



June 11, 2020

The Honorable Larry Kudlow
Director
National Economic Council
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Jared Kushner
Senior Advisor to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Director Kudlow and Mr. Kushner:

On behalf of our organizations and the millions of activists we represent, we commend the Trump Administration's efforts to reduce the regulatory burden across various sectors of the economy during this global pandemic.

But to ensure a speedy economic recovery, we respectfully request that this administration refrain from suspending, restricting, or imposing additional barriers on non-immigrant visa programs, and the legal immigration system writ large. Instead, we ask you to please consider the critical role that non-immigrant visa programs have played, and will continue to play, in helping to bolster and maintain a vibrant, expanding economy that will benefit all Americans during and after this unprecedented public health crisis.

We hope you will consider the negative impact of restricting OPT, H-1B, H-2B, J-1 and L-1 nonimmigrant programs as you continue to work towards America's economic recovery. Right now, the focus should be on clearing the way for people and businesses to safely reopen and efficiently deliver goods and services. Limiting the ability of already struggling American businesses to hire talent that is willing, qualified, and able will undermine our productivity and slow down our recovery process, in turn hurting those looking to get back to work.

Some may believe that immigration is an obstacle to recovery and prosperity, but that approach is misguided as it mistakenly assumes that the economy is static, rather than dynamic. The labor market, like the economy, is dynamic and not a one-size-fits-all pool of available jobs. So, when a new person enters the labor market, it does not mean one less slot is available for those on the outside of the labor market. This has been proven to be the case even during economic downturns.

Additionally, research has shown that most of America's economic gains after the 2008 financial collapse would have been largely eliminated if not for the shared contributions of U.S. citizens and immigrants seeking new opportunities. And from 2006 to 2016, immigrants were responsible for nearly half of the U.S. labor force growth, a key component of economic growth.

Throughout our country's history, American ingenuity and global competitiveness has been complemented by the unique skills and experience that immigrants have contributed to America. For example, research has found that immigrants account for about a quarter of US invention and entrepreneurship, and since 1972 immigrants have accounted for about 25% of the patents in technology, medical research and development, electronics, and chemical technologies. Meanwhile, companies who applied for new H-1B workers created new products and replaced outdated ones at a 17 percent higher rate than other firms.

It is imperative that we not further isolate America and restrict legal channels for those seeking to contribute by learning, developing, or applying their unique talents here in America. We do not need to suspend, further restrict, or impose additional barriers to our legal immigration system—we need to build a better one.

In the meantime, however, the focus should be on removing barriers that stand in the way of our recovery, including barriers to the legal immigration system, rather than doubling down on policies that undermine these efforts. Americans for Prosperity and The LIBRE Initiative stand ready to partner with your administration and lawmakers from both sides to continue to pursue policies that will ensure America recovers stronger than ever.

Sincerely,



Brent Gardner
Chief Government Affairs Officer
Americans for Prosperity



Daniel Garza
President
The LIBRE Initiative