March 7, 2017

Dear Howard University Community,

Yesterday, President Trump released a revised executive order that outlines changes to the previously released 90-day ban on immigrant travel to the United States. The new directive takes effect on March 16 and suspends the issuance of new visas for travelers from six mostly Muslim countries, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen for 90 days. Current visa holders and those with legal permanent resident status are not included. The order will also suspend refugee entries for 120 days.

We remain deeply troubled by this ban and the impact it is having on our community. There are Howard University community members that will be directly or indirectly impacted by these policies. The angst, confusion and concern is felt by us all. I continue to offer my unwavering support to those impacted – this university stands with individuals affected by this directive and will continue to provide the necessary support and services to aid anyone in addressing their situations.

It is still unknown how the ban will impact short and long-term immigration policies in the U.S. We are closely monitoring the situation and are partnering with other institutions to gain insights on how they are managing the issue. Given the lack of detailed guidance about implementation of the new order, at this time we are told that anyone from the six affected countries should continue to avoid travel outside the United States. For additional questions, please contact OGC.immigration@howard.edu.

This rich diversity of community, which we value so much, enhances the learning experience of us all and prepares us to be leaders and conscious global citizens. During this time of uncertainty, I encourage all of us to stay informed, remain engaged and lean on one another for support. We are all in this together.

Excellence in Truth and Service,

Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., MBA
President