

Retaining U.S.-educated international talent to strengthen innovation and job creation in the United States



Enhancing International Students' Long-Term Contributions to the American Economy:

- We strongly support policies that make **employment opportunities available to international students** who obtain their graduate degrees in the United States.
- In order to encourage talented international students to contribute to the American economy in the long-term, **we support authorizing dual intent for student visa holders.**
- In addition, we strongly **support F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT), the STEM OPT Extension, and J-1 Academic Training** as programs that ease the transition of international students into the U.S. workforce.

Encouraging Entrepreneurship and Job Creation in the U.S.:

- Aspiring U.S.-trained entrepreneurs face significant barriers to remaining in the United States, to the detriment of the American economy, given that **startups play a disproportionate role in job creation** [1]. MIT students and faculty alone have founded more than 30,000 currently active companies that employ about 4.6 million people and generate annual revenues of \$1.9 trillion, equivalent to the 10th largest economy worldwide; foreign-born students contributed disproportionately to the number of MIT alumni-founded companies [2].
- We urge lawmakers in Congress to create a **startup visa that would allow bona fide foreign entrepreneurs to start their own businesses in the United States.** According to the Kauffman Foundation, a policy like this has the potential to create over one million of jobs over the course of ten years [3].
- In the meantime, **we strongly support the International Entrepreneur Rule** [4], which grants immigration parole to entrepreneurs whose businesses provide significant public benefit.

Updating and Streamlining Paths to Green Cards for Highly Skilled Individuals:

- U.S.-educated advanced degree holders who seek employment-based visas often fall under the H-1B visa umbrella. Although H-1B visas can lead to employer-sponsored green cards, the number of available visas for U.S.-educated individuals is drastically short of demand, as is the number of available employment-based green cards for people born in certain backlogged countries [5]. Highly skilled graduates who are denied the opportunity to put their skills to best use in the United States leave for other countries, strengthening foreign nations and economies.
- We support **immigration reforms that would result in expanded, streamlined work visa programs** for highly skilled U.S.-trained international students to transition into both employment and permanent residency in the United States.

References:

- [1] Ryan Decker, John Haltiwanger, Ron Jarmin, and Javier Miranda. "The Role of Entrepreneurship in U.S. Job Creation and Economic Dynamism." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 2014 28(3)3–24.
- [2] Edward B. Roberts, Fiona Murray and J. Daniel Kim. "Entrepreneurship and Innovation at MIT Continuing Global Growth and Impact." Massachusetts Institute of Technology, December 2015.
- [3] Dane Stangler and Jared Konczal. "Give me your entrepreneurs, your innovators: Estimating the Employment Impact of a Startup Visa." Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, February 2013.
- [4] International Entrepreneur Rule, Homeland Security Department. *Federal Register*, 17 January 2017.
- [5] Visa Bulletin. US Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs. <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/law-and-policy/bulletin.html>