



May 21, 2018

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Leahy:

We represent the sponsors, businesses, and industries that recruit, host, and support Exchange Visitor Program participants every year. We thank Congress for protecting the U.S. Department of State's J-1 visa Exchange Visitor Programs in the Fiscal Year 2018 omnibus appropriations bill that was signed into law. Specifically, the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations directive Sec. 7034(d)(5) supports exchange programs that are vital to U.S. national security and economy. We support retaining this directive in Fiscal Year 2019.

The directive contains specific requirements that Exchange Visitor Programs must remain the same as enacted by the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, unless the U.S. Department of State goes through a transparent, formal rulemaking process, actively consults with Congress, and conducts and reports publicly on the impact of any modification on our public diplomacy goals and our economy. Such a regulatory process would allow stakeholders to comment on proposed changes and its impact on our national security and regional economies. Given the recently published Spring 2018 federal regulatory agenda includes pending regulations impacting the Exchange Visitor Program, it continues to be important that a transparent and consultative process exists.

For nearly 50 years, the Exchange Visitor Program has created rich cultural experiences for young people from around the world, expanding America's people-to-people diplomacy at virtually no cost to U.S. taxpayers. This results in lasting diplomatic and national security benefits by improving the perception of the United States. The benefit to U.S. communities is significant as well – for example, a study conducted by EurekaFacts validated that Summer Work Travel participants contributed \$509 million to the U.S. economy in 2016.

As organizations and companies representing industries that value the Exchange Visitor Program, we support Summer Work Travel, Intern, Trainee, Camp Counselor, and Au Pair programs, as well as other cultural exchange programs. We urge you to ensure that these programs are not



eliminated or restricted by retaining Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations directive Sec. 7034(d)(5) in Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alliance for International Exchange
Agassiz Village Summer Camp, Poland, ME
Alliance Abroad Group
American Cultural Exchange Service,
Bellevue, WA
American Hotel and Lodging Association
American Institute For Foreign Study
American International Recruitment Council
American Secondary Schools for
International Students and Teachers
American Work Adventures
Aramark
Association for Teen-Age Diplomats, Inc.
Association of Pool and Spa Professionals
B&M Story, LLC, El Paso, TX
Bandanas Restaurant, Wildwood Crest, NJ
Beach Mart Inc., Kitty Hawk, NC
Beach Villa Motel & Cottages, Old Orchard
Beach, ME
Borderless Friends Forever, Cary, NC

Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
and CVB, Branson, MO
Brant Lake Camp, Brant Lake, NY
Brass Balls Saloon, Ocean City, MD
Brava, LLC, Virginia Beach, VA
Breezy Point Resort/Whitebirch, Inc., Breezy
Point, MN
California Ski Industries Association
Camp Allen, Bedford, NH
Camp Canadensis, Canadensis, PA
Camp Chen-A-Wanda, Thompson, PA
Camp Chewonki, Wiscasset, ME
Camp Counselors USA
Camp Echo Lake, Warrensburg, NY
Camp Hillcroft, Lagrangeville, NY
Camp Hilltop, Hancock, NY
Camp Kieve, Nobleboro, ME
Camp Kupugani, Leaf River, IL
Camp Nakanawa, Inc., Crossville, TN
Camp Nor'wester, Edmonds, WA



Camp Oneka, Tafton, PA
Camp Richardson Resort, South Lake Tahoe, CA
Camp Shohola for Boys, Greeley, PA
Camp Towanda, Honesdale, PA
Camp Vega, Fayette, ME
Camp Walden, Denmark, ME
Camp Wavus, Jefferson, ME
Camp White Eagle, Leaf River, IL
Camp Winnebago, Fayette, ME
Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce and CVB, Cape Cod, MA
Cape May County Chamber, Cape May, NJ
Carousel Hotel Group, Ocean City, MD
Carowinds, Charlotte, NC
Cedar Fair, Sandusky, OH
Cedar Point, Sandusky, OH
Central Pier Arcade LLC/Central Pier Raceway LLC, Atlantic City, NJ
Children of All Nations, Austin, TX
Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI
Colorado Ski Country USA
Concordia Language Villages/Concordia College
Council on International Educational Exchange
Cultural Exchange Network
Cultural Homestay International
Cultural Vistas
Cy's Deli, Grand Lake, CO
Daytona Inn, Wildwood, NJ
Deer Crossing Camp, Redwood City, CA
Deer Valley Resort, Park City, UT
Dorney Park, Allentown, PA
DQ Grill & Chill, Alexandria, MN
Duck Donuts, Outer Banks, NC
Dutch Soccer School, Columbia, MD
Educational Resource Development Trust, Santa Monica, CA
Face The World Foundation
Falcon Camp, Carrollton, OH
Foreign Links Around the Globe International, Albuquerque, NM
GeoVisions
German American Chamber of Commerce California
Global Management Services, Inc., Chicago, IL
Gordon Lodge, Baileys Harbor, WI



Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, MI
Grand Teton Lodge Company, Moran, WY
Grandview Motel and Cottages, Laconia, NH
Grayfield Development LLC, Lake Delton, WI
Hampton Country Day Camp, East Hampton, NY
InterExchange
International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions
International Culture and Career Exchange
International Exchange of North America
Izaak Walton Inn, Essex, MT
Jack Rouse Associates, Inc., Cincinnati, OH
Kings Dominion, Doswell, VA
Lake Erie Shores & Islands CVB, Port Clinton, OH
Landmark Resort, Egg Harbor, WI
Main Street Market, Egg Harbor, WI
Maine Innkeepers Association
Maine Restaurant Association
Medomak Camp, Washington, ME
Midwest Ski Areas Association
Mike's Seafood and Dock Restaurant, Sea Isle City, NJ

Monika Enterprises, El Paso, TX
Morey's Piers, Wildwood, NJ
Morey's Resorts, Wildwood, NJ
National Park Hospitality Association
National Ski Areas Association
New Jersey Amusement Association
Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association
Ocean Horizon Properties, LLC, Virginia Beach, VA
Ohio Travel Association
Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association
Pan American Hotel, Wildwood Crest, NJ
ResortQuest by Wyndham Vacation Rentals, Bethany Beach, DE
Rogue Valley Family YMCA, Medford, OR
Round Hill Pines Beach Resort, South Lake Tahoe, CA
Rushmore Express Inn and Family Suites, Keystone, SD
Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge, Deerwood, MN
Seapointe Village Realty, Wildwood Crest, NJ
Ski New Hampshire
Ski Utah
Smaller Earth, Inc., Austin, TX



Southeast Ski Areas Association

Spirit Cultural Exchange

Starlux Mini Golf, Wildwood, NJ

States' 4-H International Exchange Programs,
Seattle, WA

Sun Valley Resort, Sun Valley, ID

Sunday River, Bethel, ME

Teacher's Council, Inc., Annapolis, MD

Terra Lingua USA, Terryville, CT

The Breakfast Club/ The Breakfast Club, too,
Lake Placid, NY

The Cross-Cultural Internship Program,
Brooklyn, NY

The Olympia Companies, ME and NH

The Pizza Jerks, Ltd., Lake George, NY

The Suites Hotel, Duluth, MN

TKO Hospitality, Dewey Beach, DE

Troy International

United Studies Inc. Student Exchange, Hot
Springs, AR

United Work and Travel

Vail Resorts (Heavenly, Northstar,
Kirkwood), Tahoe, CA

Valleyfair, Valley, MN

Vermont Ski Areas Association

Vertical Bistro & Tap/ Rudi's deli/
Brickhouse 40, Winter Park and Granby, CO

Village Green Motel, South Yarmouth, MA

Virginia Beach Hotel Association

Wee Burn Country Club, Inc./Wee Burn
Beach Club, Darien and Rowayton, CT

Western States Tourism Policy Council

White Birch Village Resort, Boulder Junction,
WI

Whitefish Mountain Resort, Whitefish, MT

Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI

World Education Services

World Link Inc., Kalona, IA

World Wide Cultural Exchange

World's Best Donuts, Grand Marais, MN

Worlds of Fun, Kansas City, MO

WYSE Travel Confederation

Xanterra Travel Collection

YMCA Camp Chingachgook, Kattskill Bay, NY

Yogi Bear's Camp-Resort & Water
Playground, Baraboo, WI