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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MU GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL  
HOSTS CALL EVENT TO URGE CONGRESS TO OVERRIDE TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDER**

[Columbia, Missouri] – University of Missouri Graduate Professional Council will host a Call-Congress event on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 in MU Student Center from 10am-4pm to urge federal lawmakers to override the recent Executive Order made by President Trump banning immigrants and travelers from seven middle eastern countries. In collaboration with the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) national call day, graduate-professional students at the University of Missouri will join fellow students around the nation to call on congress to override the Trump executive order.

The Executive Order not only affects the more than 17,000 international graduate-professional and undergraduate students from the seven countries currently pursuing degrees in the United States, but also affects the entire academic community. This ban takes away the student's opportunity to present research internationally, travel home in an emergency if necessary, and robs them of the peace of mind of knowing they are welcomed in the U.S. As a result, universities are advising students and faculty from the affected countries who are currently in the U.S. to cancel any planned overseas travel and are also directing those currently overseas to legal counsel. This past weekend after the executive order was immediately implemented many graduate-professional students from the affected countries studying at Stanford, Stony Brook University, Iowa State University, and other universities were detained, some for more than 24 hours, at various airports around the country and threatened with deportation. While there are currently no reports of students from the University of Missouri being directly impacted, there are indirect impacts being felt throughout campus.

GPC stands in solidarity with NAGPS and its members, and graduate-professional students, faculty, and education advocates across the country in our opposition to this ban and support the rights and dignity of our international students. To demonstrate further support for these students, the Graduate Professional Council will encourage all students at the University of Missouri to participate in this Call Congress Day.

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Founded in 1983, the Graduate Professional Council (GPC) is the official student government for all graduate, professional, post-baccalaureate, and post-doctoral students at the University of Missouri.

Founded in 1987, the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) is a volunteer, student-run, national non-profit organization representing more than 600,000 graduate and professional students at over 90 institutions across the United States. NAGPS sustains a member network that connects graduate and professional students; shares resources; provides benefits and training; and advocates at the state, regional and national level to give a voice to all graduate and professional students.

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