



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Dietra Y. Trent, Ph.D.  
Secretary of Education

February 3, 2017

In light of President Trump's recent Executive Order restricting immigration from seven majority-Muslim nations, Governor McAuliffe has asked that I write you to reaffirm the Commonwealth's commitment to providing all students, regardless of nationality or faith, with a safe environment where they can learn, grow and thrive.

We have heard reports of Virginia college and university students who have been blocked from returning to the United States as a result of the President's Executive Order. We stand in firm opposition to these unjust incidents, and are eager to secure their return as soon as possible. If you know of any student, professor, or staff member who has been unable to return to campus, please contact my office immediately.

Despite the implications of the President's ban, Governor McAuliffe has maintained that Virginia will continue to be an open and welcoming place. We remain dedicated to preparing all students for the jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century while standing firm against those who would aim to divide us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Trent".

Dietra Y. Trent, Ph.D.