

Recent Editorials – September 2011

***Newspapers from Coast to Coast Endorse Reform of
the Immigration System for Highly Educated
Professionals***



“...Immigration is, on the whole, good for economies; and right now, rich countries can do with all the economic help they can get. Rather than sending immigrants home, with their skills, energy, ideas and willingness to work, governments should be encouraging them to come. If they don’t, governments elsewhere will.” *August 27, 2011*

toledoBlade

“... A considerable body of new research indicates that immigrants are not job snatchers, but job creators. Steve Tobocman, a former Michigan state lawmaker, has contributed to the research. He heads the Global Detroit Initiative, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that is dedicated to boosting the Detroit area's economy by attracting immigrants. A new study by the initiative concludes that immigrants are far more likely to have a college degree than non-immigrants, are far more likely to start a business (especially a high-tech business), and are far more likely to create jobs, including jobs for longtime citizens.” *August 1, 2011*



“... [W]e can create jobs and stimulate the economy if we adjust our national policies to encourage immigration by the entrepreneurs and high-skill workers America needs. ... It’s counterproductive for this country to turn away talent and achievement. Both sides in the broader immigration reform debate should get behind efforts to encourage the best and brightest born overseas to come here and make America even better.” *July 24, 2011*

DAILY NEWS

“... The list of finalists in the junior Nobel Prize, as the Intel competition is known, makes clear that high-IQ immigrants are a key to American prosperity. Congress needs to get the instant message.” *June 14, 2011*

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

“Republicans and conservative talk show hosts who have made a crusade of 'closing the borders' against illegal immigrants have as a side effect turned the political mood against immigration in general, including the talented newcomers who would use these H-1B visas to remain in America and perhaps found companies here. This is not a growth policy. If the U.S. continues to send this human capital packing, it will find a home somewhere else, at America's loss.” *June 3, 2011*



“Keep jobs here. Encourage foreign entrepreneurs to invest in U.S.” *May 13, 2011*



“Obama called for allowing more of the brainy and creative foreign students studying at American universities to stay in the United States after graduation. ... 'We don't want the next Intel or Google to be created in China or India,' the president said. 'We want those companies and jobs to take root in America.' Bill Gates of Microsoft fame agrees. And so did U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan when the State Journal editorial board quizzed him in February. ... It's graduation season. UW-Madison alone had more than 4,000 international students on campus during the last school year. And more than half of those students are earning advanced degrees. Let's let more of these talented students stay here after graduation for the good of our economy and jobs. They don't steal American jobs. They help create more of the American jobs of the future in an increasingly competitive global marketplace.” *May 11, 2011*

The Washington Post

“[W]hy not expand the quota of visas available to immigrants who receive PhDs from American universities in science, math and engineering? What sense does it make to educate such promising students, then force them to return to their home countries, where many will take jobs competing against American companies?” *May 11, 2011*



THE OKLAHOMAN

“The United States has in its midst some of the brightest and most talented minds from across the world. We encourage them to come to our country to pursue higher education, particularly in specialized and high-demand fields like science, engineering and technology. But if they aren’t fortunate enough to find a job in those fields with a company that can afford the costs of an H-1B visa and beat the rush to obtain the visa, they’re sent home. Even President Obama sees folly in that approach.” *February 9, 2011*

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

“President Obama didn't have much to say about immigration reform in his State of the Union address last week, which is surprising given his focus on "winning the future." But what the President did say was well put and well timed. "Others come here from abroad to study in our colleges and universities," said Mr. Obama. "But as soon as they obtain advanced degrees, we send them back home to compete against us. It makes no sense." ... Winning the future is that much more difficult if our laws limit U.S. access to foreign-born human capital. The new Congress has a chance to help the U.S. economy by working with the White House to make it easier for the world's young and talented to stay in America after they've earned their Ph.Ds.” *February 1, 2011*

The Washington Post

“... But particular pieces of immigration reform might still have bipartisan appeal. One such element is the historical shortage of visas for foreign workers with special skills and advanced degrees. Although demand eased somewhat this year due to the recession, and there are legitimate concerns about abuses in the system, the standing quotas in those categories - amounting to just 85,000 available visas per year - have been severely inadequate in recent years. The result is that thousands of highly educated and technically adept foreigners - precisely the workers America needs to compete in the global marketplace - have been unable to come to the United States to fill vacant jobs here. That's even been true for foreigners who have completed PhDs in specialized fields at top U.S. universities - and are then forced to leave the country. Nothing could be more self-defeating. Let's hope Congress can at least see its way to fixing that problem.” *December 28, 2010*

