



STATE OF MARYLAND  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LARRY HOGAN  
GOVERNOR

September 12, 2017

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson,

I write today in support of the J-1 Visa Summer Work Travel (SWT) program. This program has over five decades of success in the State of Maryland, providing an educational exchange experience to college students from all around the world.

As you know, the SWT program offers international students the opportunity to travel to the United States for up to four months during their summer breaks to study, experience American culture, improve English-language skills, and work alongside Americans. The built-in work component model helps these students defray their living and travel expenses. I also appreciate that there is no expense to the taxpayers and that SWT program regulations contain provisions to ensure that J-1 Visa students do not displace American workers.

Many small businesses in Maryland rely on the SWT Program to meet their seasonal labor needs. Ocean City, Maryland in particular depends on these students to supplement its seasonal workforce during peak seasons. The community is also enriched by the diversity of the workforce, which adds tremendous economic and cultural value to the city. These J-1 workers not only work in our local businesses, but also shop in our stores, eat in our restaurants, and rent local accommodations, all of which contribute to the State's economic growth.

As the Administration reviews all of the U.S. visa programs, I urge you to continue this beneficial and successful cultural exchange program that helps to support local businesses in communities across the State of Maryland. Thank you for taking the time to address this important matter and for your continued dedication to our great country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'LHogan', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Larry Hogan  
Governor