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For a long time, we have known that the cruelty of president Donald Trump knows no bounds, but this week, his cruel actions have hit incredibly close to home. Under the direction of the President, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that [nonimmigrant international students would be stripped of their student visas](#) if their coursework was entirely online. This announcement comes to students in the middle of a pandemic of unprecedented proportions, at a time when colleges' plans for the Fall are still uncertain and travel to and from certain countries is incredibly limited.

The University Democrats at UT Austin find this action to be needlessly cruel. We stand in solidarity with all immigrants, whether they have visas or not, and we condemn President Trump and ICE. This news further proves that Donald Trump is totally unfit for office and that ICE must be abolished.

On our campus, we are calling for the University of Texas Administration to take whatever action may be necessary to protect the over 5 thousand international students in our community. The UT admin proudly boasts the diversity of our student body: that we represent 140 different countries across the globe, that we are a welcoming community to students of all nationalities, and that international students are valued and important members of our community. The UT admin must now back up their words with actions.

We were pleased to see [yesterday's email](#) from the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost reiterating the University's commitment to support international students and their intent to pursue the "hybrid model" in which some classes are offered in person and others are online. However this plan does not help international students who currently are enrolled in more than one online class. We demand that UT Austin establish a system by which international students taking all online courses can have their schedules modified to include an in-person check-in component so their courses can be considered hybrid, and that UT maintain such a system even if all courses must be moved online. Due to the current time restraints of this rapidly evolving situation, action must be taken immediately for the sake of our international students.