

# Policy & Advocacy in the Time of COVID-19: What You Can Do to Support International Education

April 29, 2020

[nafsa.org/policy](https://nafsa.org/policy)

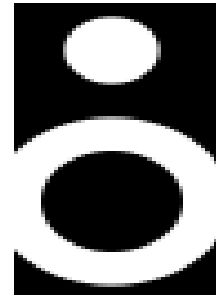
NAFSA: ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATORS

**NAFSA**  
**TOWN**  
**HALLS**

# Check Sound Level in 3 Places:



**THE ADOBE CONNECT  
SPEAKER ICON IN YOUR  
WEBINAR WINDOW**



**THE VOLUME ON  
EXTERNAL SPEAKERS**



**THE SOUND SETTINGS  
ON THE COMPUTER**

# Today's Panelists



- **Esther D. Brimmer**, DPhil, Executive Director & CEO, NAFSA
- **Jill Allen Murray**, Deputy Executive Director, Public Policy, NAFSA
- **Rachel Banks**, Senior Director, Public Policy & Legislative Strategy, NAFSA
- **Nora Cavazos**, University of Texas Medical Branch, NAFSA Region III Advocacy Representative and NAFSA 2019 Advocate of the Year
- **Rebecca Morgan**, Senior Director, Media Communications & Advocacy, NAFSA

## **Moderator**

- **Erica Stewart**, Director, Advocacy & Media Outreach, NAFSA



**Esther Brimmer, DPhil.**  
**Executive Director and CEO**



# A DIGITAL PROGRAM FOR OUR COMMUNITY

2020  
**NAFSA** eCONNECTION

MAY 26-27 AND JUNE 3, 10, 17

- Professional Learning and Networking
- Community Building with Global Colleagues
- eConnection Showcase for Exhibitors

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| NAFSA MEMBERS | NONMEMBERS   |
| <b>FREE</b>   | <b>\$199</b> |

**REGISTER AT [WWW.NAFSA.ORG/ECONNECTION](http://WWW.NAFSA.ORG/ECONNECTION)**

# NAFSA Upcoming Virtual Offerings

## Public Policy & Advocacy webinars on

- Monday, May 4 – Deep Dive: Education Abroad, 2:00 to 2:30 pm EDT
- Monday, May 11 – Deep Dive: International Student & Scholars, 2:00 to 2:30 pm EDT
- Monday, May 18 – Deep Dive: Federal Financial Assistance, 2:00 to 2:30 pm EDT
  - Register at: [nafsa.org/deepdive](https://nafsa.org/deepdive)

# COVID-19 Financial Impact Survey

- Coming Soon!
- Nearly 350 institutions and organizations responded; distributed between April 7 – 14
- Estimated financial cost to U.S. higher education resulting from canceled programs and financial support for international students: **at least \$2 billion**



# Importance of Advocacy



**Deb Pierce**  
@DeborahCompass

Thanks to Christian Spencer from @VernBuchanan's office for meeting with me today to talk about the benefits to #Florida of #Intlstudents and #studyabroad during #nafsaAD!



9:17 PM · Mar 19, 2019 · Twitter for Android





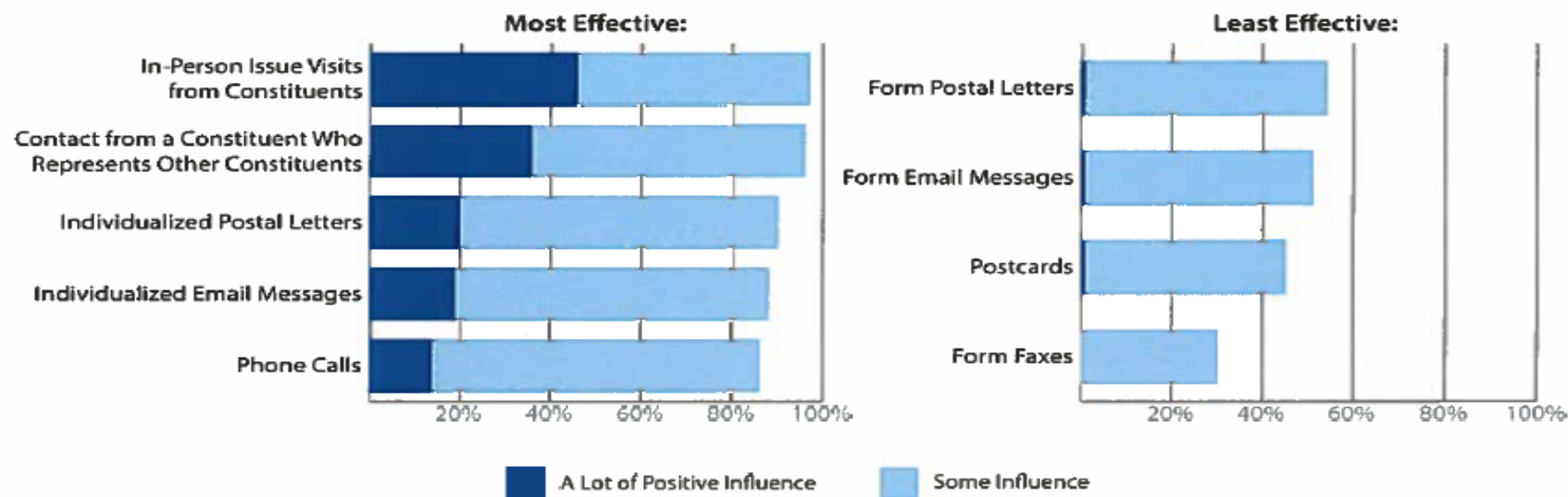
**Jill Allen Murray**  
Deputy Executive  
Director, Public Policy

