

August 29, 2019

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
United States Secretary of State
Office of the Secretary, United States Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

As President of Arizona State University, I am writing to express my serious concern about actions taken by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) to deny admission to the United States to nine ASU undergraduate students from China who were returning to the U.S. for the fall semester. In each case, the students were in possession of all needed documentation to enter the U.S. yet they were refused entry at the airport, told they needed to return to China, that they needed to pay for their own airline ticket to do so or face a ban from re-entering the U.S. for five years.

We will be glad to provide the U.S. Department of State with a document summarizing the dates and other information regarding the ASU students from China who have been denied entry to the U.S. We have requested permission from the students to release detailed information to you about their particular cases. Three students currently have granted ASU permission to do so. Given the treatment the students have already experienced, the others are concerned about releasing their information for fear that CBP or other agencies of the federal government will take retaliatory action against them. The experience of our nine students seems to be mirrored by the experience of the Harvard University student who was profiled in the Washington Post two days ago.

Accordingly, I am writing not only to request immediate review of the individual situations of each of our students but also an immediate review of the new “standard procedures” which have apparently been put in place to review the electronic devices carried by our students when they enter the U.S. In our country, where we value due process and celebrate the different ways in which our government behaves from that of the arbitrary and capricious behavior of other nations, it is beyond my comprehension how the U.S. government could establish and implement policies that bring about the outcomes we are now witnessing. I would also like to request the following:

1. A written explanation of the new “standard procedures” for the screening of international students upon their arrival at LAX? Who is doing the screening? What training have they received? Do they speak Mandarin? What are the objective criteria they are using to refuse entry to students?
2. The ability of ASU to talk with and provide ASU international students who enter the U.S. at LAX with assistance when they are being detained or denied access to the U.S.
3. A summary of the number and circumstances for denials for entry into the U.S. for Chinese students entering the U.S. at LAX over the past ninety days.

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4. A contact for an official at CBP with whom ASU can communicate and engage on all matters related to the denial of entry of our students into the U.S.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter which is of significant importance to ASU and all other institutions of higher education in the United States. I look forward to your prompt response to my letter.

Sincerely,



Michael M. Crow
President

cc: Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin McAleenan
U.S. Senator Kyrsten Sinema
U.S. Senator Martha McSally
Arizona Governor Doug Ducey
Peter McPherson, President of APLU