

April 30, 2020

Dear Congresswoman Lesko:

Thank you for your continued efforts to ensure the health and safety of Arizonans while also working to curb the economic fallout from the COVID-19 Pandemic. This is truly an extraordinary event and I appreciate your leadership.

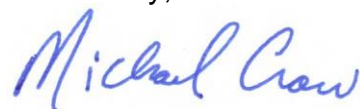
ASU is working hard on a plan to safely and responsibly reopen our campuses to students this fall, including welcoming more than 3,000 freshman international students. However, I am concerned that closures to U.S. visa processing facilities and consulates will prevent our international students from acquiring the needed documentation to attend classes on campus in the fall.

Currently, ASU hosts students from 136 countries from around the world and more than 13,000 international students call ASU home. ASU also serves more than 700 international scholars and faculty members that come to ASU for our research facilities and expanding international partnerships. Every year, international students contribute nearly \$41 billion to the U.S economy. Their contributions have a huge impact on campuses and surrounding communities around the nation and will play an integral role in helping our economy to rebound. I also strongly believe that exposing these students to the American higher education system is a crucial tool to promoting democratic philosophies and ideals abroad. Ensuring that our international students and faculty are able to return to campus in a timely manner to continue their education and research is vitally important to ASU's mission as well as our national economic and security interests.

As Congress continues to negotiate additional emergency economic relief packages, I strongly urge you to direct increased resources to U.S. visa processing facilities and consulates so that officials are able to swiftly address the anticipated backlog of visa applications. I also encourage you to consider relaxing the requirements for in-person interviews, in areas that continue to be impacted by COVID-19, and instead conduct these interviews virtually. Virtual interviews will allow for the proper vetting process while also eliminating processing delays due to safety concerns.

Thank you for your consideration of these important requests. Please contact Matt Salmon, Vice President of Government Affairs, at Matt.Salmon@asu.edu with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Crow".

Michael M. Crow
President

Office of the President

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