Dear International Student or Scholar,

I am writing to provide information about the draft of the Executive Order *Protecting the Nation from Terrorist Attacks by Foreign Nationals* in case it will have immediate impact on your plans. As of this morning, an Executive Order (EO) has not yet been signed. It should be noted that the provisions of an EO such as this, once signed, will apply to all U.S. embassies around the world.

The short-term impact of an EO for international travelers could be:

- Individuals from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen will not be able to obtain a visa to enter the U.S. for 30 days from the date of the order. The list of countries may be expanded after a 60 day review period and the restriction may be extended. So one should not assume that individuals who are citizens of or were born in these countries will be able to obtain a visa after the initial 30-day ban.
- Lead times to visa interviews may grow and we may see greater numbers of visa applications being submitted for "administrative processing", i.e. background checks, and these processes may take longer than we were used to. Individuals who are not from one of the countries listed above may nevertheless see an impact on their visa applications or re-entry into the US as a result.
- The Visa Interview Waiver Program which allowed some individuals to obtain a visa without an interview, will be suspended immediately and indefinitely.

There is much we do not yet know and will not know for some time. We are following developments very closely and will keep you informed of any changes that may affect you.

In the meantime we recommend that

- Individuals from the countries listed above who had planned to travel abroad should carefully
 consider their options in light of the 30-day ban on visas to the U.S. and uncertainty about
 future visa issuance.
- Individuals from other countries should carefully consider their plans to travel abroad if their
 visas have expired, thus requiring that they obtain a new visa to return to the U.S. While reentry into the U.S. with a valid visa should not be affected, it is difficult to anticipate what
 changes the provisions of the EO may cause and what the risks to such travel might be.

I encourage you to contact OIA for advisement on your specific situation and plans. The best way to contact us is to e-mail international-affairs@uchicago.edu or call 773.702.7752 to schedule an appointment. We are happy to assist you in any way we can.

As always, please let me know if you have questions.

With best regards, Tamara