



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

October 11, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

I encourage you to maintain the J-1 visa Exchange Visitor Program in its current size, regulatory structure, and operation under the Department of State. I am concerned by reports that your Administration seeks to cut back, or even eliminate, these cultural exchange programs. I want to stress the importance of these programs to mine and many other States economies, the health and sustainability of our local resort communities, and the viability of the businesses in our States that rely on both the cultural exchange and economic benefits provided by J-1 visa exchange program participants—all at no cost to the taxpayer.

The J-1 Exchange Visitor Program – including the Summer Work Travel, Au Pair, Camp Counselor, Intern, and Trainee programs – provide a critical cultural diplomacy tool for our country, dating back more than 50 years. These programs broaden the experiences of our American communities and build lasting international personal and professional relationships between American hosts and international participants.

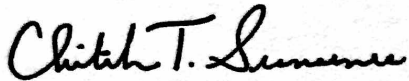
Furthermore, J-1 exchange programs, especially Summer Work Travel (SWT), also provide crucial economic and seasonal labor benefits. Changes to the J-1 visa programs would have dramatic and negative impacts on seasonal businesses in States just like mine.

Other J-1 exchange programs contribute significantly to American families and businesses in many States. The Au Pair Program supports American working families by providing an affordable and culturally rich child care option. The Camp Counselor Program supports a fixture of the summer for many young Americans, sleep-away camp. These international counselors from all over the world provide a unique, global experience for young American campers, and support American camps in remote locations that cannot fill their counselor ranks with only local staff. And the Intern and Trainee Programs bring future business leaders to train with American companies, creating new international partnerships and supporting American business development abroad.

Among other benefits, the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program allows businesses to grow, generate higher revenues, and contribute more to our State and local economies, especially in our rural communities.

Simply put, I recommend that you keep all J-1 visa programs robust and at current levels.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chitah T. Sununu". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "C" at the beginning.

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor