

LETTER TO CONGRESS

<Date>

The Honorable _____
United States Congress
Washington, DC _____

Re: Employment Crisis

Dear Senator/Representative _____:

We are writing to urge Congress to take immediate steps to address the crisis facing American businesses as a result of an H-1B "blackout." In a situation that has become dire, companies seeking access to the best and brightest global talent are now confronted with an unprecedented sixteen-month restriction on access to new H-1B employees.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that the FY 2007 numerical cap limiting the H-1B program for temporary professional workers was reached on May 26, 2006, four months before the start of the fiscal year. This means that U.S. companies will be denied access to topflight global talent for over 16 months, disrupting-if not destroying- crucial research and development projects in critical industries. It will also retard technological innovation and undermine our ability to create and sustain domestic employment opportunities.

Every day that passes without access to these high-skilled workers is a lost opportunity for growth, productivity, and innovation. The undersigned entities thus urge swift Congressional action to provide relief from the H-1B blackout. If U.S. companies do not gain immediate access to the best and brightest, our competitors on the global stage will continue to advance and America's competitive advantage will decline.

We thank you for your attention in this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

This memorandum may contain privileged or confidential information and is intended for use only by the individual or entity to which it is addressed. Any disclosure, copying, or distribution by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you receive this memorandum in error, please notify us as promptly as possible by telephone at the number indicated on this memo. Thank you.

SAMPLE LETTER FOR COMPANIES

<date>

The Honorable _____
United States Congress
Washington, DC _____

Dear [**Senator/Representative**] _____:

I am writing to you regarding a crisis that is negatively impacting our company's ability to stay at the cutting edge. There is a current H-1B visa "blackout" crisis that is detrimentally affecting American businesses. The H-1B visa is a vital tool necessary to keep the U.S. economy competitive in the world market and to keep jobs in America.

[Add info here about your company; add any specific examples you may have re problems caused by the H-1B cap].

As you may be aware, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service announced that the numerical cap limiting the H-1B program for temporary professional workers was reached on May 26, 2006, over four months before the start of fiscal year (FY) 2007. As the situation now stands, companies seeking access to the best and brightest global talent must now wait until April 1, 2007 to *begin* the application process for hiring an H-1B, highly-skilled worker for FY 2008, which does not start until October 1, 2007. It is untenable for American businesses to be cut-off from this talent pool until late next year.

Far from harming U.S. workers and the U.S. economy, highly educated foreign professionals benefit our country by allowing U.S. employers to develop new products, undertake groundbreaking research, implement new projects, expand operations, create additional new jobs, and compete in the global marketplace. **[Add any examples of how H-1B workers have helped your company]**

An important step you can take to address this situation is to cosponsor [**H.R. 5744/S. 2691**], the "Securing Knowledge Innovation and Leadership Act of 2006,"

This memorandum may contain privileged or confidential information and is intended for use only by the individual or entity to which it is addressed. Any disclosure, copying, or distribution by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you receive this memorandum in error, please notify us as promptly as possible by telephone at the number indicated on this memo. Thank you.

also known as the SKIL Bill. The SKIL Bill was introduced by [**Representative John Shadegg (R-AZ) on June 29, 2006/Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) on May 2, 2006**], and is a positive sign that Congress is serious about correcting a growing competitiveness crisis for the United States.

Every day that passes without access to these highly-skilled workers is a lost opportunity for growth, productivity, and innovation. If U.S. companies do not have the ability to hire the best and brightest from around the world, our international competitors will continue to hire away these talented workers, causing our nation's competitive advantage to suffer.

If you need any additional information or would like to meet regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at _____. Thank you for your attention in this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

This memorandum may contain privileged or confidential information and is intended for use only by the individual or entity to which it is addressed. Any disclosure, copying, or distribution by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you receive this memorandum in error, please notify us as promptly as possible by telephone at the number indicated on this memo. Thank you.