down if current trend of low international enrollment persists [3].

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Benefits to Eased Renewal Restrictions

Decreased Bureaucracy and Financial Burden

- Reduce the workload on U.S. consulates
- Prevent unnecessary travel by visa holders and their families, saving time and money [5]

Increased Security

- Increased involvement and utilization of the expertise of domestic State Department and Department of Homeland Security officials

Promotes the Progress of Federally Funded Research

- Promotion of U.S. research on the international stage [5]

References

- [1] International Student Economic Value Tool (n.d.) 2017-2018. NAFSA Indiana University, Office of International Services. Retrieved from http://www.nafsa.org/Policy_and_Advocacy/Policy_Resources/Policy_Trends_and_Data/NAFSA_International_Student_Economic_Value_Tool/
- [2] Open Doors (2017) Executive Summary Retrieved from <https://www.iie.org/en/Why-IIE/Announcements/2017-11-13-Open-Doors-2017-Executive-Summary>
- [3] (2018, February) NFA Policy Brief: Declining International Student Enrollment at U.S. Universities and Its Potential Impact. National Foundation for American Policy. <https://nafp.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Decline-in-International-Student-Enrollment.NFAP-Policy-Brief.February-2018-2.pdf>
- [4] Alden, E. (2017, March 22). Immigration Enforcement and the Impact on Higher Education. *Council on Foreign Relations*. Retrieved from <https://www.cfr.org/blog/immigration-enforcement-and-impact-higher-education>
- [5] National Research Council. (2005) Policy Implications of International Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars in the United States. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/11289>
- [6] Proposed H1-B reforms would favour graduates with advanced degrees, <http://monitor.icef.com/2018/12/proposed-h1-b-reforms-would-favour-graduates-with-advanced-degrees/>
- [7] Anderson, S. (2018, October) Immigrants and Billion-Dollar Companies. *National Foundation for American Policy*. Retrieved from <https://nafp.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-BILLION-DOLLAR-STARTUPS.NFAP-Policy-Brief.2018.pdf>
- [8] (2018) International Students in the U.S. Institute of International Education. <https://www.iie.org/-/media/Files/Corporate/Open-Doors/Fast-Facts/Fast-Facts-2018.ashx?la=en&hash=E87E077CE69F84A65A9AA0B0960C2691E922835A>
- [9] (2018, December 4) Proposed H1-B reforms would favour graduates with advanced degrees. *ICEF Monitor*. Retrieved from <http://monitor.icef.com/2018/12/proposed-h1-b-reforms-would-favour-graduates-with-advanced-degrees/>
- [10] Anderson, S. (2019, February 15). Bill Aims To End Decades-Long Waits For High-Skilled Immigrants. *Forbes*. Retrieved from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/stuartanderson/2019/02/15/bill-aims-to-end-decades-long-waits-for-high-skilled-immigrants/>

Resources

International student economic impact per state and U.S. Congressional district visit: www.nafsa.org/economicvalue

Report of the Secure Borders and Open Doors Advisory Committee, January 2008:

http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/hsac_SBODACreport508-compliant_version2.pdf

NAGPS Proposed Language: Domestic Revalidation of Student Visas:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WSrQUUkNaaGWBFWKxvFQ_HSDJJ0KsKk_5x9CihYXznY/edit