

Students willing to step up to help fellow Bobcats affected by travel ban

BY: MORGAN MITCHELL

SAN MARCOS, TEXAS – Texas State University students are ready to help provide summer housing for those affected by the immigration ban enacted by President Donald Trump’s executive order last week.

The travel ban targets seven Muslim-majority nations, barring them from entering the United States.

International students from Texas State University face a potential problem in the future if the travel ban is to extend longer than the 90-day period or 120-day period for Syrian refugees.

“Summer housing is a good question,” said Amy Gillis, assistant to vice president for international affairs at Texas State. “That hasn’t even been brought up yet.”

International students who live on campus and are enrolled in the fall 2017 semester who might have planned to go home to one of the seven banned countries will not have a place to stay for the summer.

According to a university-wide email sent by University President Denise Trauth, there are 22 university community members affected by the travel ban, including 18 students.

Trauth said the office of international affairs would be available to those who are seeking advice.

Gillis stated that, as of now, their only way to help is to “really just be friends to them.”

Vice President to the Muslim student association, Dana Rinaudo led a protest Tuesday to spread awareness of the situation.

“I don’t know anyone personally that is affected,” said Rinaudo. “Everyone at least has one or two family members or friends affected, so we all had a reason to protest.”

For Texas State, there are 18 students that are immediately affected by the immigration ban. At the present time, the ban set in place would expire before the summer. However, if the ban is extended those students could potentially need a place to stay over the summer if they don’t travel home.

“We just have to tell them there’s a possibility this summer that if they leave, they won’t be able to come back,” said Gillis.



Travis Wright, a philosophy major, came up with a plan to combat the possibility of a summer housing issue for those affected.

“I have a spare room, I would absolutely let someone stay with me over the summer,” said Wright.

Wright is not the only student willing to step up. Rinaudo said her organization would be happy to help anyone affected, regardless of their religious views.

“We’re aware that not all those from the banned countries are Muslim, so we are willing to help all,” said Rinaudo.

Leo Blumberg, a double major student at Texas State has another plan to assist international students.

“I’m sure if enough people lobby, we can get the university to open up a floor for housing,” said Blumberg.

The international affairs office at Texas State University is working closely with an immigration attorney that has helped in the past with visa issues.