

Resisting the Bullshit

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Major Caveats

My views do not represent the views of MSU, the College of Natural Science, or the Department of Physics and Astronomy

- I am not a lawyer
- My advice comes from personal experience
- You do not have to do anything I suggest
- You do not have to stay for this talk

What has happened?

The president has issued and his administration are attempting to enforce several executive orders:

- Cancellation of anything DEI related
- Federal freeze on grants and loans; cuts to current NIH and NSF grants
- Stoppage of work at US AID, CPB, and other federal agencies
- Reversal of Title IX protections for women and LGBTQ+ individuals
- And so much more...

These executive orders are callous, cruel, and dangerous.

What has been the impact?



Absolute chaos

A few things to remember

Our collective power is our greatest strength

- You are not alone in any of your feelings; we are all in this together
- You don't have to agree with everything I say to be a part of this community; you are welcome here
- Again, you don't have to do anything I suggest

It will take time for the courts to sort this out

Attacks on women, folks of color, the LGBTQ+ community, and immigrants are attacks on all of us

We must stand together to resist these attacks

Sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, and xenophobia have no home here

These EOs are attacks on our humanity and designed to divide us

Things you will learn today

How to resist the bullshit

- What your rights are when interacting with law enforcement
- Tools and strategies for ensuring your rights are respected and your safety is maintained
- How to support your friends and colleagues who might be targeted
- How to activate yourself, your friends, and your family against these attacks
- That you have a resource in me anytime you need it

Know that some of us avoid interactions with law enforcement because we have been taught to

- My experience is not yours and yours is not mine
- We all have different experiences with law enforcement
- Some of your friends might be incredibly uncomfortable around law enforcement

Know your rights (ACLU.org)

https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field_toolkit_file/kyr_english_3.pdf

The Fourth Amendment

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Plainly, you have the right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures. Law enforcement has limited authority to search you, your home, or your belongings.

Source: <https://constitutioncenter.org/the-constitution/amendments/amendment-iv/interpretations/121>

Interactions with Law Enforcement

"I don't have anything to say. I don't consent to be searched."

If you are approached by law enforcement, you have the right to remain silent

- You do not have to answer any questions
- You do not have to show ID
- You do not have to consent to a search
- You do not have to open your door
- You do not have to do anything without a **warrant signed by a judge**

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

"I don't have anything to say. I'm asking you to leave."

If you are approached by ICE, you have the right to remain silent

- ICE cannot enter your home without a warrant signed by a judge
- MSU classrooms, research spaces, and offices are not public spaces
- ICE cannot enter these spaces without a warrant signed by a judge

Red cards are available from the Immigrant Legal Resource Center

<https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas>

Red Card

Print some and keep them handy

- Explains your rights in multiple languages.
- Can be handed to law enforcement without opening a door.

Usted tiene derechos constitucionales.

-NO ABRA LA PUERTA SI UN AGENTE DEL SERVICIO DE INMIGRACION ESTA TOCANDO LA PUERTA.

-NO CONTESTE NINGUN PREGUNTA DEL AGENTE DEL SERVICIO DE INMIGRACION SI EL TRATA DE HABLAR CON USTED

Usted tiene derecho a mantenerse callado.

No tiene que dar su nombre al agente.

Si esta en el trabajo, pregunte al agente si esta libre para salir y si el agente dice que si, váyase.

usted tiene derecho de hablar con un abogado.

ENTREGUE ESTA TARJETA AL AGENTE. NO ABRA LA PUERTA

I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

I do not give you permission to enter my home based on my 4th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution unless you have a warrant to enter, signed by a judge or magistrate with my name on it that you slide under the door. I do not give you permission to search any of my belongings based on my 4th Amendment rights.

I choose to exercise my constitutional rights.

These cards are available to citizens and noncitizens alike.

MSU will not respond publicly

- MSU is a public institution
- MSU must respond to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests
- MSU has already received FOIA requests

University leadership will not speak out publicly

- Read their emails carefully
- Read the reporting thoroughly
- You are not alone

How can you advocate for MSU to protect its students, faculty, and staff?

You should not be muzzled

You have the right to speak out

You have the right to organize

What can we do?

We need to be loud

We need to be visible

We need to be organized

We need to do BIG. PUBLIC. SHIT.

Actions we can take

1. **Teach-Ins** ← **We are doing this right now.** - Our job is to educate and that is not just within our disciplines. Teaching about the impact of federal freezes on research in science, humanities, and health. Helping students to learn their rights, how to advocate for their needs, and how to communicate with public officials are all things we can do. Explaining how the arc of the American trajectory towards democracy, equality, and inclusion has been long and hard fought and is now under attack.
2. **Rallies** - MSU has 52,000 students, nearly 6,000 academic staff, and more than 7,000 administrative staff. That's 65,000 people! All of us are going to be affected if these attacks continue. If even 2% of us rally, that's still 1,300 people.

Actions we can take

3. **Letter Writing Campaigns** - One of the most effective ways to communicate with our elected officials is to write them. Your congressperson might not share your views (mine sure doesn't), but they still represent you. You can make it hard for them to dodge your message. you can make it difficult to ignore you. You can get them to say what they mean. Writing these kinds of letters is a skill that we can all learn, and we can teach it to others.
4. **Door-to-Door Advocacy** - Knocking doors is no joke. I did it for the successful campaign for Michigan Proposal 3 to restore reproductive rights to all of those who needed to enjoy those rights. It's hard to talk to people you don't know, but it's important if we want to make change. We can do this in our communities, in our neighborhoods, and elsewhere.

Writing a letter to your congressperson

You must be an American citizen and a constituent of the congressperson to write them.

1. Find out who your congressperson is.

- <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>

2. Research their views, and votes.

- Views: Search: *<Rep. Name's> view on <issue>*
- Votes: <https://clerk.house.gov/Votes>

3. Read how to write your congress person.

- [How to get your congressperson to hear you](#)
- [Writing your congressperson](#)

Your letter is limited to 2000 characters, but you can call and read it.

Writing a letter to your congressperson

1. Start with an introduction and **be specific**. Include your ask. Include how the member represents you. Ensure you **offer a rationale aligned with your member's interests**.
2. Quickly **move to your request** and reference government documents. News reports can be helpful. **Avoid using language that indicts the order if the member does not share your views**. Instead, think about how important this work should be to your member. What about your work impacts them and their interests? **Remind them of the material impacts**.

Writing a letter to your congressperson

3. Get specific and **provide examples of the present impact and potential future impact** should the course be stayed. **Remind them again why they should care** about this issue.
4. Close with a **thank you and a clear ask for a response**.
5. Then just **sign your name and provide your contact information**.

Finally

Thank you for sharing the space.

Thank you for listening.

This is temporary if we make it so.

Questions, comments, concerns?

Email: caball14@msu.edu