



SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CCP

DEMOCRATS | RANKING MEMBER RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI

October 21, 2025

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
Frances Perkins Building
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20210

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
Harry S. Truman Building
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer, Secretary Noem, and Secretary Rubio,

I am writing to you today to express my concern over the Trump Administration's changes to the H-1B, F and J visa process that will affect our competition with the People's Republic of China (PRC). These changes included President Trump's proclamation instituting a \$100,000 fee for all new H-1B applicants (filing outside of the United States after September 21st), and the Department of Homeland Security's notice of proposed rulemaking to establish a four-year time limit on F and J visas for foreign students and exchange visitors, with any extensions beyond that period requiring US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) approval.¹

American business leaders are warning that proposed changes to H-1B visas would harm both American companies and U.S. economic competitiveness. This October, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, filed suit against the Trump Administration to stop the proposed H-1B changes, calling them "not only misguided policy" but also "plainly unlawful."² In a full statement to media, U.S. Chamber of Commerce executive vice president Neil Bradley forcefully rebuked the changes as being good for American businesses, "The new \$100,000 visa fee will make it cost-prohibitive for U.S. employers, especially start-ups and small and midsize businesses, to utilize the H-1B program, which was created by Congress expressly to ensure that American businesses of all sizes can access the global talent they need to grow their operations here in the U.S."³

Immigrant talent has always been a key pillar of America's economic engine. A 2024 study, "*The Impact of Immigration on Firms and Workers: Insights from the H-1B Lottery*", found that every additional H-1B worker hired

¹ The Department of Homeland Security. "Trump Administration Proposes New Rule to End Foreign Student Visa Abuse." August 27, 2025. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/08/27/trump-administration-proposes-new-rule-end-foreign-student-visa-abuse>; State Department. "H-1B FAQ." September 21, 2025. <https://www.state.gov/h-1b-faq>; The White House. "RESTRICTION ON ENTRY OF CERTAIN NONIMMIGRANT WORKERS." September 19, 2025. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/09/restriction-on-entry-of-certain-nonimmigrant-workers>. USCIS. "H-1B Specialty Occupations." October 20, 2025. <https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/h-1b-specialty-occupations>

² Lauren Kaori Gurley. "Chamber of Commerce sues Trump to block \$100,000 fee for H-1B visas." *The Washington Post*. October 16, 2025. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/10/16/trump-h1b-visa-chamber-of-commerce-lawsuit/>

³ Lauren Kaori Gurley. "Chamber of Commerce sues Trump to block \$100,000 fee for H-1B visas." *The Washington Post*. October 16, 2025. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/10/16/trump-h1b-visa-chamber-of-commerce-lawsuit/>

“increases total firm employment by 0.83 additional employees,” helping to increase American companies “employment, revenues and survival probabilities.”⁴ Limiting this flow of talent would jeopardize one of America’s greatest economic strengths, its startup culture. Roughly one-quarter of U.S. startups valued at \$1 billion or more were founded by former international students, showing how such restrictions could stifle job creation and the dynamism of our economy.⁵

Alongside economic harm, the Trump Administration’s proposed changes to F visas would harm American technology. More than two dozen semiconductor executives have said that the Trump Administration’s plans for strict time-limits on F visas will block vital talent from reaching the United States. In the words of one semiconductor COO commenting on the proposed changes, “international graduates contribute to a \$50 billion annual U.S. semiconductor industry output. Restricting their stay jeopardizes innovation capacity and the U.S.’s ability to lead in a sector critical to national security.”⁶ In the words of one semiconductor CEO, “The global race for chip supremacy is intensifying, and these restrictions risk ceding ground to nations with more welcoming immigration policies.”⁷

Changes to F visas are also detrimental to American innovation. According to CEO Miriam Feldblum, whose Presidential Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration represents 5 million students across universities in 42 states, the Trump Administration’s changes would have “damaging consequences for institutions, small businesses, local communities, and the broader economy. Policies that deter international students will result in higher tuition rates for domestic students, disruptions to academic programs, and lost opportunities for American innovation and research.”⁸ With PhD programs lasting for 5.8 years on average, these proposed changes will prevent recent Ph.D. graduates from pursuing postdoctoral research, undermining America’s leadership in STEM and innovation.⁹

Finally, medical leaders are warning that the Trump Administration’s changes to J visas will irrevocably undermine American healthcare. According to Jason M. Goldman, president of the American College of Physicians, the largest medical specialty organization in the United States, the Trump Administration’s proposal “would affect more than 17,000 physicians and disrupt patient care nationwide.”¹⁰ President Goldman added that these physicians are “disproportionately represented in underserved communities and rural areas where workforce shortages are most acute. Limiting their ability to train and practice would further jeopardize access to care for these populations.”¹¹ With the U.S. facing a projected shortage of 86,000 physicians and J visas making up roughly 10% of U.S. medical residents as of 2023, the Trump administration’s actions on J visas shuts out the doctors who raise the quality of life for U.S. citizens.¹²

⁴ Brinatti, Agostina and et al. “The Impact of Immigration on Firms and Workers: Insights from the H-1B Lottery.” *IZA Institute of Labor Economics*, April 2024. <https://docs.iza.org/dp16917.pdf>

⁵ National Foundation for American Policy. “New Research: Immigrants Have Started More Than Half of America’s Billion-Dollar Startup Companies.” July 26, 2022. <https://nfap.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Immigrant-Entrepreneurs-and-Billion-Dollar-Companies.DAY-OF-RELEASE.2022.pdf>

⁶ Maggie Eastland. “Chip Industry Leaders Assail Trump’s Proposed Visa-Rule Changes.” Bloomberg. October 1, 2025. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-10-01/trump-s-proposed-changes-to-visa-rules-assailed-by-chip-industry>. Regulations.gov. “Comment Submitted by Anonymous.” Posted by the **Immigration and Customs Enforcement Bureau** on Sep 3, 2025. <https://www.regulations.gov/comment/ICEB-2025-0001-2961>.

⁷ Maggie Eastland. “Chip Industry Leaders Assail Trump’s Proposed Visa-Rule Changes.” Bloomberg. October 1, 2025. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-10-01/trump-s-proposed-changes-to-visa-rules-assailed-by-chip-industry>.

⁸ President’s Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration. “Presidents’ Alliance Opposes Proposed Rule Ending “Duration of Status” for International Students and Exchange Visitors.” September 30, 2025. <https://www.presidentsalliance.org/presidents-alliance-opposes-proposed-rule-ending-duration-of-status-for-international-students-and-exchange-visitors/>.

⁹ Association of American Universities. “AAU, Associations Submit Comments on Proposed Duration of Status Rule.” September 29, 2025. <https://www.aau.edu/key-issues/aau-associations-submit-comments-proposed-duration-status-rule>.

¹⁰ Jason M. Goldman. “Re: Docket ICEB-2025-0001, Establishing a Fixed Time Period of Admission and an Extension of Stay Procedure for Nonimmigrant Academic Students, Exchange Visitors, and Representatives of Foreign Information Med.” *American College of Physicians*. September 25, 2025. https://www.acponline.org/sites/default/files/acp-policy-library/letters/acp_comments_on_duration_of_status_proposed_rule_impacting_imgs_2025.pdf.

¹¹ Jason M. Goldman. “Re: Docket ICEB-2025-0001, Establishing a Fixed Time Period of Admission and an Extension of Stay Procedure for Nonimmigrant Academic Students, Exchange Visitors, and Representatives of Foreign Information Med.” *American College of Physicians*. September 25, 2025. https://www.acponline.org/sites/default/files/acp-policy-library/letters/acp_comments_on_duration_of_status_proposed_rule_impacting_imgs_2025.pdf.

