

We, a coalition of University of Illinois students, faculty, and community members, are calling for a mass mobilization at the Alma Mater statue on April 18th at 11:30 am in response to mass repression against progressive student activism on this campus. Our university has continually silenced students' voices throughout the past calendar year, striking out at student organizations and individuals for participating in expressions of free speech.

This attack on the First Amendment exists across the country, not just in Urbana-Champaign. From the deportation of Mahmoud Khalil to the federal government's crackdown on Universities for not "falling in line," our right to free speech is at risk. On our own campus, students' visas are being revoked, threatening the ability of non-citizens to protest. Now, more than ever, it is time to act.

The University's new "expressive action" policies, created in direct response to the pro-Palestinian encampments last year, are some of the fastest passed policies in University history. These policies actively work against First Amendment rights and endanger students' freedom. The University has created a culture of fear and repression on this campus, and we are here to show that we will not stand for it. We demand that the University take action to protect our First Amendment rights.

We will not be silenced.