

Newspapers Across the Country Endorse Reform of the Visa System for Highly Educated Professionals

(August 2008)

The Dallas Morning News

“America’s antiquated green card policy is driving one of our most precious assets – scientific and technological expertise – into the welcoming hands of our competitors. That’s insanity.” *August 22, 2008*



“Historically, America could count on luring brilliant foreigners to help this country achieve technological and scientific supremacy. It happened with the Manhattan Project to develop the atomic bomb during World War II. It happened with the space program. Half of the high-tech companies in the Silicon Valley have at least one foreign-born founding member. World economic competition is tough and getting tougher, and America has a waiting list of scientists and engineers who want in. They want to invent, innovate and start businesses that create jobs. Let them.” *August 17, 2008*

Rocky Mountain News

(Denver, CO)

“U.S. prosperity is more dependent than ever on finding workers skilled in science, math, engineering and technological fields – even though the loudest immigration debate has focused on unskilled migrant labor. But in an age where the United States is going to need sharp minds in these fields to stay ahead, government processing delays have led to green cards going to waste at the end of each fiscal year – green cards, that is, providing permanent residence for highly prized foreign professionals working in the U.S.” *August 10, 2008*

Los Angeles Times

“... [T]here is an interim step Congress could take that would help the economy in general and the high-tech industry in particular: Make it easier for skilled foreign workers to obtain green cards and become permanent U.S. ... Increasing the supply of green cards would allow more talented foreigners to stay here, where they were educated and trained, and where their productivity and entrepreneurial drive can create jobs. Over the last 15 years, immigrants have launched a fourth of the start-ups in the U.S. that attracted venture capital dollars. With the economy slipping, that statistic alone makes a persuasive argument for more green cards.” *August 8, 2008*



“The next time you want to complain about global competition and a “brain drain,” put the blame where it belongs. On Capitol Hill. Which must correct the mess it has created.” *August 2, 2008*



(Harrisburg, PA)

“The problem is that the U.S. grants only 65,000 H-1B visas a year for foreign graduates, allowing them to work temporarily in this country and pursue citizenship. There are so many applicants the visas usually are taken within hours of their offering each year. Those unable to obtain them often take their skills to other countries and U.S. tech companies follow.” *August 1, 2008*



“It’s difficult to argue with legislation that would: ... Keep U.S. business competitive. H.R. 5882 would see to it that employment-based immigrant visas are not lost to bureaucratic delays. Contemplated legislation would eliminate “per country” limits on foreign workers and allow some 12,000 noncitizen advanced-degree graduates of U.S. colleges to get green cards. That would help American companies starved for high-tech workers.” *June 5, 2008*

The Washington Post

“The truth is, America will be a feebler place without a continuing and adequate flow of foreign-born brainpower. America's loss of foreign-born experts translates directly into gains for China, India and other rapidly developing competitors. While the presidential candidates are stepping gingerly around the immigration debate, the ongoing brain drain of the best and brightest foreigners should give them, and the nation, pause.” *June 4, 2008*



“What’s needed is obvious. The H-1B program should be both expanded and overhauled. ... Beyond the H-1B program, more permanent visas need to be steered to highly skilled people.” *March 25, 2008*

The Washington Post

“H-1B visas are reserved for the world’s best and brightest, and barring their entry is economic self-sabotage. The cap keeps out doctors, engineers and other specialists – people who save lives and often create jobs for others in America. One need only look at the national origins of founders of companies such as Google and Sun Microsystems to realize that foreign talent has helped keep the U.S. economy on the cutting edge.” *March 25, 2008*

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

“The preponderance of evidence continues to show that businesses are having difficulty filling skilled positions in the U.S. By blocking their access to foreign talent, Congress isn’t protecting U.S. jobs but is providing incentives to outsource. If lawmakers can’t bring themselves to eliminate the H-1B visa cap, they might at least raise it to a level that doesn’t handicap U.S. companies.” *March 19, 2008*



“The result [of the H-1B lottery] is that hundreds of thousands of highly qualified people – entrepreneurs who want to start companies, doctors who want to save lives, scientists who want to explore the frontiers of knowledge – are kept waiting on the spin of a roulette wheel and then, more often than not, denied the chance to work in the United States. This is a policy of national self-sabotage.” *April 10, 2008*

The Patriot-News

(Harrisburg, PA)

“It would be preferable for Congress to take overall action on immigration or address some of these issues unrelated to the controversy over illegal immigrants. While we’re waiting, administratively extending the time on foreign student work visas seems like a much-needed positive step for the U.S. economy.” *April 4, 2008*

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

“High-tech businesses, such as Microsoft, have asked for an increase in the [H-1B] visas. Out of desperation, Microsoft finally opened a campus in Vancouver, B.C. (Canada’s immigration system is more flexible.) The H-1Bs are currently capped at 65,000 and doled out by lottery. Last year, 123,480 applications were filed in two days. An interview with the CEO and founder of one such company on National Public Radio indicated there aren’t enough skilled workers in the U.S. to fill jobs that pay \$80,000 to \$100,000 a year.” *April 2, 2008*

San Antonio Express-News

“Staying on the leading edge in science, technology and medical research is imperative for the United States, and the H-1B visas are an important tool for reaching that goal. Congress should approve [Rep. Lamar Smith’s (R-TX)] legislation as soon as possible so more visas can be issued this year and next year. American high-tech companies need this relief, and it is vital for the nation that they remain competitive without having to move their operations elsewhere.” *April 1, 2008*

DAILY NEWS

“... [A] new survey by the Partnership for New York City has revealed that we are losing jobs because of the senseless visa restrictions and other restraints on international employment. ... Keeping these highly paid jobs – and the slots they generate for additional workers – is crucial to the futures of New York and America. The U.S. should stop barring entry to people who can keep America on the cutting edge in everything from finance to computers to medicine.” *March 30, 2008*

San Jose Mercury News

“Congress must expand and overhaul the H-1B visa program, which is vital to Silicon Valley H-1B visas must better serve American companies and workers. Until Congress acts, the system will continue to fail on both counts.” *March 31, 2008*

Orlando Sentinel

“... [L]awmakers would be foolish to wait to lift the H-1B cap, especially during the current economic slump. It makes no sense to limit a source of highly skilled labor that would help the U.S. economy grow.” *March 29, 2008*



(Evansville, IN)

“Because lawmakers lack the political will to keep the world’s talent in America, companies are following it overseas, setting up shop in Canada, India and Eastern Europe where the skills they need are plentiful. As a result, investment and jobs are being shipped abroad.” *March 26, 2008*

The Patriot-News

(Harrisburg, PA)

“Reform of the visa system was part of the comprehensive immigration bill that failed to pass Congress last year. Since an overall bill isn’t likely, if at all, until after a new president and Congress are seated next year, lawmakers and the Bush administration should act to address what Gates calls an ‘already grave situation.’ This would be a good step toward helping America better compete in a global economy that, like it or not, is here to stay.” *March 23, 2008*

The OKLAHOMAN

“... [W]e’d love to see someone in D.C. give a little consideration to the H-1B visa problem. Raising the cap substantially would be a good start, and would be hailed by companies that now see too many talented and eager workers wind up overseas.” *March 23, 2008*

The Star THE KANSAS CITY STAR

“The bill [The Innovation Employment Act] addresses huge disconnects between the need for highly-skilled workers, the numbers of qualified people within the U.S. labor pool, and the current system for allowing technically-trained foreign workers to be legally employed. ... The U.S. is not producing enough highly-skilled workers. The economy suffers from this deficit and from fears that keep foreign workers out.” *March 22, 2008*



(Pensacola, FL)

“... [T]here is another group of immigrants who are highly sought by U.S. high-tech firms and by such firms in other countries. We should be making it easier, not more difficult, for these immigrants to come to the United States. They bring brain power, high-level education and needed skills to the industries that are leading the high-tech industry.” *March 17, 2008*

The Seattle Times



“Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates made a strong business case for immigration reform before members of Congress, who should be laser-focused on steering the U.S. economy through a downturn. ... [O]ne California congressman, obviously clueless about Microsoft’s generous salaries and benefits, suggested its problems would be solved if the company paid more. Other critics raise the specter of American-trained foreign workers going home only to compete with American companies. Those shortsighted arguments ignore the cost of lost commercial opportunity when a computer-engineering job goes unfilled, plus the four to five jobs needed to support it.” *March 14, 2008*

San Jose Mercury News

“Opening the door to technical professionals is key to keeping the United States competitive with fast-rising economies such as China and India. In many areas of math, science and engineering, at least half of the post-graduate degrees at U.S. universities are earned by foreign nationals. It makes no sense for the United States to educate foreign scientists and engineers and then send them home to compete against American tech companies.” *January 3, 2008*