



Rick Marsh
Director, Defense Personal Property Program (J9)
United States Transportation Command
Scott Air Force Base, IL

Re: Presidential Executive Order Halting Issuance of Temporary Visas (H-2B) and its Impact on the Defense Personal Property Program

Dear Mr. Marsh:

As you likely know, this past Monday, June 22nd, President Trump issued an Executive Order halting the issuance of temporary stay H-2B visas for non-agricultural based industries, through the end of 2020. The H-2B visas are issued by the Department of Labor.

The domestic household goods moving and storage industries routinely and annually employ north of 1,500 temporary workers to assist in meeting the unique and critical demands of the military's peak moving season.

The need for this valued temporary peak season workforce has not changed. In fact, with moving companies adjusting schedules, contending with the pandemic and its impact on their year-round workforce, alongside a delayed (but still as busy) peak season, it is fair to say this workforce is needed more than ever.

Our Ask

We respectfully ask that TRANSCOM reach out to the Department of State and Department of Labor, to request that seasonal workers on H-2B visas continue to be permitted to enter the country to assist moving companies within the Defense Personal Property Program, so they may meet the demand of relocating our nation's service members and their families in a timely manner.

We believe that Section 4(i) of the President's Executive Order (italicized below), provides the necessary flexibility, and justification, for TRANSCOM to request such this exemption-

(i) The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish standards to define categories of aliens covered by section 3(b)(iv) of this proclamation, including those that: are critical to the defense, law enforcement, diplomacy, or national security of the United States;



We view this temporary workforce support as critical, and directly impacting the readiness of our nation's military. Outreach by TRANSCOM to the Department of State and Department of Labor, asking that these workers be exempt (in support of a federally defined "essential industry"), would be extremely helpful in our efforts.

The Department of State is expected to issue further guidance, with instructions on how the Executive Order will be implemented. However, we do not know when this will occur, and simply stated, every day that passes is lost time for our companies, their planning and execution of service member moves.

We stand ready to speak with you at any time, to answer questions that need to be addressed with respect to the situation and our request.

Thank you for consideration.

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