

Washington Update

Challenges and Opportunities Facing International Exchange In Trump Era

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Executive Director



The voice
of the United States
international exchange
community

Our mission:

As the voice of international exchange, the Alliance promotes the growth and impact of exchange programs and the effectiveness of its members by engaging in advocacy, providing member development opportunities, and building public awareness of the power of exchanges.

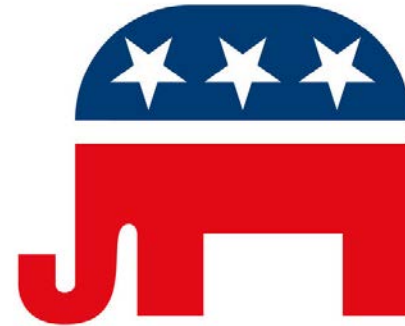
We believe in the power of exchanges to connect people in profound ways across cultures, borders, and generations. By doing so we:

- Increase mutual understanding
- Support U.S. national security
- Strengthen the U.S. economy



Advocacy, Member and Program Development, Public Awareness

- Appropriations for Department of State international exchanges
- J-1 visa regulations
- Engage with: Congress, Department of State, U.S. Embassies and Consulates and other stakeholders



Animating Ideas:

- “America First,” “Build the Wall”
- Rigged system: elections, economy, trade deals, media
- Anti-establishment: “Drain the Swamp”

Personnel is Policy

Trump Administration Personnel

- DOS Secretary Rex Tillerson
- DOS Dept'y Secretary John Sullivan
- *Acting ECA Asst. Sec Jennifer Galt*
- AG Jeff Sessions
- WH Dept'y COS Rick Dearborn
- Strategist Stephen Miller
- USCIS Director Lee Francis Cissna

9 Months into the Administration:

- DACA rescission
- Eliminate, then cut ECA by 50%
- Travel ban
- Refugee ban
- H-2B visa changes
- Shift in green card processes
- Support for the RAISE Act
- TPS changes
- Buy American, Hire American

Opportunities for the Exchanges Field

Informing the debate:

- Providing important information in easy to read format
- Identifying decision-makers, opinion-makers, influencers, and supportive participants
- Developing engagement plans

- Exchange programs **support national security** & foreign policy interests
- Exchange programs **strengthen the economy**
- Exchange programs **increase mutual understanding**

- WSJ Article exposing BAHA deliberations
- 33 Representatives, 17 Senators Letter to Tillerson
- Over 100,000 Letters to Congress
- Direct engagement with WH
- Congressional calls

Internationals

- Letters to government
- Contact ambassadors to U.S.
- Social media campaign #SaveJ1
- Stories on InstaGram, Americans for Cultural Exchange website

- Identify and engage list of “Influencers:”
 - Current/former elected officials
 - Host Families
 - Institutions
 - Diplomats
- Engage them and grassroots supporters

Increase Engagement

- Take influencers and exchange participants/students to visit with elected officials and their staff
- Invite elected officials and the media to local events, panel discussions

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