The Honorable Chad F. Wolf  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Nebraska Ave. Center, NW  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Wolf:

We write to encourage you to expand your outreach to institutions of higher education through the Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council (HSAAC).

As you know, HSAAC was formed in 2012 as a forum for the Department and the higher education community to discuss mutual areas of concern. The HSAAC Charter reads: “The HSAAC will provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary and senior leadership on matters relating to student and recent graduate recruitment; international students; academic research; campus and community resiliency, security and preparedness; faculty exchanges; and cybersecurity.”

We were pleased that the Department reestablished HSAAC in 2018, as a way to revitalize the Council’s important work. At the time, the Department indicated that it was considering new appointments to the HSAAC and an expansion of topics. Our understanding, however, is that HSAAC has not held any meetings since June 2017, and the membership of the Council no longer includes several major higher education associations.

While we appreciate the many priorities facing the Department, we believe that enhanced dialogue with colleges and universities would be mutually beneficial. In particular, we note two important topics that would benefit from an open and ongoing exchange of information: namely, efforts to protect against undue foreign influence or illicit access to research; and concerns expressed by universities relating to changes and delays in visa processing that undermine their ability to continue attracting the best and brightest from around the world.

We thank you for your attention to this important issue and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress

1 https://www.dhs.gov/publication/hsaac-charter-0
2 See https://www.dhs.gov/publication/hsaac-june-5-2017-meeting-materials
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Joe Loeffl
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

Denny Heck
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Andy Harris, M.D.
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Ro Khanna
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David E. Price
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