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Monday, July 13, 2020

**SOT Statement on Presidential Proclamation 10052 Regarding
Nonimmigrant Visas**

Alongside others in the [scientific](#) and [higher-education](#) communities, the Society of Toxicology (SOT) is concerned about the effect of [US Presidential Proclamation 10052 “Proclamation Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the U.S. Labor Market Following the Coronavirus Outbreak,”](#) suspends the issuance of nonimmigrant [H-1B](#), [H-2B](#), [Exchange Visitor \(J\)](#), and [L visas](#).

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) occupations in government, industry and universities rely on H-1B visas to help fill talent needs, allowing for increased opportunities for innovations and breakthroughs that benefit the United States. In the toxicology community, contributions and collaborations of researchers and postdocs from outside the United States to US-based laboratories and projects are highly valued and necessary for scientific advancement.

As a global organization, SOT supports the exchange of science and information across political boundaries, recognizing that issues affecting public, animal, and environmental health are not always confined to geographic areas or specific countries. While some collaborations can be successfully achieved virtually, some scientific research and exchanges can only occur through in-person interactions, which is why SOT encourages the President and administration to reconsider its order related to H-1B, H-2B, J, and L visas.