
April 29, 2020

nafsa.org/policy
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Today’s Panelists

- **Esther D. Brimmer**, DPhil, Executive Director & CEO, NAFSA
- **Jill Allen Murray**, Deputy Executive Director, Public Policy, NAFSA
- **Rachel Banks**, Senior Director, Public Policy & Legislative Strategy, NAFSA
- **Nora Cavazos**, University of Texas Medical Branch, NAFSA Region III Advocacy Representative and NAFSA 2019 Advocate of the Year
- **Rebecca Morgan**, Senior Director, Media Communications & Advocacy, NAFSA

**Moderator**

- **Erica Stewart**, Director, Advocacy & Media Outreach, NAFSA
Esther Brimmer, DPhil.
Executive Director and CEO
A DIGITAL PROGRAM FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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NAFSA Upcoming Virtual Offerings

Public Policy & Advocacy webinars on

• Monday, May 4 – Deep Dive: Education Abroad, 2:00 to 2:30 pm EDT
• Monday, May 11 – Deep Dive: International Student & Scholars, 2:00 to 2:30 pm EDT
• Monday, May 18 – Deep Dive: Federal Financial Assistance, 2:00 to 2:30 pm EDT
  - Register at: nafsa.org/deepdive
COVID-19 Financial Impact Survey

• Coming Soon!
• Nearly 350 institutions and organizations responded; distributed between April 7 – 14
• Estimated financial cost to U.S. higher education resulting from canceled programs and financial support for international students: at least $2 billion
Importance of Advocacy

Thanks to Christian Spencer from @VernBuchanan's office for meeting with me today to talk about the benefits to #Florida of #Intlstudents and #studyabroad during #nafsaAD!
Jill Allen Murray
Deputy Executive Director, Public Policy
Does Constituent Engagement Matter?

**Become a Partner in Enriching the Relationship Between Citizens and Congress**

**Value of Constituent Input**

“If your Member/Senator has not already arrived at a firm decision on an issue, how much influence might the following advocacy strategies directed to the Washington office have on his/her decision?”

![Bar charts showing the most and least effective methods of constituent input](chart)

- In-Person Issue Visits from Constituents: Most Effective
- Contact from a Constituent Who Represents Other Constituents
- Individualized Postal Letters
- Individualized Email Messages
- Phone Calls: Least Effective

Source: CMF survey of congressional staff, published as part of the Communicating with Congress research series, 2011.
A Divided Washington

- December 22, 2018 – January 25, 2019: 35-day federal government shutdown
- March 2019: Mueller investigation ends
- February 5, 2020: Senate acquits President Trump
## CARES Act and International Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provision</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Specific limitations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund</td>
<td>$14.25 Billion</td>
<td>50% to students; 50% to institutions; international students are ineligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSF/NASA/NIH/NIST/NEH funding</td>
<td>$1.3 Billion</td>
<td>Funding for research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paycheck Protection Program</td>
<td>$349 Billion</td>
<td>Nonprofit organizations of less than 500 employees are eligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Reserve Loans</td>
<td>$454 Billion</td>
<td>Midsize entities eligible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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- For more detail click [here](#).
April 22, 2020: Presidential Proclamation Suspending Entry of Immigrants Who Present Risk to the U.S. Labor Market During the Economic Recovery Following the COVID-19 Outbreak

- **Sec. 6. Additional Measures.** Within 30 days of the effective date of this proclamation, the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall review nonimmigrant programs and shall recommend to me other measures appropriate to stimulate the United States economy and ensure the prioritization, hiring, and employment of United States workers.
Federal Leaders Will Continue to Tackle COVID-19

- Election Day is in roughly 8 months

"While... public health strategies are working to protect the American people, they result in catastrophic damage to state economies. Despite this grave challenge, the recently passed federal CARES Act contained zero funding to offset these drastic state revenue shortfalls." - National Governors Association Chair Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and Vice Chair New York Governor Andrew Cuomo 4/11 statement.
Rachel Banks
Senior Director, Public Policy & Legislative Strategy
U.S. Study Abroad

- With programs canceled, institutions & organizations are looking at reducing staff hours, furloughing staff, or eliminating positions.
- Many programs are fee-funded; without fee revenue, operating budgets will be impacted.
- Without study abroad, U.S. students will be less prepared to succeed in solving global crises, such as a pandemic.
International Student Enrollment

