



May 21, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of our over 6,000 members involved in workforce mobility, I respectfully request that you not restrict access to critical nonimmigrant talent pursuant to a review by the Departments of Homeland Security and Labor. As we work toward economic recovery, we must not only prioritize a safe return to business but ensure American employers remain competitive and innovative. The U.S. will need to continue to attract the best global talent to fill gaps in work significant to economic recovery including healthcare, technology, and manufacturing. It is therefore vital that any restrictions you are considering must be extremely narrow in scope as we work toward a safe reopening of U.S. business.

Our members are the individuals and businesses that facilitate the global and domestic relocation of employees. They ensure compliance with all laws while providing a safe and successful move for employees and their families. Our broad and diverse membership includes relocation management companies, household goods transportation organizations, destination service providers, immigration and employment law firms, human resources consultancies and hundreds of other suppliers. Our industry employs an estimated 150,000 people with about 80% of our members being small to medium size businesses. The travel restrictions implemented by the U.S. and countries across the world that are necessary to contain this pandemic have paused the movement of employees. However, many companies intend to resume those moves critical to their business operations as soon as possible. Immigration restrictions which impede these well-laid plans will inflict unnecessary hardship on our members and impede their ability to get back to business as normal.

Workforce relocation is a key to vibrant economies. It is therefore vital that business immigration laws, regulations and practices allow for the easy movement of workers throughout the world and maintain a level of consistency so employers can plan for their workforce needs. This is especially the case for information technology positions in the U.S. as recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics has shown a decrease in the unemployment rate in the sector of 3.0 in January 2020 to 2.8% in April 2020.

The nonimmigrant visas critical to the talent of worldwide workforce mobility include the O, H-1B, H-4, E, F-1 and the L-1 visas. Suspension of the L-1 visa in particular would have an adverse impact on returning to more normal operation as the intracompany transfer of employees is the backbone of our industry and essential to employers relocating their employees to maintain core functions of their business. The L-1 visa is also not filling an open position and merely transferring an employee to where they are needed to maximize business growth. In turn, employers are using similar visas in other countries to relocate their employees abroad and thus balances the transfer of employees to the U.S.



We thank you for your consideration to ensure the workforce mobility community and its people remain key contributors on the road to recovery as we in the industry work to bring back business safely and push ahead toward economic growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lynn Shotwell".

Lynn Shotwell, GMS, SHRM-SCP
President and CEO
Worldwide ERC®

cc: The Honorable Michael Pompeo, Secretary of State
The Honorable Eugene Scalia, Secretary of Labor
The Honorable Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security

Worldwide ERC® is the professional association for employee mobility professionals. Since 1964, Worldwide ERC® has been committed to connecting and educating workforce mobility professionals across the globe. A global not-for-profit organization, we are headquartered in Washington, D.C., with offices in London and Shanghai, and are the source of global mobility knowledge and innovation in talent management from Europe, the Middle East and Africa, to Asia and across the Americas.