



Congressman Don Bacon
Second Congressional District of Nebraska

April 13, 2018

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The Hon. Kristjen Nielsen, Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, Northwest
Washington, DC 20393

Dear Madame Secretary:

The United States has always been a nation for immigrants as well a nation for innovation. It is for this reason, I write to ask that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) not end the current H4-EAD program which helps the dependent spouses of current H-1B visa holders work in the United States while waiting for an approval of a Green Card.

DHS can continue this nation's rich immigration and innovation history by continuing the H4-EAD visa program allowing for the best and brightest to continue to live and work in the United States. Just like in the United States, two-career couples have become increasingly common around the world. Many high-skilled workers, coming to the United States on H-1B visas, are faced with the challenge of not having their spouse work even though he/she is highly educated as well.

By keeping the H4-EAD program, DHS will allow for the United States to retain the top talent as well as allow for other highly skilled workers to continue their careers and contribute to a productive society. In my district in Nebraska, it is estimated that of the 2,500 H-1B visa holders, 70 percent of the spouses work using an H4 EAD visa. These men and women are in the country legally working in high skilled jobs providing for a better community.

I thank you for your leadership on these complicated issues. If you or your staff has any questions, please feel free to reach out to me or my staff.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Don Bacon
Member of Congress



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

May 11, 2018

The Honorable Don Bacon
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bacon:

Thank you for your April 13, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is committed to growing the U.S. economy and creating jobs for U.S. workers. In fact, pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13788, DHS is required to "propose new rules and issue new guidance, to supersede or revise previous rules and guidance if appropriate, to protect the interests of U.S. workers in the administration of our immigration system, including through the prevention of fraud or abuse." See E.O. 13788, Buy American and Hire American, 82 Fed. Reg. 18,837 (April 18, 2017). The public will be given an opportunity to provide feedback during a notice and comment period on any revisions to regulations that DHS determines appropriate, including revisions relating to the rule providing employment authorization to certain H-4 nonimmigrants.

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 "LFC", written over a horizontal line.

L. Francis Cissna
Director