

October 6, 2026

Taryn Cooper, M.A.
Manager and Executive Secretary
University Senate
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
335 George Street, Suite 1250
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Dear Ms. Cooper:

Thank you for sharing the University Senate's recent Resolution Supporting International Scholars' Duration of Status and Graduate Academic Mobility. I share the Senate's commitment to supporting our international students and scholars in this way.

My administration has already been advocating for the repeal of the Department of Homeland Security's final rule establishing a fixed, four-year period of stay for international students and exchange visitors. The DHS regulation not only would require many international students and scholars to navigate costly and time-consuming extension processes to complete their studies, research, and practical training, but also would create uncertainty, limit academic flexibility, and undermine our nation's ability to attract and retain global talent. Like you, we strongly support the "Duration of Status" system that has been in place for nearly 50 years, which provides the flexibility that international students need to complete their degree programs in the United States.

In anticipation of the proposed elimination of Duration of Status, Rutgers Global: International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), within University Academic Affairs, worked closely with the Office of General Counsel, University Communications and Marketing, Government Relations, and other partners across Rutgers on a coordinated approach to keep students informed, reduce anxiety, and ensure that communications were timely, accurate, and supportive.

Advocacy: Our Government Relations team has been working closely with their counterparts at Princeton University to encourage our Congressional delegation to support legislation that would repeal the new regulations. In addition, we have been collaborating with professional associations, government relations partners, and other stakeholders in our advocacy. Rutgers is also an active member of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, one of the plaintiffs in a lawsuit challenging the final rule, and a member of other associations litigating against the final rule, including The Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration and the American Federation of Teachers.

Support: Several years ago, ISSS formed an Immigration Regulatory Communications Committee to ensure coordinated response to emerging immigration and travel policies that affect our community—from visa delays and denials to travel restrictions to green card processing issues. The committee’s work ensures that Rutgers responds quickly and thoughtfully to policy changes while attending to the well-being of affected students and scholars.

More recently, ISSS helped coordinate a working group in partnership with CLU leadership to analyze the new rule when it was proposed, assess its potential impacts, prepare contingency plans, and identify support mechanisms for affected students and scholars. Attention has been given to ensuring that affected students receive timely guidance, individualized support, and clear pathways to continue their studies. See the [Duration of Status webpage](#) for more information.

As of this moment, a [preliminary federal court injunction](#) issued in Massachusetts has paused the implementation of the fixed-period-of-stay rule and its associated academic and immigration restrictions. Rutgers will continue to monitor legal developments about the rule.

Regarding the Senate’s request for additional information on advocacy and support, we will work with Executive Vice President Arbuthnot, the Office of General Counsel, University Marketing and Communications, and Federal Relations to share appropriate updates on the university’s ongoing efforts. We also encourage you to continue engaging with Rutgers Global, which remains an important resource for international students and scholars seeking information, guidance, and support.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W.F. Tate IV', written in a cursive style.

William F. Tate IV
President