# Does Constituent Engagement Matter?

## *Become a Partner in Enriching the Relationship Between Citizens and Congress*

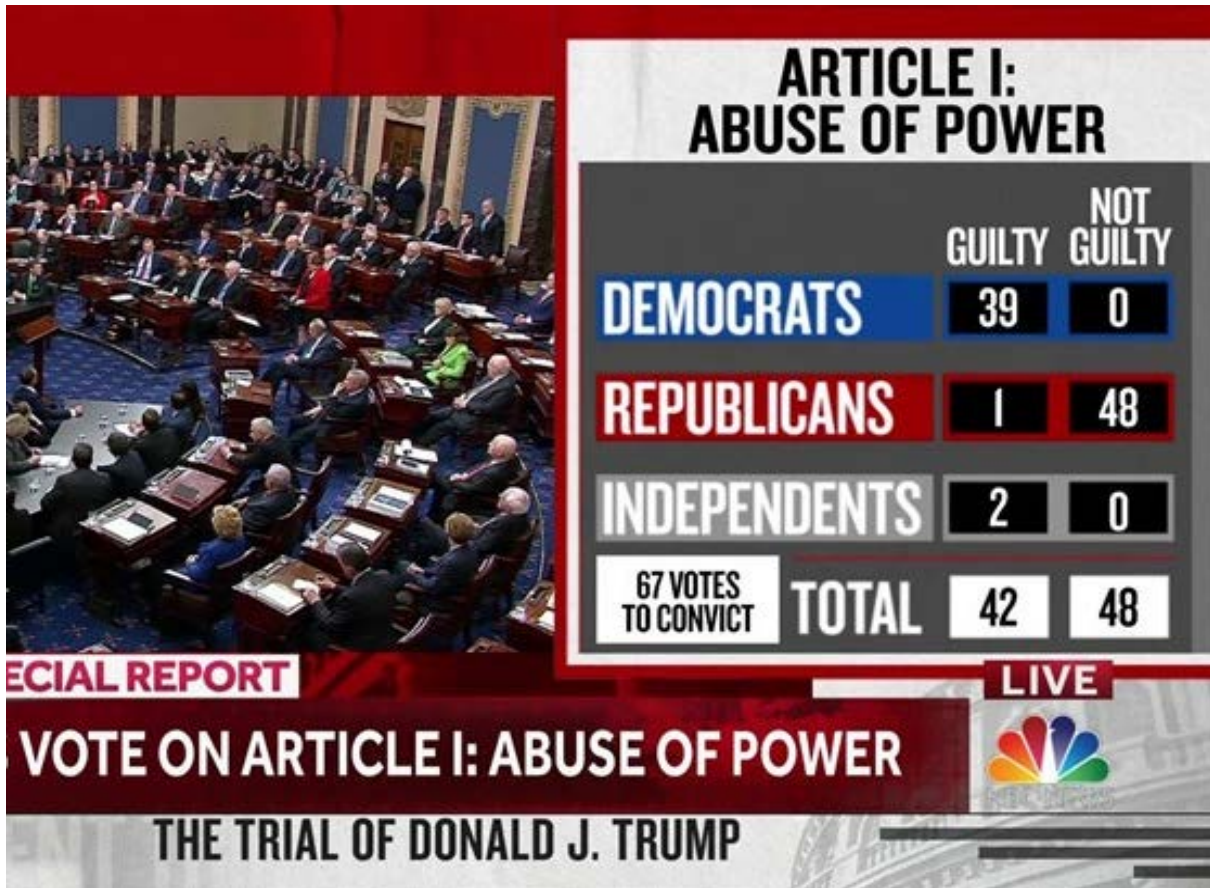
### Value of Constituent Input

*"If your Member/Senator has not already arrived at a firm decision on an issue, how much influence might the following advocacy strategies directed to the Washington office have on his/her decision?"*



