

## **ARVO Statement on Immigration Executive Order**

Feb. 1, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
United States of America

Dear President Trump:

As the world's largest eye and vision research community, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) is deeply concerned about the effects that the recent presidential executive order "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States" will have on the free exchange of knowledge among our members and scientists in all fields around the globe.

The progress of science requires the free flow of information globally between individuals with diverse perspectives. Although only days old, the order is having a chilling effect on our members' efforts by discouraging international travel to study, work, collaborate and share ideas. ARVO is committed to diversity in all of our activities and to supporting all members, regardless of nationality or religion.

We therefore formally request the United States government to revoke this executive order in its current form and use existing immigration mechanisms to achieve its stated goals.

ARVO will continue to monitor this situation and serve as a resource to all of its members, most importantly those who are directly affected by this order.

Sincerely,

The Board of Trustees of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology

### About ARVO

The Association for Research and Vision in Ophthalmology (ARVO) is the largest eye and vision research organization in the world. Members include nearly 12,000 eye and vision researchers from over 75 countries. ARVO advances research worldwide into understanding the visual system and preventing, treating and curing its disorders. Learn more at [arvo.org](http://arvo.org).