

I appreciate your reply. Hang in there and don't give an inch!

Karl

Karl Polzer

Founder [Center on Capital & Social Equity](#)

**On Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 09:49:59 AM EDT, Alan M. Garber <president@harvard.edu> wrote:**

Dear Karl,

I write with thanks for your message and apologies for the delay in my reply. I'm grateful for your care for Harvard, and I appreciate your suggestions about how we can support our international students and scholars during this challenging period. I've passed your message along to my team for further consideration.

As the University advocates for higher education in Washington and beyond, we also continue to explore and build partnerships with other institutions. We will be guided by our values and commitments as we address the implications of new regulations and legislation.

We are fortunate to have alumni and friends like you who will stand with Harvard. And congratulations on your wonderful academic pedigree—Dutch is still an excellent, active teacher and advisor.

Best regards,

Alan

**From:** Karl Polzer <kpolzer1@verizon.net>

**Sent:** Friday, June 6, 2025 11:24 AM

**To:** Alan M. Garber <president@harvard.edu>

**Subject:** Strategy re Trump blocking foreign students

Dear President Garber,

I am a KSG graduate and operate a project centered in the DC area that explores economic inequality and advocates for 'the bottom 50%.' Needless to say, many actions the Trump

Administration is taking are attacks on the well-being of low-income people and everyone's civil rights. Trump's selective assault on academic freedom is particularly egregious.

As Harvard fights back, I have a few questions and, possibly, suggestions: Has the university considered guaranteeing foreign students the ability to take classes and pursue degrees remotely in the event that the administration succeeds in blocking their entry into the United States for the fall semester and beyond? Could Harvard offer them extra financial help and/or other forms of support as a form of insurance? These measures might keep some students from overseas committed to coming and applying. I'm guessing that Trump & Co. know that a lengthy legal battle, even if they lose, might discourage students who need to make decisions now for the coming academic year.

Also, have you and your colleagues considered banding together with other universities to take pre-emptive action? Other leading universities, now 'laying low' to let others bear the brunt, need to realize that any university could be next on Trump's list especially since his allegations are arbitrary and capricious. Asking other institutions to join in collective action also can help enlighten them concerning the long-term danger to all of not resisting. I believe UC researchers are trying to start a class-action. ([UC Berkeley researchers team up for first-of-its-kind lawsuit over Trump funding cuts.](#))

I recently posted the following comment both on our blog and LinkedIn where my primary audience is Congressional staff:

"Prediction: Harvard University will be teaching students from all over the world long after what remains of Trump and his brain trust rest in silence beneath the ground. BTW, White House staff could benefit from taking free public finance courses at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Harvard has a positive fund balance. The United State government, not so much."

Thank you for your efforts to defend the university's capacity to educate students regardless of where they come from or their income.

Sincerely,

Karl Polzer

Founder [Center on Capital & Social Equity](#)

**MPA/KSG 1989**

**PS: Best teacher was Tom Schelling. Best class: Financial Management, Budgeting, and Control - taught by Dutch Leonard and Mary O'Keeffe.**