

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write today regarding Presidential Proclamation 10052. This Proclamation suspends the entry of foreign nationals under certain visa categories until December 31, 2020, including J-1 visitors within the teacher category. On August 12, 2020, the United States Department of State issued an exemption that allows J-1 visitors in the teacher category who teach foreign languages to enter the country when sponsored by an entity with a program number beginning with “G-5,” which is limited to governmental sponsors only.

By bifurcating the program in this way, the Administration has inadvertently allowed certain states and school districts to continue hiring foreign teachers while leaving those without such programs with no recourse. For example, there are 33 states that do not have any sort of G-5 designation. Furthermore, many states that do have a G-5 designation have elected to prioritize public-private partnerships and utilize private sector entities to help administer the teacher exchange programs. Ultimately, this means that most states and school districts cannot participate in this exchange program; and for others, private companies are being forced out of business by expanded government regulations. The most expedient way to alleviate this unintended consequence would be to allow teachers sponsored by an entity with a program number beginning with “P-3” or “P-4” to come to the United States to teach.

Additionally, on August 18, 2020, your administration designated all teachers as “essential workers.”¹ We agree that teachers are essential to students and believe that with the school year beginning either in-person, remotely, or both, now is not the time to limit temporary, experienced, and valuable teachers for our students.

If the teaching positions in question are in high-need subject areas where qualified local candidates are not available, or the positions are specifically intended to further the national interest through cultural exchange, then school districts will be fulfilling the needs and education

¹https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_4.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_FINAL%20AUG%2018v2_0.pdf

of their students while striving to protect American jobs and teachers. Again, we respectfully request that teachers sponsored by an entity with a program number beginning with “P-3” or “P-4” be allowed to serve our nation’s children.

Students enrolled in school have lost valuable time, resources, and learning experience due to the onset of COVID-19. Accordingly, we strongly believe we should not be restricting the availability of experienced teachers and respectfully ask that you reconsider the unintended consequences of limiting the J-1 teacher exchange program. For more information, please contact Jake Hilkin in the office of Rep. Ralph Norman (Jake.Hilkin@mail.house.gov) or Christine Godinez in the office of Rep. Titus (Christine.Godinez@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



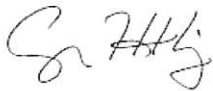
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress



Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress



George Holding
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress