

CHRIS PAPPAS  
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
AND INVESTIGATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
VICE CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON COAST GUARD  
AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES  
AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
323 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
P: (202) 225-5456  
MANCHESTER OFFICE:  
889 ELM STREET  
MANCHESTER, NH 03101  
P: (603) 935-6710  
DOVER OFFICE:  
660 CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 101  
DOVER, NH 03820  
P: (603) 285-4300  
WWW.PAPPAS.HOUSE.GOV

March 1, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

I write today in support of a letter you recently received from the H-2B Workforce Coalition. This organization is comprised of thousands of businesses in industries ranging from lodging, landscaping, restaurants, and tourism, and many are based in my home state of New Hampshire. The letter simply asks you to make all authorized additional H-2B visas available for Fiscal Year 2021, and to encourage President Biden to rescind Presidential Proclamation 10052, which restricts the entry of H-2B visa holders into the United States through March 31, 2021.

H-2B visa holders are critical to United States employers. These individuals fill temporary seasonal labor positions that would remain open otherwise. As the letter notes, seasonal employers actively try to recruit U.S. workers, but many are not interested in temporary jobs, or are unable to due to health or childcare concerns. This was true even during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when American workers were experiencing massive job losses.

Unfortunately, employers face outdated limits on the number of H-2B visas available, forcing them to make tough decisions about their businesses, including turning away customers or shutting down operations completely. Unless additional visas are quickly authorized beyond the cap, it is estimated that nearly two-thirds of this year's seasonal jobs will not be filled. If we don't find a solution to this issue soon, it could have disastrous implications for our economy, at a time when so many Americans are already struggling financially.

I strongly urge your careful consideration of this request, and I very much look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Pappas".

Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress