



July 9, 2020

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United State Senate
780 Third Avenue, 2301
New York, NY 10017

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United State Senate
780 Third Avenue, 2601
New York, NY 10017

Dear Senator Schumer and Senator Gillibrand,

On behalf of FIT's more than 9,500 students, 1,700 faculty and staff and 75,000 living alumni, we urge you to circulate a sign on letter similar to Representative Debbie Dingell's Dear Colleague letter found below. The recent announcement by ICE regarding F-1 and M-1 visas will hurt campuses and communities across the state. The nearly 1,000 international students at FIT and international students across the nation are pillars of our campus communities – we should not threaten them with deportation while they make important decisions about their health in the midst of a pandemic. Likewise, institutions must not face additional pressure as they move toward responsible decisions regarding the re-opening of their campuses.

We know you believe that America's institutions of higher education are among our greatest national assets, and New York State – with nearly 300 colleges and universities – is an especially strong contributor to this American strength. We should be proud that our institutions attract the best and brightest from around the world. Your leadership and advocacy for our institutions during this pandemic has been critical to getting the support we need, and I ask for your support again in signing Representative Dingell's letter.

Please let me know if you have any questions, by emailing me at (Joyce_Brown@fitnyc.edu).

Thank you,

Dr. Joyce F. Brown
President

cc: Chancellor Johnson