# ADVOCATE FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

## CAN NON-CITIZENS VOICE THEIR CONCERNS TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT? YES!

- ★ The US Constitution ensures equal representation for all individuals living in the United States, regardless of income, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, or immigration status. Noncitizens, though they may lack the right to vote in federal elections, have the right to have their voices heard by their representatives in Congress.
- ★ While we encourage non-citizens to participate to the extent that they are able, individuals should only take actions that they are comfortable taking, and they should consider their particular set of circumstances before engaging in any of these activities.
- ★ Individuals are under no obligation to provide any personally identifiable information to a member of Congress or their staff. Individuals may be asked for their name and zip code, but this is only to confirm that the person is a constituent, and providing this information is strictly voluntary. NO ONE is required to provide any additional information, such as address, social security number, or immigration status.

HOW CAN I ADVOCATE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION?

## 1. Utilize the NAFSA Advocacy tool:

There has been legislative change in the International Education field, as well as during COVID-19. As an international education supporter, you can use the following support webpage that was published by NAFSA (Association of International Educators), which includes simple, stept-bystep instructions to voice your concern.

## TAKE ACTION

- Fight Back Against Duration of Status Change
- Urge Congress to Support International Students & Scholars and Protect OPT
- Urge Congress to Direct Covid-19 Resources to Support Education Abroad
- Pass the Dream Act
- Educate Congress on the Value of International Students
- Urge Congress to Support Study Abroad

## CONNECTING OUR WORLD

- International Students
- Study abroad
- Immigration Reform
- Travel to Cuba for All

#### 2. Share your story:

#### **SHARE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT STORIES**

Compelling personal stories are one of the most powerful tools. It is important for the U.S. legislators to hear stories. When sharing stories, think about how international students benefit the U.S. from different perspectives. It is important for everyone to know what they can bring and contribute to this country.

#### 3. Contact your Local Legislator

If you ever want to contact your House representative, raise concerns, here is <u>the website</u> to find out who will be the right person to contact, based on the address you are at. Usually they have a local office that you can visit, or you can contact them by calling or emailing them. We listed the U.S. Senators and House Representatives for San Francisco below for your reference.

## U.S. SENATORS

Dianne Feinstein (D - CA)	Kamala D. Harris (D - CA)
Washington D.C.: (202) 224-3841	Washington D.C.: (202) 224-3553
www.feinstein.senate.gov	www.harris.senate.gov

#### SF REPRESENTATIVES TO U.S. HOUSE

Nancy Pelosi (D-CA 12th District) Washington D.C.: (202) 225-4965 www.pelosi.house.gov Jackie Speier (D-CA 14th District) Washington D.C.: (202) 225-3531 <u>www.speier.house.gov</u>

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

**USF Immigration Clinic:** USF has immigration and deportation defense clinic for students to utilize if needed. You can find more information from <u>the website</u>.

**ISSS Immigration Attorney List:** ISSS can provide you a list of immigration attorneys at your request, contact isss@usfca.edu.