Statement on Freedom to Meet Without Limitation

Approved by the ACS Board of Directors

June 2, 2017

The American Chemical Society (ACS), the world’s largest scientific society, represents a broadly diverse membership.

Diversity and inclusion are core values of the ACS, and the Society’s diverse membership is its most important asset. It is vital that all of these members have the opportunity to actively participate in the scientific enterprise helping to develop solutions to the world’s greatest challenges and advance chemistry as a global, multidisciplinary science.

Accordingly, ACS supports the freedom of its members -- regardless of race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disabilities, educational background or economic standing -- to participate in scientific and technical meetings and communicate their science, without suffering any abridgment of their rights and dignity.

Scientific and technical meetings are central to promoting critical information exchange and dialogue among researchers. It is during these meetings that leading scientists from around the world, ACS members and non-members alike, gather to present their research and engage in meaningful interactions, opening the doors to new collaborations and addressing our most pressing global challenges.

ACS has consistently defended the rights of its members to freely practice their science without discrimination in any form, and will oppose any legislation or other government actions that would in any way abridge those rights.

Here in the United States, ACS and its members annually hold two national meetings, up to eight regional meetings and dozens of other local and regional training and technical meetings at locations across the country. On an annual basis, these meetings have combined attendance of over 60,000 and generate hundreds of millions of dollars in local economic impact for the communities where the meetings are held.

ACS is committed to supporting its members’ rights to attend meetings without sacrificing their human rights. Accordingly, ACS reserves the right, working with its relevant governance units, to take appropriate actions, which may include relocating meetings from jurisdictions that have enacted discriminatory legislation or regulation, even if moving these meetings might result in financial impact to ACS.