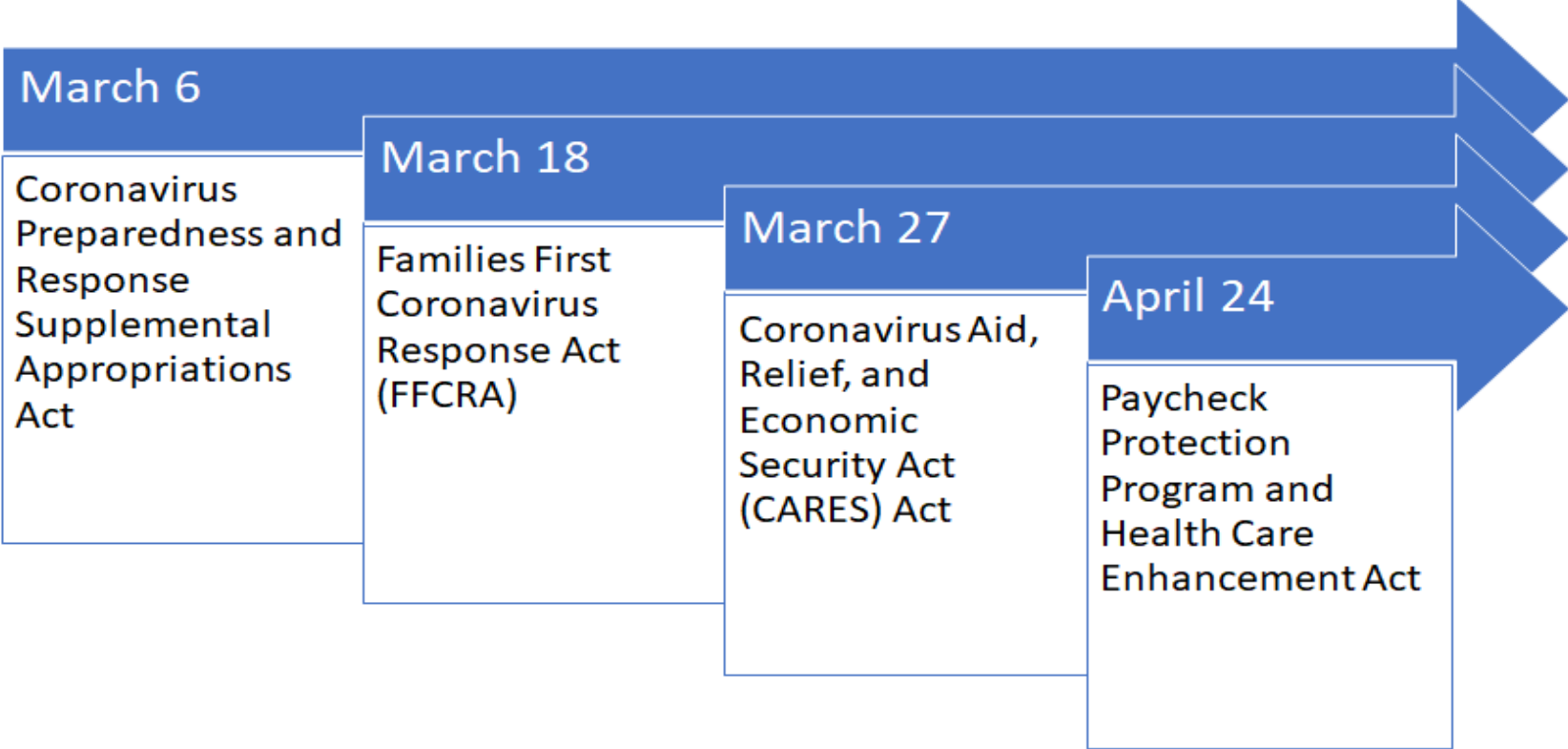
Source: CMF survey of congressional staff, published as part of the *Communicating with Congress* research series, 2011.

