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April 21, 2025

President Christina Paxson
Brown University
Office of the President
1 Prospect Street, Box 1860
Providence, RI 02912

VIA MAIL AND EMAIL

Dear President Paxson:

As institutions dedicated to higher education, colleges and universities have a unique responsibility to ensure that students can focus on their education without fear of immigration enforcement. However, because of recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities on or around college campuses, students – regardless of immigration status – may be apprehensive about participating in campus activities or even being physically present on campus for fear of ICE interaction. Students may also be looking to administrators for guidance and answers to any questions they have about their rights on campus in relation to ICE.

To answer some of these questions, the National ACLU prepared an open letter to colleges and universities across the country addressing two issues related to possible ICE actions against institutions like yours, and specifically against your noncitizen students. The letter provides guidance on:

- 1) Why providing housing and other services to noncitizen students does not make institutions liable under the immigration harboring statute (8 U.S.C. § 1324); and
- 2) Your institution's rights and options after receiving an ICE administrative subpoena.

As the letter details, these concerns are not hypothetical. While attempting to locate Columbia student and lawful permanent resident Yunseo Chang for immigration arrest several weeks ago, ICE first sent two administrative subpoenas to Columbia University seeking residence hall security camera footage and student identification swipe card access data, and then obtained a warrant to search a Columbia residence hall for evidence of Columbia's purported violation of Section 1324 for harboring individuals present in the country in violation of immigration law. The ACLU letter explains why issuance of that warrant could not have been justified, and it provides practical advice about responding to ICE administrative subpoenas.

We encourage you to review this letter and use it as a resource for any future institutional policies. If you have any questions about it, please feel free to let me know. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steven Brown
Executive Director

cc: Sandhya Iyer, General Counsel
Enclosure