- Fall 2020 enrollment uncertain; possible 25% decline
- New international student enrollment already in decline since fall 2016 – nearly 11%
- U.S. higher ed institutions are economic engines for local communities
- 25% decline in enrollment = Potential loss of $10 billion and over 100,000 jobs

2018-19 Academic Year

www.nafsa.org/economicvalue
Congressional Asks

Issue Brief:

• Revive and Restore International Education Impacted by COVID-19
• Urges Congress to provide critical financial resources, oversight, and policy changes to restore international education impacted by COVID-19
• Available on NAFSA’s website: “COVID-19 Legislation and Policy Resources”
Congressional Asks

1. Direct emergency aid to support education abroad:
   a) Increase or newly establish funding for virtual exchange programs, such as the Stevens Initiative
   b) Increase funding for State Department’s Increasing and Diversifying Education Abroad for U.S. Students (IDEAS) Program (formerly Capacity Building in Study Abroad Grant Program; run by ECA’s USA Study Abroad Office)
      i. FY2019 22 grant applications funded
Congressional Asks

Direct emergency aid to support education abroad:

c) Establish grant funding in the U.S. Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE) to support innovation in study abroad post-COVID-19 consistent with the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program
2. Ensure international students and scholars are able to return to U.S. institutions of higher education when in-person classes resume and mitigate continued decline in international student enrollment by exercising oversight of visa and immigration policies.

- “Welcome to Succeed”
- “Losing Talent 2020”
Congressional Asks

Specifically, we ask Congress to:

a) Create targeted scholarships for those studying COVID-19 and other pandemic responses and best practices

b) Direct the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Consular Affairs to institute transparent, easy-to-understand and timely processing for visa issuance and renewals

c) Require the State Department to report to Congress and the public its plans to address the expected surge of visa requests at U.S. consulates once they reopen
Congressional Asks

Specifically, we ask Congress to:

d) Require DHS to postpone any non-COVID-19 rulemaking

e) Direct CBP to implement a streamlined process at ports of entry for returning and newly-arriving international students and scholars

f) Direct USCIS to automatically extend employment authorization documents, extend or pause filing deadlines, and restart premium processing

g) Establish a national recruitment strategy to attract and retain international students and scholars
Congressional Asks

3. Direct $46.6 billion in aid to students and higher education institutions with flexibility to support international offices.

a) International offices on U.S. campuses are particularly impacted by the cancellation of programs and the shift to online, distance, or virtual education platforms.

b) Sufficient funding is essential for restoring institutions, including campus international offices, to normal operations.
4. Make technical changes to the Small Business Administration’s Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to ensure eligibility of international education providers and smaller private higher education institutions.

a) Clarify that smaller, private higher education institutions should not count students participating in work-study programs as employees

b) Clarify that international education providers need only count their U.S.-based employees
Nora Cavazos
University of Texas Medical Branch;
NAFSA Region III Advocacy Representative
An Advocate’s Journey
Rebecca Morgan
Senior Director, Media Communications and Advocacy
Advocacy Engagement

Advocacy is KEY in today’s hectic political climate

- Every interest group is working to make their wants noted by policymakers
- International Education will be missed if constituents don’t speak up
- Lawmakers want to hear from their constituents, not lobbyists
Take Action

ConnectingOurWorld.org
Future COVID-19 Policy & Advocacy Webinars

- **Monday, May 4** – Deep Dive: Education Abroad, 2:00 to 2:30 pm EDT
- **Monday, May 11** – Deep Dive: International Student & Scholars, 2:00 to 2:30 pm EDT
- **Monday, May 18** – Deep Dive: Federal Financial Assistance, 2:00 to 2:30 pm EDT
- **Register at nafsa.org/deepdive**
Questions?

Email: grassroots@nafsa.org
NAFSA Resources

COVID-19 Legislation and Policy Resources

Issue Brief: Revive and Restore International Education Impacted by COVID-19

Take Action: Secure COVID-19 Resources for International Education

2020 NAFSA eConnection

NAFSA Advocacy Webinars - May 4, 11, and 18 @ 2 pm EDT

Summary of CARES Act Provisions

This recording will be made available at www.nafsa.org/TownHall