



March 7, 2017

The American Political Science Association (APSA) condemns the new Executive Order issued on March 6, 2017, entitled “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States,” and strongly urges President Trump to rescind it. Like the administration’s earlier Executive Order issued on January 27, this new order continues to generate detrimental effects on colleagues and students with whom we teach, write, and collaborate. It undermines academic freedom in the most fundamental way by restricting the ability of scholars to meet, learn and exchange ideas on campuses of American colleges and universities. As scholars and teachers, we deplore the interruption of research, teaching, and intellectual engagement that this order causes. We are also deeply concerned by reports of harsh interrogations against scholars at border entries and the chilling effects on international travel for the purpose of the free exchange of ideas.

The American Political Science Association is a scholarly association with over 13,000 members worldwide, including members who are residents and/or citizens of the six countries affected by the immigration ban in the Executive Order. APSA brings together political scientists from all fields of inquiry, regions, and occupational endeavors within and outside academe to deepen our understanding of politics, democracy, and citizenship throughout the world.

The APSA works to promote scholarly understanding of political ideas, norms, behaviors, and institutions to inform public choices about government, governance and public policy. The lack of full regard for liberal democratic norms and practices demonstrated in this Executive Order can deeply harm these scholarly understandings. We urge the President and the other federal officials to consider these and other scholarly understandings of the strengths and foundations of the United States’ political system and political culture when making decisions that may affect them, and we call on the President to rescind this order immediately.

As an organization, the APSA also stands ready to support any colleague who may be directly or indirectly affected by this executive order. If any APSA member is affected by this executive action, please contact us for any support or assistance we can provide. [Visit this link for resources or to request support.](#)

David A. Lake, President  
Jennifer Hochschild, Past-President  
Kathleen Thelen, President-Elect  
Steven Rathgeb Smith, Executive Director