



Statement for the Record

Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest

“The Impact of High-Skilled Immigration on U.S. Workers”

February 25, 2016

Compete America, the Consumer Technology Association, TechNet, and the National Foreign Trade Council are organizations composed of top U.S. employers, educators, research institutions and trade associations working to ensure the United States is creating and attracting the highly skilled professionals that will both keep America the global leader in innovation and continue to create tens of thousands of jobs for U.S. workers.

The United States is home to the greatest innovators on earth. America’s innovation economy has generated unprecedented levels of wealth, productivity, and job creation in the United States. Innovative industries are fast growing, and the goods and services they produce are rapidly becoming our #1 export for sale to the rest of the world. When it comes to our economic future, America, as the global leader in innovation, is positioned to win. Yet, this amazing success story did not occur in a vacuum. Nor did it occur with only the assistance of U.S.-born workers. The rise of American technological prowess and the phenomenal job growth it has created in the United States are due to the direct efforts of highly skilled foreign professionals from around the world.

As this hearing purports to explore “the impact of high-skilled immigration on U.S. workers,” a few facts from qualified researchers are in order:

- **FACT: High-skilled immigrants create American jobs.** Peer reviewed research has shown that each foreign-born worker in the United States with a U.S. STEM degree creates 2.62 jobs for U.S.-born workers.
- **FACT: H-1B visa holders create American jobs.** Every H-1B visa holder creates 1.83 American jobs, and the H-1B visas awarded between 2010 and 2013 will create more than 700,000 jobs for U.S.-born workers by 2020.
- **FACT: Foreign-born STEM workers are paid the same as their U.S.-born counterparts.** Foreign-born STEM workers actually earn \$61 more on average per week than U.S.-born STEM workers.
- **FACT: Foreign-born STEM professionals increase average U.S. income over time.** Foreign-born STEM workers generated between 10 and 25 percent of the aggregate

productivity growth in the United States between 1990 and 2010. In the long run, immigrants' productivity increases average income.

- **FACT: H-1B visa holders increase wages for American workers.** A nationwide study (add footnote) of 219 cities found that H-1B-driven increases in STEM workers were associated with wage increases of 7 to 8 percent for college-educated native-born workers, while non-college educated workers saw a wage increase of 3 to 4 percent.
- **FACT: H-1B-dense industries experience higher than average wage growth.** Wage growth for workers in occupations with large numbers of H-1B petitions was substantially higher than for workers in low H-1B-dense occupations.

These facts are supported by data and analysis from qualified researchers and academics who are experts in labor economics, not those with degrees in unrelated fields, and they clearly demonstrate that highly skilled foreign professionals in the United States create job opportunities and wage growth for U.S. workers. The simple truth is that more smart people in America means more jobs for Americans.

Today, over 27,000 U.S. employers across the country apply for H-1Bs on behalf of foreign professionals each year. These employers have demonstrated a clear and absolute commitment to hiring and employing U.S. workers—a commitment evident in the fact that their workforces are made up *almost entirely of U.S. workers*. These 27,000 U.S. employers are making a choice to remain and grow their businesses in America, adding to the U.S. economy and creating jobs for U.S. workers. These employers' practices reflect the spirit with which Congress created the H-1B program in 1990.

We are firmly committed to ensuring all participants in highly skill immigration programs utilize them in a way consistent with its original intent. Specifically, just as the H-1B program was originally designed, companies that cannot or will not demonstrate a clear commitment to hiring U.S. workers must be held to a greater degree of accountability, which is why we supported the substantial package of H-1B reforms in the Senate's comprehensive immigration reform bill in 2013. But only Congress can make these changes, a point we and many others have been making for over a decade.

The facts tell a clear and compelling truth about the innovation economy in America: We cannot continue our innovative success story without the contributions of highly skilled foreign professionals. The H-1B program plays a critical role in that success.