



October 1, 2019

The Honorable Marie Royce  
Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ms. Royce:

We write to update our letter dated May 14, 2018 and to share our views on the proposed new regulation regarding Summer Work Travel (SWT) program (RIN: 1400-AE92).

In our view, the process for the proposed new rule should take place after the pending SWT final regulation (RIN: 1400-AD14) is issued, implemented, and evaluated. Evaluation of the final rule enactment should include assessing any new associated expenses, as well as taking into consideration timing of implementation process for SWT program. Once the final rule is fully implemented and evaluated, then if necessary a new rule should be considered in consultation with Congress and exchange programs stakeholders.

We view this proposed new rule as impacted by appropriations directive related to Exchange Visitor Program. Specifically, the directive was adopted as part of State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, Sec. 7034(d)(5) of enacted Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 (Public Law 115-141) and Sec. 7034(e)(5) of enacted FY2019 (Public Law 116-6) appropriations bills, as well as retained in Senate and House FY2020 bills. 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 and implemented through regulations, 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.

We applaud the Bureau's considerable efforts over the many years to make the Exchange Visitor Program a success, as strengthening the program is our mutual goal. We look forward to our continued work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ilir Zherka".

Ilir Zherka  
Executive Director