

MARK SANFORD
FIRST DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4001

ANY RESPONSE MAY BE SENT TO:

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WWW.SANFORD.HOUSE.GOV

March 27, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Nielsen,

I write today to urge the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to make available the maximum number of additional H-2B Nonimmigrant Temporary Worker visas above the existing cap in Fiscal Year 2018.

As you know, the Omnibus Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2018 signed into law last week provided the Secretary of DHS with the authority to approve more H-2B visas than the existing cap of 66,000. On behalf of constituents and companies in my district, I ask that you immediately start accepting H-2B visa petitions and issue acceptances for up to the maximum number of visas allowed by the FY18 Omnibus H-2B cap relief language.

I applaud your willingness and cooperation on this matter, as particularly the hospitality industry from Charleston to Hilton Head Island relies heavily upon temporary seasonal foreign workers to augment their local staff. The impact of this program is vital to the First District of South Carolina's economy, and I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark Sanford
Member of Congress

SCANNED/RECEIVED
BY ESEC SEC
2018 MAR 28 AM 11:00



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

April 6, 2018

The Honorable Mark Sanford
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sanford:

Thank you for your March 27, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

Your letter urged the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to make available the maximum number of additional H-2B temporary nonagricultural worker visas above the existing cap of Fiscal Year 2018 and stressed the importance of the H-2B program to employers in South Carolina.

There is a statutory cap on the total number of foreign nationals who may be issued an H-2B visa or otherwise granted H-2B status during a fiscal year. Under section 214(g)(1)(B) and (10) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, Congress has set the H-2B cap at 66,000 per fiscal year, with a maximum of 33,000 available during the first half of any given fiscal year. Section 205 of Div. M of H.R. 1625, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, however, which was signed into law by the President on March 23, 2018, provides the Secretary of Homeland Security with discretion, after consultation with the Secretary of Labor, to increase the H-2B cap for the current fiscal year. In considering its implementation of section 205, DHS will keep in mind the concerns stated in your letter.

Please be assured that USCIS understands the H-2B nonagricultural worker program's significance to seasonal employers and is committed to the efficient management of the program.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 272-1940.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Francis Cissna".

L. Francis Cissna
Director