



July 10, 2020

Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

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

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.*

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.

CC:

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Sincerely,

10XTS, Inc.	14bis Supply Tracking	202Works
A Better Mousetrap	Addepar, Inc.	Alloy
AlphaFlow	Andiron, llc	Animalia Health, Inc.
Apollo GraphQL	Argon Ventures	Ascend Manufacturing
Axle	Badger Maps	BirdBrain Technologies LLC
Blue Startups	Breaker Inc.	Broadside Digital
Bugsnag	CapSen Robotics, Inc	CH Potomac
Chapman and Company	Checkbook Inc.	Chroma Signet
Cofounders Capital	Contegix, LLC	Contextly
Costanoa Ventures	Cue	DDL
Developers Alliance	Discovery, Inc.	DreamHighr
Elevate Security	Epicenter Memphis	Ersatz
Formlabs Inc.	GitHub	Global Accelerator Network, LLC
goTenna	Grokker	Hazel Technologies, Inc.
High Fidelity	hobbyDB	HotelsByDay.com

iFixit	InVision	Jetty
Karma+	KC Tech Council	Lawn Love
LightField	Linknovate	M1PR, Inc.
Mapbox	Meditel360	Meta, LLC
Michelle Gale, Ph.D.	MITO Material Solutions	Mixbook
Mobius Audio	MoreWithUs - Everyday Jobs	Motiva AI
Muse Storytelling	MyTAASK Technology, Inc.	NetBeez
New England Venture Capital Association	nference	Niolabs
Onfleet, Inc.	OpenGrants	OrgVitality, LLC
Outschool, Inc.	Overpowered Games	Pearmill
Pinterest	PositivEnergy	Postmates
Project 11 Ventures	Projector	Reddit
Remix	Right to Start	Romar Capital, LLC
SEED SPOT	Sense360	ShareProgress
Sherpalo Ventures	SlidesUp	Sofia Labs
SquareOffs	StarHR	StudySoup
Sustainable Nutrition Inc	SV ANGEL	TakeLessons.com
Tech Prefab Inc	Tenjin, Inc	The Caraway Group, Inc.
The Center for Growth and Opportunity at Utah State University	The Fractional CMO	The Future of Work Studios
The Technology Councils of North America (TECNA)	thredUP	Thunkable

Tostie Productions, LLC

Twitter

Unshackled Ventures

Verto Education

Vytalize Health

Tradespace Inc.

TwoSpuds Pte Ltd

V1.VC

Via

Traptic, Inc

Uncork Capital

Venntive

Voatz, Inc.