



# Enable Domestic Renewal of F-Type Visas



## Support Retention of International Intellectual Capital

Columbia University Arts & Sciences Graduate Council

Syracuse University Graduate Student Organization

### Contribution of international students to American competitiveness:

*\$41 billion to the U.S. economy*

*Half a million U.S. jobs*

*1 in 5 startups worth over \$1 billion*

### Facts on the Ground

- F-type visas can be valid from a few months to a few years depending on the student's nationality, which does not necessarily match the duration of their program.
- F-type visa renewal requires students to **leave the country and stay abroad for weeks or months** before returning.
  - Their absence stalls the pace and advancement of cutting-edge U.S.-based research.
  - As teaching assistants and instructors at their institutions, their absence is detrimental to students in their classes.
  - Uncertainty in the visa renewal process hinders students from taking up research opportunities that require international travel.
- These renewals impose a **financial burden** on students.
  - These renewals require students to pay for **flights to their home countries** more often than necessary.
  - Students might need accommodation to renew visas in consulates outside of their hometowns.
- This process takes a toll on students' **mental health**, jeopardizing their productivity as students, instructors and researchers.
- **Preventing domestic renewal poses a public health risk** to the US and international student home countries in the present COVID-19 outbreak.

Please promote domestic revalidation of F-type visas. Some steps to take:

- **HOLD A HEARING** to find out what the State Department would need to allow for domestic revalidation.
- **APPROPRIATE**, as necessary, resources to enable F-type visa domestic revalidation.
- **AMEND** the **2002 Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act** to close State Department loopholes disallowing domestic F-type visa renewal.

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