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proposed restrictions on student and scientist visas

ROCKVILLE, Md. The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology submitted formal comments today to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security raising concerns about the agency's proposed changes to visas that allow foreign students and scientists to study and conduct research in the United States.

"The U.S. must strive to attract international students and researchers, and these proposed changes would only dissuade them," said Benjamin Corb, director of public affairs for the ASBMB. "As we laid out in our comments, if enacted, these changes will damage the U.S. economy and the American research enterprise by depleting the STEM workforce, discouraging and hindering scientific collaboration and reducing American research output and innovation."

DHS seeks to change how long students and trainees with J, F and I type visas can stay in America. The agency wants to restrict foreign students to four years of study here, but most graduate degrees in the sciences take between five and seven years to complete. The society argues that the visa process must



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