

Texas A&M University
Graduate and Professional Student Council
General Assembly
2017-2018 Session

**A Resolution in Favor of Reforming the Temporary Employment
(H-1B) Visa Program**

Presented by Fernando Lavallo and Brenna Lin on March 6, 2018

- Whereas: The Graduate and Professional Student Council exists to govern and to serve as the voice of all graduate and professional students at Texas A&M University.
- Whereas: The H-1B program allows companies in the U.S. to temporarily employ foreign workers in occupations that require highly specialized knowledge. [1]
- Whereas: The H-1B visa has an annual numerical limit of 65,000 visas each fiscal year. The first 20,000 petitions filed on behalf of beneficiaries with a U.S. master's degree or higher are exempt from the cap. [2]
- Whereas: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) uses a computer-generated process, also known as the lottery, to randomly select the petitions needed to meet the caps of 65,000 visas for the general category and 20,000 for the advanced degree exemption. [3]
- Whereas: More than 350,000 [4] student visas were issued for 2017, which means more than 80% of international students that obtain higher degrees from U.S. universities will not be able to stay in the U.S. and work after graduation.
- And
Whereas: The U.S. invests resources and money towards educating international students and their advanced degrees. A lottery system for H1-B visas puts those graduates seeking temporary employment at a disadvantage against international applicants with no U.S. education.

Let it be Resolved: The Graduate and Professional Student Council at Texas A&M University is in favor of giving preference to foreign individuals with U.S. degrees instead of the current lottery system for general category H-1B.

Let it be Further Resolved: A copy of this resolution shall be posted and delivered to:

Sen. John Cornyn
U.S. Senate
Sen. Ted Cruz
U.S. Senate
Rep. Jodey Arrington
U.S. Representative
Rep. Brian Babin
U.S. Representative
Rep. Joe Barton
U.S. Representative
Rep. Kevin Brady
U.S. Representative
Rep. Michael C. Burgess
U.S. Representative
Rep. John Carter
U.S. Representative
Rep. Joaquín Castro
U.S. Representative
Rep. Mike Conaway
U.S. Representative
Rep. Henry Cuellar
U.S. Representative
Rep. John Culberson
U.S. Representative
Rep. Lloyd Doggett
U.S. Representative
Rep. Blake Farenthold
U.S. Representative
Rep. Bill Flores
U.S. Representative
Rep. Louie Gohmert
U.S. Representative
Rep. Vicente González
U.S. Representative
Rep. Kay Granger
U.S. Representative
Rep. Al Green

[1] H-1B Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Cap Season, USCIS. (Available Online)

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/h-1b-specialty-occupations-and-fashion-models/h-1b-fiscal-year-fy-2018-cap-season>

[2] H-1B Specialty Occupations, DOD Cooperative Research and Development Project Workers, and Fashion Models. (Available Online)

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/h-1b-specialty-occupations-dod-cooperative-research-and-development-project-workers-and-fashion-models>

[3] USCIS Reaches FY 2017 H-1B Cap (Available Online) <https://www.uscis.gov/news/news-releases/uscis-reaches-fy-2017-h-1b-cap>

[4] Nonimmigrant Visas Issued by Classification, The Visa Bulletin (Available Online)

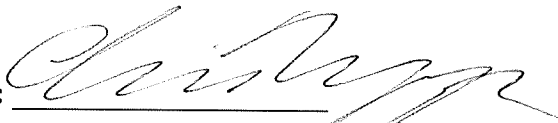
<https://travel.state.gov/content/dam/visas/Statistics/AnnualReports/FY2017AnnualReport/FY17AnnualReport-TableXVIB.pdf>

U.S. Representative
Rep. Gene Green
U.S. Representative
Rep. Jeb Hensarling
U.S. Representative
Rep. Will Hurd
U.S. Representative
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee
U.S. Representative
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson
U.S. Representative
Rep. Sam Johnson
U.S. Representative
Rep. Kenny Marchant
U.S. Representative
Rep. Michael McCaul
U.S. Representative
Rep. Beto O'Rourke
U.S. Representative
Rep. Pete Olson
U.S. Representative
Rep. Ted Poe
U.S. Representative
Rep. John Ratcliffe
U.S. Representative
Rep. Pete Sessions
U.S. Representative
Rep. Lamar S. Smith
U.S. Representative
Rep. Mac Thornberry
U.S. Representative
Rep. Marc Veasey
U.S. Representative
Rep. Filemon Vela, Jr.
U.S. Representative
Rep. Randy Weber
U.S. Representative
Rep. Roger Williams
U.S. Representative
Scott Sudduth
Assistant Vice Chancellor
Dr. Diane Hurtado
Associate Vice President for Federal Relations

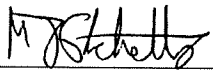
- [1] H-1B Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Cap Season, USCIS. (Available Online) <https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/h-1b-specialty-occupations-and-fashion-models/h-1b-fiscal-year-fy-2018-cap-season>
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- [3] USCIS Reaches FY 2017 H-1B Cap (Available Online) <https://www.uscis.gov/news/news-releases/uscis-reaches-fy-2017-h-1b-cap>
- [4] Nonimmigrant Visas Issued by Classification, The Visa Bulletin (Available Online) <https://travel.state.gov/content/dam/visas/Statistics/AnnualReports/FY2017AnnualReport/FY17AnnualReport-TableXVIB.pdf>

Valerie Offut
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Vice President for Government Relations
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Stefanie Baker
Advisor to the Graduate and Professional Student Council
Dr. Anne Reber
Dean of Student Life of Texas A&M University
Bobby Brooks
Student Body President
Jasmine Wang
Speaker for the Student Senate
Fernando Lavallo
Author of resolution
Brenna Lin
Author of resolution

Action Taken: passed

Certified By: 
Christian Nygren
Executive Vice President

Date: 4/3/2018

Duly Approved By: 
Matthew Etchells
President

- [1] H-1B Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Cap Season, USCIS. (Available Online) <https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/h-1b-specialty-occupations-and-fashion-models/h-1b-fiscal-year-fy-2018-cap-season>
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- [3] USCIS Reaches FY 2017 H-1B Cap (Available Online) <https://www.uscis.gov/news/news-releases/uscis-reaches-fy-2017-h-1b-cap>
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