

I am writing to oppose the proposed changes to EVUS that would add an optional question about social media to the EVUS questionnaire. Such a change would be a waste of resources and would likely lead to reciprocal demands by the Chinese that American visitors disclose their social media information.

Chinese visitors are extremely unlikely to have anything on their public social media profiles that would affect their admissibility as visitors to the US. To quickly and effectively review their social media profiles would presumably require CBP to employ large numbers of linguists fluent in colloquial Chinese. Considering the low chance of finding any useful information, this would be a waste of resources.

In estimating the burden of the proposed change, CBP has failed to consider the possibility that the Chinese government would respond by imposing a similar or greater burden on US visitors to China. As a US citizen who travels to China regularly, I would prefer not to be asked to provide additional personal information to the Chinese government.

I would like to take this opportunity to also question the value of EVUS in general. Collecting updated biographical information from Chinese visitors does not seem likely to produce valuable information that would allow CBP to determine whether a person has become inadmissible. Moreover, the Chinese government may impose new requirements on US citizens in response to EVUS.

I would also like to question the wisdom of CBP's practice of routinely requesting social media information from all visitors. This appears to me to be a slippery slope ending with governments around the world routinely demanding additional personal information from all US citizen visitors.

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