# **Sample Letter to Federal Officials**

**International Students**

**This is a sample letter template you can use to contact your federal elected officials to urge them to support students and institutions in considering access opportunities for international students. Complete the letter by filling in the information specific to you and providing an example or two of how students you work with benefit from state-level inclusivity investments in higher education to personalize your letter. You do not need to name specific students or indicate the institution you work at. You may also make other changes to the text in the template, to add or remove specific information and tailor your letter to focus on the issues most important to you.**

[date]

Dear [title] [last name]:

As your constituent living in [your city], I am writing today to ask you to support college students in [your state] and across the country.

As a student affairs professional, I see first-hand how federal programs support students. Student affairs is a critical component of the higher education experience, collaborating with colleagues across institutions of higher education to offer students valuable learning opportunities, meaningful social engagements, and safe and inclusive environments.

[Insert personal statement or story.]

On behalf of our students, I urge you to work with your Congressional colleagues to support and create legislation that protects international students, scholars, faculty, and staff. Policies and pathways for international individuals that promote inclusion, institutional productivity, and student success are essential to maintaining the competitiveness of our colleges and universities. Engagement with diverse perspectives has the added benefit of making our students more adaptive in an ever-changing workplace. I am writing in opposition to those administrative actions that might deter international students from pursuing higher education in the United States. Examples of these measures include the travel ban executive order, which may make certain international students or scholars subject to additional screening or barred from short-term entry, and the overstay visa policy memorandum which may bar an international student from re-entry for up to 10 years should they stay a day past graduation.

The future of our nation’s knowledge economy relies on a college-educated workforce. I am relying on you to do what is right both for [your states]’s students and our nation as a whole.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I look forward to hearing from you about your plans to support our students and institutions of higher education.

Sincerely,

[name]

[address, including zip code]