

To faculty, staff, fellow students and friends,

We have been listening closely to the concern, criticism and apprehension that has risen from you in response to the Executive Order on Immigration. We too are disheartened by the actions and events that unfolded. On behalf of UMass student groups whose vision is to “value diversity promoted within our institution, to foster an atmosphere of compassion, courtesy, and mutual respect, stimulating inventiveness and broadening our talents and perspectives,” key tenets of our institutional mission, we denounce and reject any form of xenophobia, racism, sexism, religious bigotry, and all other forms of institutional disenfranchisement that affect our peers, colleagues, patients, and surrounding community.

Our community is richly diverse. Walking through our halls and wards you will glean what makes us unique in the faces you pass by - our race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, and much more. In doctors’ offices, and community health centers throughout the city we meet patients from all walks of life. In our free clinics, we serve the Worcester community regardless of citizenship or immigration status. The diversity of our community has added strength to our institution, broadened our education, and instilled in us a distinct sense that our campus values inclusion, acceptance, and respect for all. But unfortunately, it is this same diversity that the executive order is leveraging to divide us.

We stand in solidarity with those who have been impacted by the actions of the new administration over the past weeks. As an academic community, we believe that the Executive Order on Immigration fundamentally contradicts the mission of our institution. To those of you feeling scared or anxious about the recent events in Washington, you are not alone. We know many in our community are afraid and worried. They are afraid for themselves, their families, friends, and colleagues. They, and many of us, worry about the negative impact that these actions may have on our communities and family dynamics. We also worry about education and the overall success of our academic and clinical environments, which serves people of diverse backgrounds from all over the world. After years of hard work, many students and professionals are seeing their future hopes, dreams, and aspirations pushed back or crushed by the landscape of uncertainty surrounding the recent executive order.

In this current uncertain environment, we cannot be silent. The Institution has taken a very clear stance on these issues by rejecting all forms of discrimination based on religion, race, gender, ethnicity, or country of origin. Resources have been established by the Immigration Services office to answer questions and provide information on the executive order on immigration. Although we hope that the administration will reconsider this policy and their overall stance, know that UMMS is committed to supporting those affected now and in the future. Please contact our student and campus representatives if you are seeking support and resources during this time.

Sincerely,
Student National Medical Association (SNMA)
Worcester Refugee Assistance Project (WRAP)
QMass
Public Health Interest Group (PHIG)