



July 10, 2020

Dear Mr. President,

We represent a range of companies and organizations in the technology sector that depend on access to the best and most qualified employees. We are concerned that your administration's recent decision to suspend new H-1B and other non-immigrant visas through the end of the year will needlessly put American startups at risk of falling behind international competitors and make it less likely that financially strapped companies survive the economic fallout from COVID-19. Only with access to a global pool of talent can companies and entrepreneurs advance new technologies and keep America at the forefront of global innovation.

Immigrants are a vital component of American society—more than half of the most successful startups have immigrant founders or co-founders¹—and H-1B workers in particular are critical contributors to the U.S. technology industry. They bolster the ability of American companies to compete across the globe and help our industry drive economic growth.

Welcoming H-1B visa holders into the U.S. does not take jobs away from American workers. Rather, these high-skilled workers complement and strengthen our workforce. They bolster innovation, create new jobs and employment opportunities, and contribute to the development of critically needed technologies. Preventing American tech companies from hiring needed talent will limit the ability of many of these firms to grow and recover from the pandemic's economic fallout.²

Halting the H-1B program and other non-immigrant visas may also drive jobs out of the country as companies choose to shift operations to countries with better access to the labor force they desperately need.³ Instead of perpetuating unfounded concerns that high-skilled visa holders are displacing American workers, the government should focus on assisting industries that are prioritizing U.S. innovation on a global scale with the assistance of high-skilled talent. That way, these industries can continue to drive growth and job creation, as we as a nation navigate the path to economic recovery.

We urge you to reconsider the suspension of these critical visa programs and instead focus on recovery solutions that support startups and the technology industry, like improving access to capital for companies struggling to stay afloat amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to developing solutions that help these companies continue to be a source of economic growth for the nation.

¹ Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, *COVID-19 can't be used as an excuse to limit skilled immigration*, Fortune (May 28, 2020), <https://fortune.com/2020/05/28/trump-h1b-optional-practical-training-immigration>

² Jonathan Shieber, *President Trump signs executive order temporarily suspending work visas for H-1B holders*, TechCrunch (June 22, 2020), <https://techcrunch.com/2020/06/22/president-trump-reportedly-will-sign-executive-order-temporarily-suspending-work-visas-for-h-1b-holders>

³ Id.

Sincerely,

10XTS, Inc.	CH Potomac	Grokker
14bis Supply Tracking	Chapman and Company	Hazel Technologies, Inc.
202Works	Checkbook Inc.	High Fidelity
A Better Mousetrap	Chroma Signet	hobbyDB
Addepar, Inc.	Cofounders Capital	HotelsByDay.com
Alloy	Contegix, LLC	iFixit
AlphaFlow	Contextly	InVision
Andiron, llc	Costanoa Ventures	Jetty
Animalia Health, Inc.	Cue	Karma+
Apollo GraphQL	DDL	KC Tech Council
Argon Ventures	Developers Alliance	Lawn Love
Ascend Manufacturing	Discovery, Inc.	LightField
Axle	DreamHighr	Linknovate
Badger Maps	Elevate Security	M1PR, Inc.
BirdBrain Technologies LLC	Epicenter Memphis	Mapbox
Blue Startups	Ersatz	Meditel360
Breaker Inc.	Formlabs Inc.	Meta, LLC
Broadside Digital	GitHub	Michelle Gale, Ph.D.
Bugsnag	Global Accelerator Network, LLC	MITO Material Solutions
CapSen Robotics, Inc	goTenna	Mixbook

Mobius Audio	Reddit	The Fractional CMO
MoreWithUs - Everyday Jobs	Remix	The Future of Work Studios
Motiva AI	Right to Start	The Technology Councils of North America (TECNA)
Muse Storytelling	Romar Capital, LLC	thredUP
MyTAASK Technology, Inc.	SEED SPOT	Thinkable
NetBeez	Sense360	Tostie Productions, LLC
New England Venture Capital Association	ShareProgress	Tradespace Inc.
nference	Sherpalo Ventures	Traptic, Inc
Niolabs	SlidesUp	Twitter
Onfleet, Inc.	Sofia Labs	TwoSpuds Pte Ltd
OpenGrants	SquareOffs	Uncork Capital
OrgVitality, LLC	StarHR	Unshackled Ventures
Outschool, Inc.	StudySoup	V1.VC
Overpowered Games	Sustainable Nutrition Inc	Venntive
Pearmill	SV ANGEL	Verto Education
Pinterest	TakeLessons.com	Via
PositivEnergy	Tech Prefab Inc	Voatz, Inc.
Postmates	Tenjin, Inc	Vytalize Health
Project 11 Ventures	The Caraway Group, Inc.	
Projector	The Center for Growth and Opportunity at Utah State University	