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

“Lowering U.S. barriers for foreign-born entrepreneurs can only help the economy. It would also help President Obama begin to fulfill his campaign pledge to address immigration reform. Republicans who claim to know something about job creation should welcome an opportunity to support a pro-growth immigration fix that doesn't involve "amnesty." A visa for job creators is a political and economic winner all around.” *October 12, 2010*



“If this country had any sense, the government would hand out green cards with doctoral degrees in scientific wizardry.” *September 21, 2010*

The Florida Times-Union

“But why should there be any cap on highly educated workers looking for a better life in America? In many cases, they are entrepreneurs. What kind of policy is this? Educate them, then kick them out. It's as backward as the nation's policies on illegal immigration. This arbitrary cap ought to be replaced.” *August 19, 2010*

The New York Times

“Mr. Bloomberg and his partners recognize that people who are dynamic, hard-working, entrepreneurial, innovative and creative are the kinds of people any city, or country, should want. More green cards mean more start-up companies and jobs.” *June 24, 2010*

The Washington Post

“At the same time, the measure would ... stop a self-defeating brain drain by offering visas to highly educated immigrant scientists, mathematicians and engineers who receive advanced degrees from American universities.” *May 27, 2010*

The San Diego Union-Tribune.

“People from around the world come to study in U.S. universities on temporary visas. They often excel in class and earn their degrees with ease. But after graduation, many of them beat a path back to their home countries instead of settling in the United States. Just when these people enter their high-productivity years – when they generate income, consume goods and pay taxes – we send them home. It doesn’t make any sense.” *March 29, 2010*



“Good employers want their good employees to stick around.... They'll incentivize them to stay as other employers now incentivize good employees to stay. But getting the world's PhDs, engineers and researchers here permanently will mean sustained U.S. global competitiveness.” *March 27, 2010*

The Washington Post

“The economic stimulus package signed into law last week by President Obama contains a provision antithetical to innovation and domestic prosperity. That provision makes it even harder -- some say impossible -- for companies that receive government bailout money to hire foreign employees for specialized work.” *March 2, 2009*

The Harvard Crimson ONLINE EDITION

“But in spite of our nation’s voracious appetite for well-educated professionals, our immigration system—specifically, the allocation of H-1B visas for gainfully employed graduates of American educational institutions—is woefully out of date. By redesigning the H-1B system, policymakers from both sides of the aisle can help schools like Harvard to contribute to the future economic growth of the United States.” *November 25, 2008*

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

“American universities are filled with foreign students, not least from India, getting degrees in engineering and science. Many dearly wish to stay and work in the U.S. Instead, we basically kick them out after training them, owing to the Congressional limit of 65,000 H-1B visas, which are used up the day they are released in March.

“The Labor Department believes that by 2014 some two million high-tech jobs will be available here. U.S. companies from Microsoft down to start-ups have begged Congress to give them access to this skilled labor pool. Congress won’t budge, bowing to arguments that foreign techs displace jobs from U.S. citizens. That’s not how labor markets work in a dynamic economy. Bill Gates has noted that an H-1B hire creates several additional hires, as tech teams expand.”
October 24, 2008

The New York Times

“It seems unlikely that a visa-recapture bill would make it through this year. But don’t blame Congress’s focus on the economic mess for that. Recapturing visas is a modest fix that should have been made a long time ago. The country needs to build a smoother path to legal entry and citizenship. The blame for its failure to do that lies squarely with the hard-liners who rage against illegal immigrants, but are strangely uninterested in helping people who ‘play by the rules’ and ‘wait in line.’” *October 3, 2008*

The Dallas Morning News

“Some highly skilled immigrants have had to wait up to 10 years to get their green cards. During that wait, they cannot move or be promoted. Their families live in limbo. More and more, countries in Europe and Asia are capitalizing on their frustrations and luring them away with offers of high pay and minimal visa hassles.

“America’s antiquated green card policy is driving one of our most precious assets – scientific and technological expertise – into the welcoming hands of our competitors. That’s insanity.”
August 22, 2008

The Columbus Dispatch

“Historically, America could count on luring brilliant foreigners to help this country achieve technological and scientific supremacy. It happened with the Manhattan Project to develop the atomic bomb during World War II. It happened with the space program. Half of the high-tech companies in the Silicon Valley have at least one foreign-born founding member.

