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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4708

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

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Dear Secretary Nielsen,

Thank you for your service to our country. I greatly appreciate the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)'s efforts in securing our borders and keeping Americans safe. I write in regards to the work authorization currently afforded to H-4 visa holders. As DHS continues to review feedback on the proposed rule 1615-AC15 – which proposed to revoke a previous rulemaking by DHS that allowed H-4 visa holders to apply for work authorization in the United States – I ask that DHS carefully consider, within the bounds of its statutory authority to enforce immigration laws, the economic and cultural contributions these H-4 visa holders make to Washington State and America as it proceeds with related rulemaking.

Having met with H-4 visa holders in my district, I know these employees are often highly-skilled and have a positive economic impact on local communities and the United States as a whole. My constituents have shared their serious concerns regarding this proposed rule and the detrimental impact it would have on their ability to work and provide for their families in America. After hearing these concerns and understanding the positive impact that H-4 work authorization provides local communities and the visa holders themselves, I respectfully request careful consideration before any steps are taken to revoke the work authorization currently available for H-4 visa holders. Please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions at 202-225-7761.

Sincerely,

Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



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

April 20, 2018

The Honorable Dave Reichert
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Reichert:

Thank you for your letter received on April 6, 2018. 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