

May 28, 2020

ASBMB Statement on SECURE CAMPUS Act

The following is a statement from Benjamin Corb, public affairs director for the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology:

“The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology opposes the SECURE CAMPUS Act introduced on Wednesday by U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., and U.S. Rep. David Kustoff, R-Tenn., that would bar the People’s Republic of China nationals from receiving student or research visas to the United States for graduate or post-graduate studies in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields. (The bill excludes visa applicants from Taiwan and Hong Kong.)

The U.S. depends greatly on talented and skilled graduate students and postdoctoral researchers from all parts of the world, including China. This legislation, if passed, would erode the collaborative nature of scientific research that yields new discoveries and medicines at a time when we need them the most.

Scientific research must remain clear of politicization, especially regarding international collaboration. International collaboration is vital to maintain the American research enterprise and the SECURE CAMPUS Act would only divide countries instead of bringing them together.

The ASBMB is an international organization and many of its members hail from other nations. Closing the borders to certain scientists is bad for science and for America. The ASBMB opposes this legislation and urges members of Congress to take a stand against it.”