

TO: University of Idaho Faculty, Staff and Students
FROM: Chuck Staben, President
DATE: March 22, 2017
SUBJECT: Response to Federal Executive Actions and Proposals

President Donald Trump and Congress have been very active since the inauguration, with announcements and orders on travel, immigration, health care, the federal budget and more. While I do not want to inundate you with a campus announcement responding to each news item, I would like you to understand that we monitor the national situation closely and react as necessary, in accordance with our mission, values and responsibilities.

The president's original travel and immigration executive order, released shortly after his inauguration, was challenged in court and has been replaced by a different order, which has also been challenged. During this period, we are supporting our international students and faculty by providing travel information and support services. We are closely following possible changes in the H1B visa process as well. I want to reassure our UI community that our institution remains committed to a dynamic and inclusive campus that supports the aspirations of all people. This week, UI joined 600 institutions in signing on to the [American Council on Education's position](#) on the role and importance of international students, faculty, researchers and staff. Today UI will host two sessions – one aimed at employees, one at students – of a ["Know Your Rights Workshop"](#) presented by the ACLU of Idaho and the Idaho Immigration Clinic.

Health care legislation is complex, and the status and effects of potential legislation are not yet clear. Proposed legislation could result in significant numbers of Idahoans losing health insurance and have important effects on Idaho's health care system. We do not anticipate immediate changes to the health insurance we provide to employees or to student health care.

Last week, President Trump issued a federal budget blueprint for Fiscal Year 2018. The proposal is notable for its potentially very negative impact on federal programs and agencies that allow higher education institutions to support students and facilitate research and scholarship. We are closely watching the budget-setting process and will continue to advocate for the resources from various Federal agencies such as the NEH, NEA, EPA, CDC, NIH, and others that allow us to successfully carry out our mission.

Higher education is a proven investment in human potential and a catalyst for great benefits to each student, our state and the world. The University of Idaho is a member of the Association for Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU), and shares the concerns raised in that [organization's recent letter](#) on the proposed budget.

Be assured that the University of Idaho, and my administration, is doing all it can to monitor issues, support our people and advocate for the great work that we do and the resources we need to do it.