

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **ASPPH Statement on Trump’s Threat to Deport International Students Taking Online Classes**

“ASPPH strongly opposes the various policy and regulatory impediments that Donald Trump and his administration are imposing on current students and applicants, as well as to international scholars on our faculties. Efforts to drive foreign students from the United States using Covid-19 as political cover is both wrong and – in the long run – detrimental to both the United States and to the health of the world’s population.

“Public Health is inherently global. In an increasingly interconnected world, events that occur irrespective of political or natural borders – whether pandemics, natural disasters, or environmental pollution – affect everyone. The United States is a preferred destination for many international students who want to study public health, largely because of the academic reputation and world-wide influence of America’s schools and programs of public health. Most international students are studying public health in the US so that they can return to -- and improve the health of- their home countries and build a safer planet.

“The ongoing efforts by Donald Trump to perpetuate xenophobic and racist policies are part of an ongoing isolationist agenda. In the end, these short-sighted moves are borne out of hate and punish students for seeking to improve the health of their communities and the world. As importantly, these political actions ultimately undermine the integrity and honor of the American higher education system. ASPPH strongly urges Congress and the courts to reverse these mean and misguided policy changes, intended to marginalize those whose only crime is to seek to improve the health of everyone, everywhere.”

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