



December 3, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer:

We represent the sponsors, businesses, and industries that recruit, host, and support international exchange visitors every year. We wish to express our concerns regarding the supplemental fees for international student and exchange visitors included in the Build Back Better (BBB) Act passed by the U.S. House of Representatives (H.R. 5376). While the Alliance understands the need to offset the costs of the immigration provisions included in the bill, the fees would significantly increase the burden to the international exchange community which is still reeling from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The House bill proposes three additional fees: a \$250 fee on F, M, and J visa applicants, a \$500 fee to change or extend such visas, and a \$19 fee for entering the United States. The inclusion of these fees would reduce the accessibility of international exchange programs by increasing the financial burden on participants and program sponsors. Individuals from developing nations are likely to be disproportionately affected from the fees, particularly as they already face challenges associated with obtaining the Covid-19 vaccination in their home country where vaccines may not be readily available.

Exchange program sponsors are also likely to be negatively impacted. In 2020 alone, we estimate that the exchange community suffered over \$1.2 billion in losses. Thousands of employees were laid off. Unfortunately, those losses continued this year and may be compounded next year due to the emergence of new Covid virus variants.

Given the ongoing struggles with the pandemic, we request that the Senate **not** include these fees or other exchange-related visa fees in their Build Back Better Act. Avoiding these fees would enable equal opportunity for exchange applicants worldwide and help facilitate the recovery of the international exchange community in the United States.

Moreover, Congress should continue to differentiate between short versus long-term programs. Short-term exchange participants have traditionally been treated differently from longer-term academic or vocational participants. For example, F-1 students pay \$350 in SEVIS fees, while short term programs like Au Pair, Camp Counselor, and Summer Work Travel pay \$35. This distinction between short- and long-term fees should be maintained to ensure the longevity of such programs.



Thank you for your consideration and for your strong support of international exchange programs.

Sincerely,

Alliance for International Exchange, Washington, D.C.  
AFS Intercultural Programs, New York, NY  
Alliance Abroad Group, Austin TX  
Alliance Strategies Inc., Austin, TX  
American Camp Association, Martinsville, IN  
American Hospitality Academy, Summerland Key, FL  
American Institute For Foreign Study, Stamford, CT  
American International Recruitment Council, Falls Church, VA  
American Work Adventures, Petaluma, CA  
American Work Experience, Greenwich, CT  
Amity Institute, San Diego, CA  
Angels By The Sea Hawaii, Honolulu, HI  
AquaSafe Pool Management, Inc., Hanover, MD  
ASSIST, Suffield, CT  
Au Pair International, Boulder, CO  
Avid4 Adventure, Boulder, CO  
Beber Camp, Mukwonago, WI  
Belgian American Chamber of Commerce, New York, NY  
Birch Trail Camp, Minong, WI  
Blue Ridge Camp, Clayton, GA  
Brown Ledge Camp, Colchester, VT  
Bryn Mawr Camp, Honesdale, PA  
Buena Vista ISD, Imperial, TX  
C.A.M.P., Hunt, TX  
Camp Agudah, Liberty, NY  
Camp Akeela, Thetford, VT  
Camp America Day Camp, Chalfont, PA  
Camp Blue Ridge, Clayton, GA  
Camp Carolina, Brevard, NC  
Camp Carysbrook, Riner, VA  
Camp Champions, Marble Falls, TX  
Camp Chaviva, Ellenville NY  
Camp Chen-A-Wanda, Thompson, PA  
Camp Chipinaw, Swan Lake, NY  
Camp Deerhorn, Rhinelander, WI  
Camp Doublecreek, Round Rock, TX  
Camp Fern, Marshall, TX

Camp Fire River Bend, Vandalia, MI  
Camp Foley, Pine River, MN  
Camp Friendship, Palmyra, VA  
Camp Glen Arden, Tuxedo, NC  
Camp High Rocks, Brevard, NC  
Camp Hillcroft, Lagrangeville, NY  
Camp Hilltop, Hancock, NY  
Camp Honey Creek for Girls, Hunt, TX  
Camp Horizons, Harrisonburg VA  
Camp Horseshoe, Rhinelander, WI  
Camp Jaycee, Effort, PA  
Camp Kamaji for Girls, Cass Lake, MN  
Camp La Junta, Hunt, TX  
Camp Laurel, Mount Vernon, ME  
Camp Laurel South, Casco, ME  
Camp Lee Mar, Lackawaxen, PA  
Camp Lenox, Otis, MA  
Camp Lohikan, Lake Como, PA  
Camp Longhorn, Burnet, TX  
Camp Manitou for Boys, Oakland, ME  
Camp Matoaka, Smithfield, ME  
Camp Mont Shenandoah, Millboro Springs, VA  
Camp Moshava, Honesdale, PA  
Camp Mystic, Hunt, TX  
Camp Netimus, Sugar Run, PA  
Camp Nor'wester, Edmonds, WA  
Camp Olympia, Trinity, TX  
Camp Pinnacle, Hendersonville, NC  
Camp Poyntelle, Little Neck, NY  
Camp Quinebarg, Moultonborough, NH  
Camp Ramah in the Poconos, Lakewood, PA  
Camp Robin Hood, Freedom, NH  
Camp Robindel for Girls, Moultonborough, NH  
Camp Roosevelt Firebird, Bowerston, OH  
Camp Saginaw, Oxford, PA  
Camp Scatico, Elizaville, NY  
Camp Sonshine, Roca, NE  
Camp Starlight, Starlight, PA  
Camp Stella Maris, Livonia, NY  
Camp Stewart for Boys, Hunt, TX  
Camp Tekakwitha, Leeds, ME  
Camp Thunderbird, Bemidji, MN

