

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State 2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Rubio and Secretary Noem:

We write to you today expressing extreme concern after hearing from institutions of higher education throughout Virginia and the country that the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security are working together to revoke the nonimmigrant (F-1, M-1, or J-1) visas of their students. Such revocations are then used to terminate these students' records in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), potentially affecting their ability to attend school. Worse, State and DHS are taking such actions without providing any notice to the affected students or their schools, with only vague, non-individualized reasons given for terminations in SEVIS. Furthermore, there is no clear process for these students to ascertain why their record was terminated in SEVIS, then to challenge the termination if they believe that DHS or State has made an error in their case. To date, over 1,000 international students have had their student visas revoked and/or SEVIS records terminated nationwide, including in the Commonwealth of Virginia.¹

The chaos caused by your actions is not acceptable. We believe in the rule of law and that immigration laws should be enforced. That starts with the Constitution and its guarantees of free speech and due process. These Constitutional protections apply to noncitizens in the United States, including people in nonimmigrant status.

If there are international students in the United States in violation of our criminal or immigration laws, they should be removed. But summarily revoking these students' visas and/or terminating their records in SEVIS without any notice to the students or their schools undermines confidence in State and DHS's judgment and erodes Americans' trust in the immigration system and the rule of law. Such distrust will be exploited by the very people who want to harm the United States.

Over 1.1 million international students matriculated to U.S. colleges and universities in 2023-2024, contributing over \$40 billion into the U.S. economy and supporting 378,175 jobs.²

¹ Mowreader, Ashley. "Where Students Have Had Their Visas Revoked." Accessed April 15, 2025.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/global/international-students-us/2025/04/07/where-students-have-had-their-visas-revoked>.

² Banks, Rachel. "The United States of America - Benefits from International Students." NAFSA. Accessed April 15, 2025.
<https://www.nafsa.org/sites/default/files/media/document/EconValue2024.pdf>.

Virginia is proud to be home to more than 170 colleges and universities, including community colleges and highly prestigious research universities that enroll international students. These students pay for the privilege and contribute tremendously to the academic intuitions and the communities in which they live.

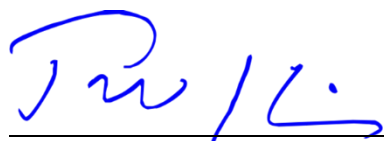
We want all our students to feel safe, supported, and secure in their studies so they can focus on their education. As such, we are deeply concerned that this administration's policies surrounding student visas will result in severe consequences to universities and colleges, and their surrounding communities.

To better assist us in understanding the impacts of State and DHS's action, no later than April 30, 2025, please provide us with the following information:

1. Since January 20, 2025, how many F-1, M-1, or J-1 nonimmigrant visas have the State Department revoked for people attending schools in Virginia? For each revoked visa, please provide the justification given for the revocation.
2. For those whose F-1, M-1, or J-1 visas were revoked in question 1, how many had their records terminated in SEVIS?
3. Since January 20, 2025, has the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) terminated the SEVIS records of any students attending school in Virginia whose nonimmigrant visas have not been revoked by the State Department? For each such termination, please provide the specific reason why their SEVIS records were terminated, and specify what evidence SEVP reviewed before terminating each record.
4. How would a Virginia student whose visa has been revoked and/or had their SEVIS record terminated be notified that this has happened? How would their schools be notified that this has happened? If a student or school believes that such revocation and/or termination has been made in error, what are the avenues for review or appeal of the revocation and/or termination? How long would such process take?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator