



February 8, 2017

Important Message to the Silver Oak Community:

This letter is being distributed to the entire Silver Oak Community in response to the uncertain political climate in the United States and the oppressive mandates being enforced by the US Government in regards to immigration.

Protecting and promoting the safety, well-being, and educational opportunities of everyone in our diverse community is essential, regardless of immigration status. We also believe empowering this population is crucial in securing both our community's and country's future. Given recent announcements that indicate undocumented immigrant students and their families face increased risk of imminent deportation, we want to make it clear that Silver Oak High School stands with California Public Schools and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torklakson:

"...In declaring our public schools 'safe havens' for students and their parents and to remind families about existing laws that protect them and their students' records from questioning about immigration status...together we can make it clear we will do our best to make sure the prospect of deportation of undocumented students and their families will not interfere with helping our students succeed. Our schools are not and will not become an arm of the US Customs and Immigration Enforcement (ICE). Instead, they will remain safe places for learning and teaching for all students, regardless of immigration status."

Furthermore, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) strongly suggests that citizens and nationals of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya, Somalia and Sudan, including US lawful permanent residents, Green Card holders, refugees and dual citizens, to refrain from traveling outside of the United States, if possible.

In addition to being a 'safe haven,' the faculty and staff at Silver Oak intend to offer resources and support to our valued immigrant, refugee and undocumented community should any needs or issues arise. This includes promoting awareness in our campus community of legal rights, providing contacts for mental healthcare providers, immigration advocates, legal aid and social workers, and continuing to empower and protect our students by developing them to be critical and conscious society members.

April 7, 2017 is National Institutions Coming Out Day. We at SOHS plan to organize events both on and off campus to educate about immigration as well as provide opportunities for students to safely advocate for the civil rights of themselves and their peers. Please stay tuned for more information, details and volunteer opportunities for this day of events. We must work together as a community.

Here are some helpful links for families to learn more:

- **American Civil Liberties Union**
<https://www.aclu.org/issues/immigrants-rights>
- **Ready California: Resources for DACA**
<http://ready-california.org/>
- **Immigration Law Help: Helping Low-Income Immigrants Find Legal Aid**
<https://www.immigrationlawhelp.or/>
- **Immigrant Legal Resource Center**
<https://www.ilrc.org/>

In Solidarity,
Silver Oak High School Faculty & Staff