Camp Timberlane for Boys, Woodruff, WI  
Camp Ton-A-Wandah, Hendersonville, NC  
Camp Towanda, Honesdale, PA  
Camp Vega Corp, Fayette, ME  
Camp Wa-Klo for Girls, Dublin, NH  
Camp Waldemar, Hunt, TX  
Camp Walt Whitman, White Plains, NY  
Camp Wawenock, Raymond, ME  
Camp Wayne for Boys, Preston Park, PA  
Camp Weequahic, Lakewood, PA  
Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake, Penn Yan, NY  
Camp Wingate\*Kirkland, Yarmouth Port, MA  
Camp Winnebago, Fayette, ME  
Camp Wyoming, Wyoming, IA  
Camp Young Judaea, Amherst, NH  
Camps Baco and Che-Na-Wah, Minerva, NY  
Camps Equinunk & Blue Ridge, Equinunk, PA  
Capital District YMCA, Albany, NY  
Castle Island Bilingual Montessori, Albany, NY  
Cedar Lodge, Lawrence, MI  
Christian Camps and Conferences Inc., Alton, NH  
City of Concord/Camp Concord, Concord, CA  
Club Getaway, Kent, CT  
College Settlement Camps, Horsham, PA  
Communicating for Agriculture Exchange Program, Fergus Falls, MN  
Concordia Language Villages, Moorhead, MN  
Cordell Hull Foundation for International Education, New York, NY  
Council of American Overseas Research Centers, Washington, D.C.  
Council of International Programs USA, Cleveland, OH  
Crystal Lake Camps, Hughesville, PA  
CSB International, Inc., Bay Shore, NY  
Cub Creek Science Camp, Rolla, MO  
Cultural Care Au Pair, Cambridge, MA  
Cultural Exchange Network (Cenet), Cape Girardeau, MO  
Cultural Homestay International (CHI), San Anselmo, CA  
Deer Crossing Camp, Redwood City, CA  
Dumas School District, Dumas, AR  
Dutch Soccer School, Ellicott City, MD  
Dynamic Global Exchange, Bingham Farms, MI  
Ebner Camps, Inc., Torrington, CT  
Educational Partners International, Swannanoa, NC  
Educational Resource Development Trust (ERDT), Santa Monica, CA



EF Foundation, Cambridge, MA  
Elks Camp Moore, Woodbridge, NJ  
EnglishUSA, Atlanta, GA  
Epstein, Mount Arlington, NJ  
Evans Creek Retreat LLC, Lyons, OR  
Falcon Camp, Carrollton OH  
Fleur de Lis Camp, Fitzwilliam, NH  
Four Winds \* Westward Ho Camp, Deer Harbor, WA  
Frost Valley YMCA, Claryville, NY  
Girl Scouts of Maine, South Portland, ME  
Global Ambassador Programs, Austin, TX  
Global Educational Concepts, Nashville, TN  
Global Indiana, Inc., Fort Wayne, IN  
Global Teaching Partners, Morrisville, NC  
Global Ties U.S., Washington, D.C.  
Gold Advisory, Boulder, CO  
Gold Arrow Camp, Lakeshore, CA  
Gravity International Programs Inc., New York, NY  
GreatAuPair, LLC, Austin, TX  
Greater Wyoming Valley Area YMCA, Wilkes-Barre, PA  
Grotonwood Camp and Conference Center, Groton, MA  
Harbor Camps, Needham, MA  
Heart O' the Hills Camp for Girls, Hunt, TX  
Hermann Sons Life Camp, Comfort, TX  
Hillcroft Day Camp Inc., Lagrangeville, NY  
IA/FA Operating Co. LLC, Fryeburg, ME  
ICCE Inc., Los Angeles, CA  
Institute for International Education and Exchange (IIEEX), San Diego, CA  
Institute of Global Exchange, Inc., Torrance, CA  
InterExchange, Inc., New York, NY  
International Exchange of North America, Hackettstown, NJ  
International Expert Resources, Austin, TX  
International Teacher Exchange Services LLC, Charlotte, NC  
Intrax Inc., San Francisco, CA  
Iroquois Springs, Rock Hill, NY  
Island Lake Camp, Starrucca PA  
Janus International Hospitality Student Exchange, Ruther Glen, VA  
JCC Chicago, Chicago, IL  
Kamp Kohut, Oxford, ME  
Keewaydin, Salisbury, VT  
Koerner Law Firm, New Orleans, LA  
Lake of the Woods. & Greenwoods Camps, Glencoe, IL



Lake Wenatchee YMCA Camp, Leavenworth, WA  
Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota, Custer, SD  
Mackinac Island Tourism, Mackinac Island, MI  
Merrimack Valley YMCA Camp Nokomis, Lawrence, MA  
Mid-Cape J-1 Housing Program/Cape Cod J-1 Road Safety Program, Orleans, MA  
Montessori del Mundo, Aurora, CO  
Mountain Camp Woodside, Portola Valley, CA  
Multinational Exchange for Sustainable Agriculture, Berkeley, CA  
National Park Hospitality Association, McLean, VA  
New Town Public School District #1, New Town, ND  
NJY Camps, Fairfield, NJ  
North Star Camp for Boys, Hayward, WI  
NYSARC Inc. NYC Chapter, Ancramdale, NY  
Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association, Ocean City, MD  
Odyssey International Exchange, Los Angeles, CA  
Orangeburg High School for Health Professions, Orangeburg, SC  
PA Camp Association, Woodstock, NY  
Pan Atlantic Exchanges, Portland, ME  
Pierce Camps Roslyn, Wolfeboro, NH  
Pinemere Camp, Philadelphia, PA  
Pocono Springs Camp, East Stroudsburg, PA  
Point O'Pines Camp, Brant Lake, NY  
Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly, Hunt, TX  
Presidio USA LLC, Glasgow, KY  
Renee Mills, Swan Lake, NY  
Rian Immigrant Center, Boston, MA  
Ridgewood YMCA, Port Murray, NJ  
Rockyworld Deephaven Camps, Holderness, NH  
Sagamore Institute, Inc., Indianapolis, IN  
Sandy Hill LLC, North East, MD  
Sears Pool Management, Atlanta, GA  
Shady Oaks Camp, Homer Glen, IL  
Sherman Lake YMCA, Augusta, MI  
Signature Services Corporation, Dallas, TX  
Silver Bay YMCA, Silver Bay, NY  
Socrates Academy, Matthews, NC  
Spirit Cultural Exchange, Kildeer, IL  
State YMCA Camp of Maine, Winthrop, ME  
Sunset Pool Management, Inc., Arlington, VA  
Swan Mountain Outfitters, West Glacier, MT  
Tamarak Day Camp, Lincolnshire, IL  
The American-Scandinavian Foundation, New York, NY



The British International School of NY, New York, NY  
The Center for International Education Inc., Chapel Hill, NC  
The Cottage Café, Bethany Beach, DE  
The Forum on Education Abroad, Carlisle, PA  
The Global Transformers, Washington, D.C.  
The Guided Tour's Seashore Program, Elkins Park, PA  
The North-West Passage, San Diego, CA  
The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH  
The Pool and Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA), Alexandria, VA  
The Susquehannock Camps Brackney, PA  
The Tyler Place Resort, Highgate Springs, VT  
Timber Lake West Camp, Roscoe, NY  
Trail Blazer Camps, Brooklyn, NY  
Trail's End Camp, Beach Lake, PA  
Tyler Hill Camp, Tyler Hill, PA  
Tyler Robertson, Burnet, TX  
U.S. Travel Association, Washington, D.C.  
United Cerebral Palsy of the North Bay, Petaluma, CA  
United Studies, Inc., Hot Springs, AR  
United Work and Travel, Owings Mills, MD  
University and College Intensive English Programs (UCIEP), Atlanta, GA  
University at Buffalo, the State University of New York, Buffalo, NY  
Wayne County Camp Alliance, Poyntelle, PA  
West Suburban YMCA, Newton, MA  
Westcoast Connection, Mamaroneck, NY  
William Lawrence Camp, Inc., Tuftonboro, NH  
Willoway Day Camp, Milford, MI  
Winkler Pool Management Inc., Hyattsville, MD  
World Wide Cultural Exchange, Valencia, CA  
Wyonegonic Camps, Denmark, ME  
YMCA Camo Hi Rock, Mt Washington, MA  
YMCA Camp Bernie, Port Murray, NJ  
YMCA Camp Chingachgook, Lake George, NY  
YMCA Camp Kresge, White Haven, PA  
YMCA Camp Potawotami, Wolcottville, IN  
YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO  
Youth For Understanding USA, Saginaw, MI