

April 29, 2025

Dear Senator/Congressman,

We are current or emeritus faculty at the University of Nebraska College of Law. (We each sign this letter in our personal capacities; our views do not purport to represent the position of the University of Nebraska or its law school.) We are Democrats, Republicans, and independents; we disagree with each other about many important legal and political issues. We have, however, dedicated our careers to teaching the importance of the rule of law and the role the law plays in sustaining our society. We are concerned that the rule of law is in peril, and we urge you to be vigilant in its defense.

Our concerns arise from the following:

1. The revocation of student visas, apparently based solely on the students' exercise of their First Amendment rights of free speech. The courts have made clear that citizens and non-citizens alike are protected by the First Amendment.
2. The failure to provide even minimal due process protections to immigrants prior to their deportation. That failure has resulted in an admission that mistakes were made and that individuals were deported without a proper basis for doing so, and yet no action has been taken to rectify the mistake.
3. The threat to the rule of law and separation of powers resulting from the systematic attacks on the federal judiciary and the failure to fully comply with court orders, including rulings from the U.S. Supreme Court.
4. The threat to the rule of law resulting from systematic attempts to retaliate against law firms whose only offense has been to zealously pursue their clients' interests – an obligation we teach our students is the responsibility of a lawyer.

These should be of concern to all Americans. If the government can punish non-citizens for their speech today, it can do the same to citizens tomorrow. If the government can send non-citizens to an El Salvadoran prison without due process, it can do the same to citizens. If the government of today can abuse the law in one direction, a future government can use its force in the opposite direction. If an attorney is threatened for representing one interest today, she may be threatened for representing your interest tomorrow.

If our nation is going to check these federal abuses of power and restore the rule of law, Congress must play an active role. For the sake of preserving the Constitution and protecting future generations, we urge you, as our representative, to insist fully and actively on adherence to the rule of law and to exercise your authority accordingly.

Sincerely,

Eric Berger

Kristen Blankley

Jamie C. Cooper

Robert C. Denicola

Alan H. Frank

Daniel Gutman

Chelsi Hayden

Sydney Hayes

Lori Hoetger

Don Janssen

Danielle C. Jefferis

Brandon J. Johnson

Kyle Langvardt

Craig M. Lawson

Richard A. Leiter

Brian D. Lepard

Elsbeth Magilton

Matthew S. Novak

Stefanie Pearlman

Harvey Perlman

Sandra B. Placzek

Kevin Ruser

Robert Schopp

Anthony Schutz

A. Christal Sheppard

Jessica A. Shoemaker

Brett C. Stohs

Ryan Sullivan

Korey T. Taylor

Adam Thimmesch

Rachel Tomlinson Dick

Steven L. Willborn

Bob Works