

TO: University of Massachusetts Medical School community

FROM: Michael F. Collins, MD, Chancellor

DATE: February 7, 2017

SUBJECT: Executive Order on Immigration

A great deal of concern and attention continues to be devoted to the ongoing, and rapidly evolving, federal executive order on immigration that was issued on Jan. 27.

We are fortunate to work and learn at an institution where our mission is so keenly focused on improving the human condition. Our international colleagues are integral to this mission. They have our support and they deserve better from our nation.

I am honored that STAT, a national news outlet focused on science and medicine, has published a piece sharing some of my thoughts about the threat that this executive order poses to our chosen professions, which you can read [here](#).

As we await the eventual legal resolution of this matter, I urge you to remember that the diverse, inclusive and civil culture at UMass Medical School is one of our greatest strengths. Diseases, cures, and innovative ideas know no geographic boundaries. The lingering uncertainty that our international faculty, visiting scholars, students, medical residents, postdoctoral fellows, employees and their families may be experiencing makes it difficult for them to do their important work – work that is important to everyone in the commonwealth.

Our UMass Medical School Task Force on Immigration, co-chaired by James G. Healy, JD, associate vice chancellor for management; and Deborah L. Harnois, MS, MBA, JD, associate vice chancellor for human resources, will convene again this week to consult on this complex matter, and we will continue to keep you informed.

At any time, members of our faculty, staff and student body can find up-to-date information and resources at http://www.umassmed.edu/hr/immigration_services/programs-announcements/

Vanessa Paulman, the Medical School's director of immigration services, is available at vanessa.paulman@umassmed.edu to assist with any questions about an individual's immigration status, travel plans or work authorization.