



The Student Government Association (SGA) is excited to announce that the university and our National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) center will no longer have an active contract with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE). Earlier this week, the Vice President for Research of the University of Maryland (UMD) informed members of the SGA that as of March 2021, the university has no active or current work with ICE as the sponsor did not choose the final option year in the current contract and it has since lapsed. In addition, this contract will not be renewed this year. This is a result of continued conversations with the administration and stakeholders, and we are thankful for all those who have been part of the conversation.

This comes as a great relief for the students at our institution, especially those of our immigrant community. As a campus community that upholds respect for learning, diversity, and service to others, along with priding itself as a safe home for undocumented students, there is no place for a partnership with ICE at UMD. Although the contract was primarily used for cultural competency training of government agents, this contract instilled immense fear and tension within our immigrant communities.

The support to end the partnership between one of UMD's centers on campus and ICE has been long-standing. Student advocates have fought for the end of this contract since its creation. In 2016, a coalition of 25 student organizations advocated for the ending of this contract. Additionally, Political Latinxs United for Movement and Action in Society (PLUMAS) has been a leader in creating a "Race to end ICE" initiative.

SGA's commitment to immigrant and undocumented students does not stop here. Undocumented students still do not feel protected from deportation on campus. We urge the university administration to take the necessary steps to holistically provide protection for immigrant students. We urge the university to publicly reaffirm their existing sanctuary policies and commitments to the undocumented community, update how our campus police should interact with undocumented and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) students, and develop a rapid university response to student and staff deportation.

We are committed to the success of UMD's immigrant populations by collaborating with students, the UMD administration, and the broader College Park community. We all must continue to work together as we pursue the safety and wellbeing of the campus's immigrant and undocumented community.

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