**Statement on the International Entrepreneur Rule**

The *International Entrepreneur Rule*, RIN 1615-AC04, was proposed by the Department of Homeland Security on August 26th, 2016 and is currently open to the public for comments.

The MIT Graduate Student Council (GSC) represents the 6,800 graduate students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in all matters concerning their welfare, academic opportunities, and professional careers after graduation. We support all measures that make more employment opportunities and more employment-based visas available to international students who obtain their graduate degrees in the US. Therefore, we strongly support the International Entrepreneur Rule.

The *International Entrepreneur Rule* proposes an immigration solution that allows highly-skilled foreign entrepreneurs to start and grow their own businesses in the United States if they are able to secure competitive startup funding from U.S. investors or federal, state, or local government entities. The new rule would mandate that immigration parole for entrepreneurs would only be renewed if the funded business provided a significant public benefit, as evidenced by increases in capital investment, revenue, or creation of jobs for American workers.

MIT students and faculty have founded more than 30,000 currently active companies that employ about 4.6 million people and generate annual revenues of $1.9 trillion, which is equivalent to the world’s 10th largest economy. As 43% of MIT graduate students are international students, many of these companies are founded outside of the US. The absence of straightforward immigration solutions for US-trained entrepreneurs feeds the stream of students returning to their home countries upon graduation and strengthening foreign economies. Thus, we believe that this proposed rule offers a very valuable addition to existing immigration pathways.

We urge members of Congress to support the initiative proposed by the Department of Homeland Security and consider introducing legislation with similar ambitions. This rule would enable graduate students from MIT and other universities to apply their skills in the United States, strengthen our economy, and create American jobs. The certainty offered by codifying an equivalent program in legislation would sustain these benefits for investors, entrepreneurs, and the American people for years to come.

*Prepared by the External Affairs Board on behalf of the MIT Graduate Student Council.*