



Office of Student Government Relations
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Office of Student Government Relations Statement On DHS Proposed Rule
Federal Statement on DHS Docket No. ICEB-2019-0006

October 24th, 2020 - Cornell University's Office of Student Government Relations is releasing this statement in response to the rule proposed by the Department of Homeland Security requiring a fixed time period of admission and an extension of stay procedure for Nonimmigrant Academic Students, Exchange Visitors, and Representatives of Foreign Information Media. If passed, this rule will not only place an unnecessary burden on our International colleagues, but hinder academic progress that relies on the unique perspectives they have to offer.

The Office of Student Government Relations recognizes International students are an integral part of Cornell's student body, representing nearly one out of every four students¹. At Cornell in NY state, international students have contributed 300 million dollars to the economy while supporting 3,976 jobs during the same period, as they are a critical part to our economy's health.² The current ruling establishes a new fixed period of admission and limits the allowed period of time for international students to 2-4 years of stay. This is a significant limitation for graduate students, as most Ph.D programs take 5-6 years for completion. Finally, requiring students return home for visa renewal will impose unique financial burdens on students across undergraduate campuses.

Students, faculty, and their universities have commented on the ruling's disproportionate effects on higher education communities³. Individuals can submit official comments to the Federal Register until 11:59 pm on 10/26/2020. The Office of Student Government Relations urges this ruling not take effect.

¹ <https://ecommons.cornell.edu/bitstream/handle/1813/66798/Stats18-19.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

² <https://www.nafsa.org/isev/reports/district?year=2018&state=NY&district=23>

³ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/09/25/2020-20845/establishing-a-fixed-time-period-of-admission-and-an-extension-of-stay-procedure-for-nonimmigrant#open-comment>

The Office of Student Government Relations, an office of Cornell University's Student Assembly, advocates for student interests at the local, state and federal level. Founded in 2019, the Office serves over 16,000 students from Cornell and works closely with elected officials to support the interests of students at our nation's highest levels of governance. To stay updated on the Office's actions, visit cornellosgr.com or follow @CornelloSGR on Twitter.