# A Divided Washington



- December 22, 2018 – January 25, 2019: 35-day federal government shutdown
- March 2019: Mueller investigation ends
- December 20, 2019: FY20 Omnibus Appropriations enacted; FY20 National Defense Authorization Act
- February 5, 2020: Senate acquits President Trump

# Legislative Response to Coronavirus



# CARES Act and International Education



| Provision                              | Amount          | Specific limitations  |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund | \$14.25 Billion | 50% to students; 50% to institutions; international students are ineligible |
| NSF/NASA/NIH/NIST/NEH funding          | \$1.3 Billion   | Funding for research  |
| Paycheck Protection Program            | \$349 Billion   | Nonprofit organizations of less than 500 employees are eligible             |
| Federal Reserve Loans                  | \$454 Billion   | Midsized entities eligible  |

- For more detail click [here](#).

# April 22 Presidential Proclamation

April 22, 2020: Presidential Proclamation Suspending Entry of Immigrants Who Present Risk to the U.S. Labor Market During the Economic Recovery Following the COVID-19 Outbreak

- Sec. 6. Additional Measures. Within 30 days of the effective date of this proclamation, the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, **shall review nonimmigrant programs** and shall recommend to me other measures appropriate to stimulate the United States economy and ensure the prioritization, hiring, and employment of United States workers.

# Federal Leaders Will Continue to Tackle COVID-19



- Election Day is in roughly 8 months



- "While... public health strategies are working to protect the American people, they result in catastrophic damage to state economies. Despite this grave challenge, the recently passed federal CARES Act contained zero funding to offset these drastic state revenue shortfalls." -*National Governors Association Chair Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and Vice Chair New York Governor Andrew Cuomo 4/11 statement.*



**Rachel Banks**  
Senior Director, Public  
Policy & Legislative  
Strategy





## U.S. Study Abroad

- With programs canceled, institutions & organizations are looking at reducing staff hours, furloughing staff, or eliminating positions
- Many programs are fee-funded; without fee revenue, operating budgets will be impacted
- Without study abroad, U.S. students will be less prepared to succeed in solving global crises, such as a pandemic

# International Student Enrollment

- Fall 2020 enrollment uncertain; possible 25% decline
- New international student enrollment already in decline since fall 2016 – nearly 11%
- U.S. higher ed institutions are economic engines for local communities
- 25% decline in enrollment = Potential loss of \$10 billion and over 100,000 jobs

2018-19 Academic Year



[www.nafsa.org/economicvalue](http://www.nafsa.org/economicvalue)

# Congressional Asks

## Issue Brief:

- Revive and Restore International Education Impacted by COVID-19
- Urges Congress to provide critical financial resources, oversight, and policy changes to restore international education impacted by COVID-19
- Available on NAFSA's website: [“COVID-19 Legislation and Policy Resources”](#)

## Issue Brief



### Revive and Restore International Education Impacted by COVID-19

#### Executive Summary

NAFSA urges Congress to provide critical financial resources, oversight, and policy changes in order to revive and restore international student enrollment and study abroad programs at U.S. colleges and universities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the global response to it.

International student enrollment is critical to U.S. higher education institutions' financial well-being. Many international students pay full tuition, providing a key revenue stream (nearly [\\$41 billion and 458,000 jobs during the 2018-2019 academic year](#)) that supports operating expenses, including financial aid programs for many U.S. students. New international student enrollment was already down before the coronavirus pandemic, and it will most certainly be exacerbated now. An estimated 25% decline in international student enrollment for fall 2020 would translate to a loss of approximately \$10 billion and 114,000 jobs to our nation's economy. If U.S. higher education institutions are forced to downsize or close due to enrollment declines, that would have a major multiplier effect as many of these institutions serve as key economic engines and job-creators in their communities.

Study abroad programs run by U.S. college and universities and private-sector providers equip American students with the essential global competencies and experiences needed to succeed in today's global workforce and are important employers in their own right. Already a number of major study abroad providers have had to lay off over 50% of their staff while higher education institutions across the country have reported that they are reducing hours, furloughing employees, and eliminating positions, which will result in thousands of job losses. Without these programs, students are losing a key component of their education and colleges and universities are losing an important source of revenue.

However, 2020 could turn into the year without study abroad, with spring semester study abroad programs cancelled or cut short and the likelihood that all summer programs (and possibly even fall programs) will be cancelled. Absent additional financial support, it could take years for study abroad to recover.

To this end, NAFSA requests that Congress implement the following stimulus and policy changes:

1. Direct emergency aid to support education abroad, specifically supporting virtual exchanges, the Increasing and Diversifying Education Abroad for U.S. Students (IDEAS) Program and the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE).
2. Ensure that international students and scholars are able to return to U.S. institutions of higher education when in-person classes resume and mitigate continued decline in international student enrollment by exercising oversight of visa and immigration policies.
3. Direct \$46.6 billion in aid to students and higher education institutions with flexibility to support study abroad and international offices.



