



INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA—UAW

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November 29, 2001

George Rupp, President
Columbia University
202 Low Memorial Library
New York, NY 10027

CORRECTED COPY

Dear President Rupp:

As you know, the International Union, UAW represents support staff at Columbia University. Over the years, we have had our share of disputes at the bargaining table and beyond. At the same time, we have each remained committed to the goal of fostering higher education. To further that goal, for example, we have sought to work together to combat inequality and discrimination on campus in whatever form it has taken.

In the wake of the terrible events of September 11, we have become increasingly concerned about attempts to single out international students by placing unreasonable restrictions on visas. We write to urge you to join us in opposing any policy, regulation or legislation that attempts to discriminate against such students. Of particular concern is S. 1627, the proposed "Visa Entry Reform Act of 2001", sponsored by Senators Feinstein and Kyl. This bill seeks to prohibit admission to the United States of any student from countries on the State Department's list of state sponsors of international terrorism. It also seeks to impose heightened monitoring of international students lawfully in the United States, including scrutiny of courses of studies.

International students at both the undergraduate and graduate level play an important role in shaping the diverse intellectual and cultural environments that make campus communities engines of social progress and creativity. As research assistants, international students contribute to theoretical, artistic and scientific breakthroughs that improve the quality of life for people in this country and around the world. As teaching assistants, readers and tutors, international students play a critical role in providing quality education at colleges and universities across the nation. The intellectual and cultural environment of educational institutions around the country would be seriously undermined by any measure that discriminates against or unfairly singles out international students.

We look forward to discussing and working with you on these issues.

Elizabeth Bunn
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Professional Department

Phil Wheeler
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