

9 February 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers – USA (IEEE-USA), the largest organization of technology workers in the world, I applaud your efforts to fix our broken immigration system. As you do so, we urge you not to increase the number of H-1B visas, but rather increase the number of EB green cards available for skilled workers.

Simply put, the H-1B destroys American jobs. The dominant use of the visa is to subsidize outsourcers, whose business model is to replace American workers. Remember: Congress has not yet closed the loopholes that allowed Disney to replace 200 American workers with non-American workers (who will never be allowed to become Americans), nor have you stopped thousands of other companies from doing essentially the same thing.

To close these loopholes, the Senate should incorporate provisions of HR 170, the bipartisan House bill that has unanimously cleared the Judiciary Committee, into any broad Senate immigration bill.

Beyond destroying jobs, the H-1B also delays green cards for new Americans, forcing a prolonged period of indentured servitude on some of our nation's most innovative and entrepreneurial workers. To create and keep jobs in the U.S., we need more green cards, faster.

The U.S. economy is not a zero sum game. Our immigration system should not be, either. We have backlogs measured in years for one reason: Not enough green cards. The solution must be ... more. Setting countries of origin against each other has no merit.

Employers, not the government, are best suited for determining which new Americans have the skills our economy needs. But these are not just workers; they are people. We strongly urge the Senate to reject the proposal in the RAISE Act that would actually penalize skilled new Americans for being married: that is not only contrary to our national interests, it contradicts fundamental American values.

We urge you to reform our immigration laws in our national interest: no H-1B increase. America needs skilled Americans, and that means green cards, not guest worker visas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S L Robinson".

Sandra L. Robinson  
2018 President, IEEE-USA