¹² American Association of Medical Colleges. “AAMC Joins Groups to Express Concern With Proposed Duration of Status Elimination.” October 3, 2025. <https://www.aamc.org/advocacy-policy/washington-highlights/aamc-joins-groups-express-concern-proposed->

In response to the Trump Administration's illogical and potentially illegal changes, Beijing is throwing its doors wide open with its newly introduced K visa. Rolled out to appeal to global talent discouraged by restrictive H-1B fees and punitive four-year caps on the duration of student visas, the K visa is designed to lure young STEM graduates with no job offer required, no sponsor, and no employer control. While Washington is slamming doors shut on the foreign talent that has kept America's hospitals running and built the startups that hire American workers,

Beijing's timing is likely deliberate. As our immigration policies push away future founders, doctors, scientists, and researchers, the PRC is branding itself as the place where the next generation of businesses, breakthroughs, and world-class healthcare will take root. For immigrants eager to build companies but priced out of the H-1B system or blocked from completing Ph.D. and medical programs, the K visa sends a clear signal: bring your patents, startups, medicines, and skills to China, and deliver the wealth and prosperity you would have created in America to the CCP.

According to *The Global Times*, the K visa showcases "a more open and confident China in the new era to the world."¹³ That kind of confidence once defined America. Today, however, majorities in key U.S. allies such as Greece, Spain, and Germany see the PRC, not the United States, as the world's leading economic power.¹⁴ For example, in Africa, the world's youngest and fastest-growing continent, more students now choose to study in the PRC each year than in the U.S.¹⁵

The bottom line is clear: while America disincentivizes the H-1B and closes its advanced degree pathways to foreign students, the PRC is positioning the K visa as a powerful magnet for global talent. By undervaluing immigrants, we risk handing General Secretary Xi Jinping a strategic coup: the scientists, entrepreneurs, and physicians who would otherwise drive U.S. innovation. The K visa does not simply welcome talent, it diverts the wealth, patents, healthcare, and job creation that once sustained America's economic leadership straight into the PRC's economy, with the intent of giving Xi the means to outcompete the United States and shape the future of global innovation.

Based on these decisions and the PRC's response, please answer the following:

1. Did you assess the economic costs of reducing skilled immigration in STEM and medicine prior to issuing executive orders on H-1Bs or proposing rules to limit F student visa duration to four years?
2. Since the release of the K visa, have you examined how the K visa program may potentially strengthen the PRC's economy and pursuit of key technologies by attracting immigrant talent that otherwise would have gone to the United States?
3. Have you established guardrails to prevent U.S.-trained STEM and medical graduates, as well as talent from allied countries, from being recruited into the PRC's K visa program, including measures such as exit controls, partnership restrictions, or mandatory disclosures for those approached by PRC institutions?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your comprehensive response.

[duration-status-elimination.](#); Association of American Medical Colleges. "RE: Establishing a Fixed Time Period of Admission and an Extension of Stay Procedure for Nonimmigrant Academic Students, Exchange Visitors, and Representatives of Foreign Information Media (RIN 1653-AA95)." September 29, 2025. <https://www.aamc.org/media/86346/download?attachment>; Dall, Tim and et al. "The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections From 2021 to 2036." *Association of American Medical Colleges*, March 2024. <https://www.aamc.org/news/press-releases/new-aamc-report-shows-continuing-projected-physician-shortage>.

¹³ "How should we view China's decision to add K visa?" *The Global Times*, September 29, 2025. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202509/1344808.shtml>.

¹⁴ Huang, Christine and et al. "International Views of China Turn Slightly More Positive: In Many of 25 Surveyed Nations, People Increasingly See China as the World's Top Economic Power." *Pew Research Center*, July 15, 2025. <https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2025/07/15/international-views-of-china-turn-slightly-more-positive>.

¹⁵ Latif Dahir, Abdi. "China's Quiet Win: Outmaneuvering U.S. for Africa's Future Leaders." *New York Times*, June 12, 2025. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/07/world/africa/africa-universities-us-china-trump-visas.html>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Raja Krishnamoorthi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Raja" and last name "Krishnamoorthi" clearly distinguishable.

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Ranking Member
House Select Committee on the CCP