



Coalition of Graduate Employees

101 NW 23rd St.
Corvallis, OR 97330

phone (541) 757-7141
unite@cge6069.org

February 2, 2017

Dr. Ed Ray
President of Oregon State University
646 Kerr Administration Building

RE: Immigration Executive Order

President Ray:

Below you will find a letter crafted by the Iranian students of Oregon State University and signed by the Coalition of Graduate Employees. The majority of Oregon State University students affected by the recent immigration order belong to one or both of these populations. We ask, however, that you take concrete action to protect all students impacted by the recent executive order on immigration, including graduate students and undergraduate students and students from all seven nations. We look forward to your response.

Dear President Ray,

We, the Iranian students of Oregon State University, appreciate your support and disagreement with the U.S. Presidential Executive Order regarding immigration policy changes. We intend to share our concerns and the consequences of this executive order on our experiences at OSU. Discrimination and uncertainties exposed to us through this order have shattered our personal and professional lives. We would like to ask the university leadership to take a few concrete actions that will help us to handle this situation better.

There are more than 100 graduate students at OSU who are deprived from visiting their beloved ones and families back in their home countries. To mention an example, one of our community members with more than 900 citations is unable to visit his father who recently has been hospitalized back in Iran.

There are several other students directly affected by this order. In collaboration with the Coalition of Graduate Employees (CGE), the Iranian Student Association invited community members for a support session and asked everyone to express their concerns. The most common concerns are presented below. Although, reversing this order is beyond our power, we ask that OSU implement the following supportive policies to help mitigate the impact of the executive order for members of our community.

- 1- As a dominantly graduate student community, many of our students are working on federally funded projects. As a side effect of this executive order, many faculty advisers are hesitant to assign affected students and prospective students of banned countries on many non-sensitive grants. We believe that the university's leadership is able to assure faculty advisers in this regard with relevant supportive policies.
- 2- Some students in our community are close to graduation. This situation has put their future life in the shadow. This undetermined future is the problem of every community member who expects to graduate within a year. Therefore, we would like ask the leadership to support these students by allowing a delayed graduation and providing them with continued funding as Graduate Research Assistants or Graduate Teaching Assistants.
- 3- We would like to ask the University leadership to reflect our concerns through legislative and judiciary branches of government for enacting legally supportive rules to support affected students and their families.

All after all, this has been our great honor and pride to have the opportunity to contribute to the prosperity of this nation with our intellectual merit. We always remain thankful and appreciative to this nation, and our university. We appreciate your support and concern reflected in your letter on Monday, January 30st. Hopefully supportive policies throughout the university will help everyone to stand against discriminatory policies.

We would gladly meet in person to discuss in more detail the steps that OSU can take to support and protect affected students.

On Behalf of the Coalition of Graduate Employees,

Thomas Morrill, President