



ANTHONY G. BROWN, MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL

# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:  
[press@oag.state.md.us](mailto:press@oag.state.md.us)  
410-576-7009

## **Attorney General Brown Supports Challenge to Trump Administration's Unconstitutional Ideological Deportation Policy** *Coalition of 19 Attorneys General Urges Court to Block Policy Targeting Noncitizen Students and Faculty Based on Political Expression*

**BALTIMORE, MD (April 11, 2025)** – Attorney General Brown today joined a coalition of 19 attorneys general in filing an [amicus brief](#) in *American Association of University Professors, et al., v. Marco Rubio, et al.* in the U.S. District Court of Massachusetts, supporting a challenge to the Trump administration's "Ideological Deportation Policy," which targets and punishes noncitizens with lawful status, especially college students and faculty, who express political beliefs with which the administration disagrees, threatening investigation, arrest, detention, and deportation.

In filing the brief, the coalition urges the court to block the administration's policy, arguing that it violates the First Amendment and irreparably harms colleges and universities, public health and safety, and freedom of religious worship in the coalition states.

"This is ideological discrimination, plain and simple — and it violates the Constitution," **said Attorney General Brown.** "The administration cannot criminalize free speech or weaponize immigration laws against lawful residents because it dislikes their views. We are asking the court to put an end to this unconstitutional policy before it inflicts further irreparable harm on our communities and our fundamental freedoms."

The administration's "Ideological Deportation Policy" is based on two Executive Orders ([14161](#) and [14188](#)). These orders direct federal agencies to vet foreign nationals seeking to enter the U.S. based on ideological grounds rather than on direct safety threats. These orders further direct federal agencies to investigate, detain, and deport noncitizen students and faculty who engage in political speech with which the administration disagrees.

The administration has [revoked](#) more than 800 visas of noncitizen students, visitors, and residents, including many revocations based on protected expression. The removal of lawful immigration status leaves such individuals vulnerable to arrest, detention, and deportation.

Notably, on March 25, 2025, the policy resulted in the arrest and detainment of Tufts University student Rümeysa Öztürk, whose immigration status was revoked without her knowledge.

In their brief, the coalition argues that the policy inflicts harm to educational institutions, where free expression of political speech must be protected to allow students to learn from and engage with diverse viewpoints. Due to the breadth and ambiguity of what speech the administration deems prohibited, the coalition argues the policy will lead noncitizen residents to limit and censor their political and religious expression, research, and academic conclusions. Moreover, as a result of the administration's policy, some colleges and universities have already witnessed significant drops in applications and prospective enrollment of international students for the 2025-2026 school year.

The coalition also describes how the administration's policy will harm public safety and public health. Due to the fear of deportation caused by the policy, noncitizens could avoid cooperating with law enforcement and reporting crime. Additionally, the policy will harm public health, as the coalition states heavily depend on noncitizen healthcare workers. In fact, over one million immigrants work in healthcare nationwide, including 40% of home health aides.

As noncitizen residents contribute substantially to the economic, cultural, and intellectual vitality of the coalition states, the coalition urges the court to block the policy, especially due to the policy's irreparable harm to the states and public interest.

Joining Attorney General Brown in filing the brief are the attorneys general of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawai'i, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington.

###

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2025/041125c.pdf>