# Congressional Asks

---

## **1. Direct emergency aid to support education abroad:**

- a) Increase or newly establish funding for virtual exchange programs, such as the Stevens Initiative
- b) Increase funding for State Department's Increasing and Diversifying Education Abroad for U.S. Students (IDEAS) Program (formerly Capacity Building in Study Abroad Grant Program; run by ECA's USA Study Abroad Office)
  - i. FY2019 22 grant applications funded

The logo for the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE) is displayed in a bold, blue, serif font. The letters are stylized, with the 'F' and 'I' being particularly prominent. The logo is set against a white circular background that is partially framed by a thick, teal-colored brushstroke border.

## Congressional Asks

### **Direct emergency aid to support education abroad:**

- c) Establish grant funding in the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE) to support innovation in study abroad post-COVID-19 consistent with the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program

#WelcomeToSucceed 



# Congressional Asks

**2. Ensure international students and scholars are able to return to U.S. institutions of higher education when in-person classes resume and mitigate continued decline in international student enrollment by exercising oversight of visa and immigration policies.**

- [“Welcome to Succeed”](#)
- [“Losing Talent 2020”](#)

# Congressional Asks

Specifically, we ask Congress to:

- a) Create targeted scholarships for those studying COVID-19 and other pandemic responses and best practices
- b) Direct the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs to institute transparent, easy-to-understand and timely processing for visa issuance and renewals
- c) Require the State Department to report to Congress and the public its plans to address the expected surge of visa requests at U.S. consulates once they reopen





# Congressional Asks

Specifically, we ask Congress to:

- d) Require DHS to postpone any non-COVID-19 rulemaking
- e) Direct CBP to implement a streamlined process at ports of entry for returning and newly-arriving international students and scholars
- f) Direct USCIS to automatically extend employment authorization documents, extend or pause filing deadlines, and restart premium processing
- g) Establish a national recruitment strategy to attract and retain international students and scholars



# Congressional Asks

## **3. Direct \$46.6 billion in aid to students and higher education institutions with flexibility to support international offices.**

- a) International offices on U.S. campuses are particularly impacted by the cancellation of programs and the shift to online, distance, or virtual education platforms.
- b) Sufficient funding is essential for restoring institutions, including campus international offices, to normal operations.



## Congressional Asks



**4. Make technical changes to the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to ensure eligibility of international education providers and smaller private higher education institutions.**

- a) Clarify that smaller, private higher education institutions should not count students participating in work-study programs as employees
- b) Clarify that international education providers need only count their U.S.-based employees



**Nora Cavazos**  
University of Texas  
Medical Branch;  
NAFSA Region III  
Advocacy Representative

# An Advocate's Journey



- Access to justice (political representation, legal advice, due process)
  - Due process for asylum seekers, child detainees, and children with medical needs applying for residency
  - Immediate release of child detainees and family units
  - Discontinue use of detention centers
  - Allow dreamers to stay
  - Suspend muslim ban
  - Re-introduction of the sponsorship process
- 
- Investment in the immigration system
  - National holiday of immigration
  - Campaign financing





**Rebecca Morgan**  
Senior Director, Media  
Communications and  
Advocacy

# Advocacy Engagement

Advocacy is **KEY** in today's hectic political climate

- Every interest group is working to make their wants noted by policymakers
- International Education will be missed if constituents don't speak up
- Lawmakers want to hear from their constituents, not lobbyists





**Help Secure  
COVID-19  
Resources for  
International  
Education**

**TAKE ACTION →**

# Take Action

[ConnectingOurWorld.org](https://www.connectingourworld.org)

## Future COVID-19 Policy & Advocacy Webinars

- **Monday, May 4** – Deep Dive: Education Abroad, 2:00 to 2:30 pm EDT
- **Monday, May 11** – Deep Dive: International Student & Scholars, 2:00 to 2:30 pm EDT
- **Monday, May 18** – Deep Dive: Federal Financial Assistance, 2:00 to 2:30 pm EDT
- **Register at [nafsa.org/deepdive](https://nafsa.org/deepdive)**





# Questions?

Email: [grassroots@nafsa.org](mailto:grassroots@nafsa.org)

# NAFSA Resources



---

[COVID-19 Legislation and Policy Resources](#)

---

[Issue Brief: Revive and Restore International Education Impacted by COVID-19](#)

---

[Take Action: Secure COVID-19 Resources for International Education](#)

---

[2020 NAFSA eConnection](#)

---

[NAFSA Advocacy Webinars](#) - May 4, 11, and 18 @ 2 pm EDT

---

[Summary of CARES Act Provisions](#)

---

This recording will be made available at [www.nafsa.org/TownHall](http://www.nafsa.org/TownHall)