

Education Is A Right! NASW-FL Immigration Justice Task Force Supports International Students

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that international students on visas cannot take online courses and will need to leave the U.S. ICE states that they must enroll in face-to-face classes, even though many schools, colleges, and universities will only offer online courses while others will offer a mix, but international students will still need to take online classes, due to COVID-19.

ICE's decision that international students taking classes online must leave the U.S. is anti-student, anti-education, anti-health, and inhumane. Our country welcomed these students who have spent time and money working towards their degrees. ICE's decision not only interrupts their education, discredits their work and money, but interrupts their lives and their families, and their future goals. Many of them cannot simply go home. ICE's decision is a form of deportation.

ICE's decision goes against our American principles and historical values that encourage youth from around the world to come to the U.S., dreaming of America's opportunities to broaden their education and be competitive in today's very complex labor market. Many international students remain in the U.S. after completing their degrees, sharing their expertise, and enriching the U.S. Some of the greatest developments have involved international minds working in this country and helping us become more diverse and prosperous.

A decrease in international student enrollment will impact the U.S. economy as it is tied to college/university finances. In addition, this would call for more restraint between the U.S. and foreign countries. Let's highlight that "In the 2016-2017 school year, more than one million international students added \$39 billion dollars to the United States economy. In other words, that's over 400,000 jobs. This breaks down to three U.S. jobs for every seven enrolled international students". [International Student Enrollment Decrease Impacts US Economy](#)

The NASW FL Immigration Justice Task Force demands that ICE immediately allows international students to study in whatever methods their schools, colleges and universities will use in the coming academic years during COVID-19. We believe that these students are an invaluable resource to our academic and national communities, and one that has both social and economic impacts.

International students are contributing and inspiring members to America's social fabric. Hurting and persecuting them goes against American social justice values, negatively impacts the U.S. and affects the financial budgets of our educational institutions.