



July 10, 2020

To the Stevens Community:

After reviewing various legal options, Stevens has determined it will participate in an amicus brief filed by the Presidents' Alliance for Higher Education and Immigration in support of the lawsuit that Harvard and MIT brought against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency on Tuesday.

As noted in my message to the community of July 8th, this unexpected rule issued by the Department of Homeland Security earlier this week would not allow international students to remain in the U.S. if they were enrolled in only fully online courses.

As our campus community is aware, Stevens has planned for an on-campus experience for the Fall 2020 semester. We believe that international students who enroll in the StevensFlex mode of instruction, which offers a hybrid in-person classroom experience complemented by synchronous, online instruction, and who take no more than one online course, will meet the criteria imposed by the [recent DHS rule](#). Regardless, we believe that this rule is unfair to international students, to the intellectual communities to which they contribute, and to the innovation economy of our region and our nation. If implemented, it may conflict with public health guidance advising quarantine and self-isolation in the event of increasing rates of COVID-19 infections on U.S. university campuses.

By participating in this amicus brief, Stevens is registering its opposition to this sudden and unjustified action by the federal government, with the hope that this matter is heard quickly and fairly by a court and is swiftly blocked. In addition, Stevens is pursuing other strategies to reverse this rule, including working with our elected members of Congress to exert pressure on relevant federal agencies and joining with higher education associations in opposition.

We will provide additional updates as they become available, and we encourage our international student community to be in close contact with the Office of Graduate Education or the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS).

As evidenced by our thousands of international alumni who lead global companies, who pioneer life-saving and technology-advancing research innovations, and who form the foundation of the academic infrastructure for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in our university and in our nation, our international students are integral members of our vibrant intellectual community. Stevens stands firmly with you and will support you in pursuing your academic and career ambitions.

Per aspera ad astra,

Nariman Farvardin
President