

NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER: PRESIDENT TRUMP PROTECTS JOBS DURING COVID-19 CRISIS.

BACKGROUND. During the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the U.S. and Nebraska economies have suffered terribly from business closures and suspensions, resulting in massive layoffs and job terminations. Over 27 million Americans suddenly unemployed. In the remaining active business sector, and as employment expands as businesses reopen, there will appear stiff competition for both old and new jobs. Foreign workers compete with Americans for jobs and drive down wages, because they willingly work for lower pay. Corrupt American companies looking for cheap labor use the H-2B visa program to fill tens of thousands of seasonal and permanent jobs in landscaping, roofing, seafood processing, and for service jobs at hotels and theme parks. About 1 million people gained green cards for such work in 2019. Non-citizens, particularly illegal aliens, should not have ability to compete with U.S. citizens for employment here. President Trump has taken quick action to Keep American Jobs Safe Again. As President, he has diligently performed his duty to ensure that Americans regain employment and livelihoods.

HIS REASONING. Mass immigration of low-skilled labor disproportionately hurts already disadvantaged Americans. By temporarily suspending all immigration, Trump places unemployed Nebraskans at the front as businesses reopen as the pandemic subsides. "I have determined that, without intervention, the United States faces a potentially protracted economic recovery with persistently high unemployment if labor supply outpaces labor demand," Trump stated in his executive order. "Excess labor supply affects all workers and potential workers, but it is particularly harmful to workers at the margin between employment and unemployment, who are typically 'last in' during an economic expansion and 'first out' during an economic contraction." This order also would prevent incoming migrants from spreading the coronavirus among Americans.

EXECUTIVE ORDER. His executive order suspends new immigrant visas for 60 days, and the Administration will monitor the labor market to amend or extend this order. Included are people awarded permanent residence under the diversity lottery, those outside the U.S. applying for work green cards, and chain migration applicants. The green card measure will limit the ability of current green card holders to bring in their extended families, a legal practice Trump calls "chain immigration" and seeks to restrict. 360,000 green card applicants blocked. Exemptions for needed medical and other essential workers, like doctors and nurses, who help combat the virus outbreak, and for spouses and minor children of legal immigrants, but not their parents or children over 21. H-1B visas allow 85,000 highly-skilled foreigners to emigrate here to work for at least 3 years. Liberal companies like Amazon, Google, Microsoft, and Facebook are very reliant on such workers. H-1B specialty workers, like computer geeks, and H-2A agriculture workers, are exempt from the ban. However, the Administration will require technology workers in the country on H-1B visas to provide updated certifications that they are not displacing American workers. His order does not apply to individuals upgrading their immigration status to that of a permanent resident. The order also does not bar beneficiaries of the Special Immigrant Visa, which permits people in special circumstances, like Afghan and Iraqi nationals who helped the U.S. government and armed forces in some capacity, to settle in the U.S. Also an exemption for EB-5 visas for those who invest at least \$900,000 in our broken economy and foreign children being adopted. The Administration is reviewing guest ag worker programs to assess if exclusion needed here. Meanwhile, his order will allow the feds to continue processing visas for thousands of temporary workers like landscapers and crab pickers. "This order will ensure that unemployed Americans of all backgrounds will be first in line for jobs as our economy reopens," Trump said at a briefing. "It will also preserve our healthcare resources for American patients." The 170 miles of new border wall will assist in enforcing this order. Trump alluded to signing a 2nd executive order in the future, imposing additional immigration restrictions. The Administration already had stopped much routine visa processing and refugee resettlement during the pandemic. On March 18, the State Department canceled most routine immigrant and nonimmigrant visa appointments at its offices overseas, shutting down almost all categories of travel into the U.S. 9.2 million visas issued at consulates and embassies overseas in 2019. Routine visa processing for tourists suspended. This department also stopped all processing for refugee resettlement. This order effectively ends asylum at U.S. borders, turning away unaccompanied children, by invoking a rarely used 1944 law aimed at preventing the spread of communicable diseases. The Trump order will stop narco-traffickers, taking advantage of the pandemic, from using illegal aliens to haul in drugs. 50 days after its signing, the Secretary of Homeland Security must recommend to Trump if he should continue or revise it.



SESSIONS IDEA. Former Att.-Gen. Jeff Sessions originated the idea for this presidential plan. He referenced polls which showed almost 90% of Americans believe that Americans should get jobs instead of foreigners. Sessions said, "Who do we owe our responsibility to as government and public officials? It's to the American people first." The President activated this Sessions proposal in order to prioritize citizens for jobs as our economy recovers. Sessions currently is running for his old Senate seat.

IMMEDIATE RESULTS. U.S. border authorities immediately can expel border crossers, effectively emptying U.S. Border Patrol holding facilities of detainees. Immigration authorities say that measures are in place to help federal agents, health care workers, and the public by preventing potentially infected migrants from crossing into the U.S. while minimizing the population of sick detainees in U.S. immigration jails.

SUPPORT. Polling reveals strong support for this decree. Almost 80% of people polled favor a temporary pause on immigration.¹ A Pew Poll noted that 81% of Americans view mass immigration now as a threat. Another poll found that 70% agreed that the feds should temporarily ban immigration.² A recent Harvard-Harris poll found that 83% of



Americans favor ending all immigration from Mexico during the coronavirus pandemic. The American people widely endorse pausing immigration during this virus crisis and record unemployment, stated the government relations director at Federation for American Immigration Reform, adding that the President must accommodate his constituents, not Big Business obsessed with low wage and cheap foreign employees. Thomas Homan, former acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said it made "sense" and would retain jobs for unemployed Americans. Numbers USA, a group advocating conservative

immigration policies, welcomed the order, saying "The pandemic adds urgency and a justification for executive action to temporarily halt most immigration and guest worker programs during this current job collapse."

Conservatives actually wanted the President to further restrict immigration. Many immigrants seeking green cards already are living here, so merely delaying their processing 60 days will not help U.S. employees and will place pressure on hospitals. Moreover, the Administration temporarily removed several limitations on ag workers, permitting them to stay beyond their 3- year maximum limit. Also, the Administration continued to approve 35,000 additional seasonal worker visas.

OPPOSITION. Socialist Democrats accuse the President of using the pandemic to achieve his objective of permanently limiting immigration. They accuse Trump of pandering to his political base to fulfill a campaign pledge. Some Republicans argue with the President that immigrants needed here to preserve the food supply moving from meatpacking plants and to staff other industries. The AFL-CIO accuses the President of creating a virus distraction with his order. Leftists like the ACLU promise a court challenge, charging Trump with fanning anti-immigrant prejudice, guilty of racism and immigrant phobia. Amnesty International called Trump a demagogue. Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-TX, chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, called it "an authoritarian-like move to take advantage of a crisis and advance his anti-immigrant agenda." House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler and Immigration and Citizenship Chairman Zoe Lofgren, both Socialist Democrats, complained in a joint statement that the order was an "illegal and shocking usurpation of power" meant to forward the presidential "anti-immigrant agenda."

LEGAL AUTHORITY. Trump has relied on legal authority created by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that upheld his travel ban targeting particular nations in 2018. Section 212(f) of the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act gives the President wide authority to block the entry of categories of people he believes detrimental to U.S. interests. When Congress debated this act in 1952, Cong. Francis Walters (PA.), a bill sponsor, stated that if a foreign pandemic arrives, individuals in large numbers might seek entrance to the U.S. and bring communicable diseases with them. If we then suffered a period of high unemployment, the President had authority to decree that for a specific time he would stop immigration.

Title 42 of the U.S. Code allows the President to stop immigration for health reasons. Federal courts have said the law places very few limits on presidential authority to restrict entry to the U.S. Federal law says nothing about what factors a president should consider or how long a suspension should last. The Supreme Court also ruled that a president not required to say in advance how long a suspension of immigration would endure. Section 1182(f) of Title 8 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) allows the president to "suspend the entry of all aliens or any class of aliens as

¹ USA Today/Ipsos poll.

² Scott Rasmussen survey.

immigrants or non-immigrants, or impose on the entry of aliens any restrictions he may deem appropriate.” The more justification Trump offers in his executive order, the easier he will win in court after the inevitable challenges arise. Note that during the Great Depression, the federal government drastically reduced legal immigration by about 90%.



TAKE ACTION NOW. The first responsibility of the American government is the health and safety of American citizens. We should praise and not criticize President Trump for accepting that responsibility for the well-being of Americans while his critics falsely accuse him of pandering to his base voters. His action necessary to rebuild our economy and stabilize the middle class. To support President Trump, call or email your representative and 2 senators. Urge them to endorse this presidential executive order and publicly support the President. Write a guest editorial to your local newspaper and call in to your local radio talk show. Email netaxpayers@gmail.com for congressional contact information and join our NTF *President Watch Project*.

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Total Governmental Expenditures on Illegal Aliens



Total Tax Contributions by Illegal Aliens

