

ONE HUNDRED ONE NORTH CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701
OFFICE: (775) 684-5670
FAX No.: (775) 684-5683



555 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE, SUITE 5100
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101
OFFICE: (702) 486-2500
FAX No.: (702) 486-2505

Office of Governor Steve Sisolak

July 2, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

RECEIVED

By ESEC External at 11:45 am, Jul 22, 2020

Re: Request for teacher exemption from Proclamation 10014

Dear President Trump:

As Governor of the State Nevada, I write to express my profound concerns with the suspension of the J-1 visa program for our educators. The suspension of these visas undermines access to talents and skills that have historically enriched and enhanced our State and our nation and will potentially leave thousands of special education students without a teacher.

According to the Nevada Department of Education, there are about 250 educators on a J-1 visa at any given time in our State. While we are thankful that your Proclamation does not impact teachers already in the country, it will hinder our State's ability to hire approximately 100 teachers for the upcoming school year.

The Clark County School District (CCSD), one of the largest school districts in the country, recruited 135 teachers benefiting from a J-1 visa, and extended offers to 95. Importantly, 88 of the 95 teachers were recruited by CCSD to fill critical special education vacancies in our State. These teachers were scheduled to arrive in our State as early as this month and begin instruction in the upcoming school year. However, unless immediate action is taken to exclude these teachers from the suspension, additional students will be deprived of licensed and highly qualified teachers.

I know we both share a common interest for our children's future. As such, I urge you to amend the Proclamation and provide an immediate exemption for these teachers. I strongly believe that an exemption is necessary to avoid a devastating impact on our most vulnerable students, not just in Nevada, but across our entire nation. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Governor Steve Sisolak
State of Nevada

Cc: Secretary Betsy DeVos, U.S. Department of Education
Acting Secretary Chad F. Wolf, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Secretary Michael R. Pompeo, U.S. Department of State
Secretary Eugene Scalia, U.S. Department of Labor



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

August 5, 2020

The Honorable Steve Sisolak
Governor
State of Nevada
100 One North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Governor Sisolak:

Thank you for your July 2, 2020 letter to President Trump expressing support for J-1 nonimmigrant educators. You sent a copy of the letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and Acting Secretary Wolf asked that I respond on his behalf.

DHS is committed to preserving and upholding the nation's prosperity and economic security. We recognize that individuals, employers, and others face immigration-related challenges as a direct result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) national emergency and as the first phases of reopening begin. We carefully analyze these issues and leverage our resources to effectively address these challenges within our existing authorities. DHS continues to act to protect the American people and our communities and is considering a number of policies and procedures to improve the employment opportunities of U.S. workers during the pandemic.

In addition to Proclamation 10014 of April 22, 2020, President Trump issued a "Proclamation Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the U.S. Labor Market Following the Coronavirus Outbreak" on June 22, 2020 (Proclamation 10052).¹ The Presidential Proclamation temporarily restricts certain categories of visas from being issued to protect jobs for American workers while our economy recovers from the effects of COVID-19. This does not affect those currently working in the United States in valid nonimmigrant classifications. The Proclamation also does not prevent individuals in possession of valid H, J, or L visas prior to the effective date of the Proclamation from entering or re-entering the country in these categories, if they have been abroad, provided they have not otherwise rendered themselves inadmissible.

It is also important for us to emphasize that the Proclamation does not affect U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services processing or our adjudication of immigration benefit requests, including petitions and applications related to the H, J and L programs. In addition, we have taken decisive actions to help accommodate applicants and petitioners during the pandemic.²

¹ On June 29, 2020, the President issued further clarification in the "Proclamation on Amendment to Proclamation 10052."

² For policy updates, operational changes and COVID-19 information, please visit uscis.gov/coronavirus.

You recommended that nonimmigrants who will be filling certain educator positions be exempt from the limitations imposed by the Proclamation. For individuals who are outside the United States without a valid work visa, we kindly defer to our colleagues at the Department of State on this issue, as visa processing and issuance is under their area of responsibility.

Thank you again for your letter and your interest in this important matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J Edlow', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joseph Edlow
Deputy Director for Policy