

Dear Members of the Penn State Law and SIA Community,

As President Barron [announced](#) this morning, Penn State is involved in extensive advocacy on behalf of our international students as it also works to support them as valued members of our community: “Penn State is joining with the [Association of American Universities](#), the [American Council on Education](#), the [Association of Public & Land-grant Universities](#) and other institutions in higher education in calling for the immediate rescission of these troubling rules. We also are joining an amicus brief being written in support of Harvard and MIT’s [lawsuit](#) against the Department of Homeland Security and ICE over these new rules.”

I am extremely grateful for Dean Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia’s leadership in helping Penn State Law, SIA, and the broader university understand these rules and develop strategies for supporting impacted students. I have been working closely with her, Dean Engle, and Dr. Gartner to develop strategies to support impacted students in both schools.

Our current understanding is that our mixed method teaching approach for all law school courses and most SIA courses will provide international students with adequate in person instruction under the new requirements. We will be closely monitoring updates from the federal government as more details emerge and work individually with each international student on concerns that arise.

Let me reiterate, we value our international students. These rules, in the middle of a public health crisis when we need flexibility to protect the health and safety of our community, are unacceptable and unjust. I am proud that Penn State is part of these advocacy efforts and hope that they succeed. But either way, we are here for our international students and will do everything possible to support their having a positive, inclusive educational experience here.

Best,  
Hari

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