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**From:** Ryan, Lynn [mailto:Lynn.Ryan@dsu.edu]  
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**Subject:** DHS Docket No. USCIS- 2006-0044

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In order to attend a university in the U.S. the families of international students must make huge sacrifices. The majority of students don't come from Europe where higher education is free, but from countries whose economies fall very short of the U.S. economy. As the government adopts the "user fee" philosophy we narrow the world economies from which international students will come. Those countries where the majority struggle to live are the very countries where the U.S. needs to sow the seeds of democracy. The students from these countries need to see how great it is to live in a democracy. These countries are ripe for terrorism because of the dire economic circumstances.

We currently, stupidly, do not allow international students to work off-campus where they might be able to help pay for their expenses and relieve their families of a portion of the burden. And we are the only country which has this restriction on their international student population. We allow millions of people who are here illegally to work and support their families, but the students who are here legally are not allowed to work!

So now we want to increase the USCIS fees by, in some cases, 50%! Some universities are already paying the SEVIS fee for their international students. What part of throwing cold water on international student admissions do you not understand?

Raising fees is, of course, necessary to cover inflation, but this country has not experienced a 50% inflation rate since the fees were increased previously.

The country benefits immeasurably from the presence of international student, so taxpayer dollars should also be used to pay for the expenses of the USCIS. "User fees" are fine for non-essential services, but no one should be denied essential services because those services have become too expensive.

The proposed fee increases are exorbitant.

Sincerely,

Lynn Ryan, Director

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