

Press Release

American Chemical Society
External Affairs & Communications



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Chemical Society statement on the Presidential Executive Order: “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States”

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30, 2017 — As the world’s largest scientific society, the American Chemical Society (ACS) expresses its concern over the Presidential Executive Order “Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States” and the chilling effect this order may potentially have on the freedom of scientific exchange among scientists and students worldwide.

The ACS public policy [Freedom of International Scientific Exchange](#) specifically supports the ability of scientists to operate without barriers, impediments, limitations or restrictions to travel, collaborate or otherwise have meaningful discourse.

The ACS statement was originally adopted to allow the Society to intervene on behalf of foreign scientists imprisoned or otherwise constrained by oppressive regimes seeking to compromise the legitimate research with which these scientists were engaged.

While ACS understands the administration has communicated that the intent of the order is to prevent terrorists from entering the country, it feels that the order itself is overly broad in its reach, unfairly targets individuals from a handful of nations, ignores established mechanisms designed to achieve the ends sought by the order, and sets potential precedent for future executive orders.

The Society notes that reliable media sources are reporting that the executive order and its implementation have caused tremendous confusion both in the U.S. and worldwide, where individuals with valid green cards have been detained or otherwise prevented from completing previously approved travel to the U.S. Adding to the confusion are orders from several federal judges directing the administration to temporarily halt the travel ban.

To help facilitate international scientific collaboration, the Society operates a web-based resource, the [ACS International Center](#), which provides useful information and tools to allow freedom of scientific exchange, including detailed information on securing approval for travel to the U.S.

ACS encourages the administration to revisit the executive order and seek less intrusive means to achieve its goals, including the use of existing programs.

The American Chemical Society is a nonprofit organization chartered by the U.S. Congress. With nearly 157,000 members, ACS is the world’s largest scientific society and a global leader in providing access to chemistry-related research through its multiple databases, peer-reviewed journals and

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