“World economic competition is tough and getting tougher, and America has a waiting list of scientists and engineers who want in. They want to invent, innovate and start businesses that create jobs. Let them.” *August 17, 2008*

Rocky Mountain News (Denver, CO)

“U.S. prosperity is more dependent than ever on finding workers skilled in science, math, engineering and technological fields – even though the loudest immigration debate has focused on unskilled migrant labor.

“But in an age where the United States is going to need sharp minds in these fields to stay ahead, government processing delays have led to green cards going to waste at the end of each fiscal year – green cards, that is, providing permanent residence for highly prized foreign professionals working in the U.S.” *August 10, 2008*

Los Angeles Times

“... [T]here is an interim step Congress could take that would help the economy in general and the high-tech industry in particular: Make it easier for skilled foreign workers to obtain green cards and become permanent U.S. residents ... Increasing the supply of green cards would allow more talented foreigners to stay here, where they were educated and trained, and where their productivity and entrepreneurial drive can create jobs. Over the last 15 years, immigrants have launched a fourth of the start-ups in the U.S. that attracted venture capital dollars. With the economy slipping, that statistic alone makes a persuasive argument for more green cards.”
August 8, 2008

“But since Congress hasn’t revised the visa rules in 18 years, these brilliant minds can contribute nothing to the state and nation that educated them. And the wait for a green card is six to 10 years.

“As we said, economic insanity.

“The next time you want to complain about global competition and a “brain drain,” put the blame where it belongs. On Capitol Hill. Which must correct the mess it has created.” **August 2, 2008**



(Harrisburg, PA)

“The problem is that the U.S. grants only 65,000 H-1B visas a year for foreign graduates, allowing them to work temporarily in this country and pursue citizenship. There are so many applicants the visas usually are taken within hours of their offering each year. Those unable to obtain them often take their skills to other countries and U.S. tech companies follow.” **August 1, 2008**



“It’s difficult to argue with legislation that would: ... Keep U.S. business competitive. H.R. 5882 would see to it that employment-based immigrant visas are not lost to bureaucratic delays. Contemplated legislation would eliminate “per country” limits on foreign workers and allow some 12,000 noncitizen advanced-degree graduates of U.S. colleges to get green cards. That would help American companies starved for high-tech workers.” **June 5, 2008**

The Washington Post

“The truth is, America will be a feeblar place without a continuing and adequate flow of foreign-born brainpower. America's loss of foreign-born experts translates directly into gains for China, India and other rapidly developing competitors. While the presidential candidates are stepping gingerly around the immigration debate, the ongoing brain drain of the best and brightest foreigners should give them, and the nation, pause.” *June 4, 2008*



“The result [of the H-1B lottery] is that hundreds of thousands of highly qualified people – entrepreneurs who want to start companies, doctors who want to save lives, scientists who want to explore the frontiers of knowledge – are kept waiting on the spin of a roulette wheel and then, more often than not, denied the chance to work in the United States. This is a policy of national self-sabotage.” *April 10, 2008*



(Harrisburg, PA)

“It would be preferable for Congress to take overall action on immigration or address some of these issues unrelated to the controversy over illegal immigrants. While we’re waiting, administratively extending the time on foreign student work visas seems like a much-needed positive step for the U.S. economy.” *April 4, 2008*

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

“High-tech businesses, such as Microsoft, have asked for an increase in the [H-1B] visas. Out of desperation, Microsoft finally opened a campus in Vancouver, B.C. (Canada’s immigration system is more flexible.) The H-1Bs are currently capped at 65,000 and doled out by lottery. Last year, 123,480 applications were filed in two days. An interview with the CEO and founder of one such company on National Public Radio indicated there aren’t enough skilled workers in the U.S. to fill jobs that pay \$80,000 to \$100,000 a year.” *April 2, 2008*

San Antonio Express-News

“Staying on the leading edge in science, technology and medical research is imperative for the United States, and the H-1B visas are an important tool for reaching that goal. Congress should approve [Rep. Lamar Smith’s (R-TX)] legislation as soon as possible so more visas can be issued this year and next year. American high-tech companies need this relief, and it is vital for the nation that they remain competitive without having to move their operations elsewhere.” *April 1, 2008*

San Jose Mercury News

“Congress must expand and overhaul the H-1B visa program, which is vital to Silicon Valley H-1B visas must better serve American companies and workers. Until Congress acts, the system will continue to fail on both counts.” *March 31, 2008*

NEW YORK'S HOMETOWN CONNECTION WWW.NYDAILYNEWS.COM

DAILY NEWS

“ ... [A] new survey by the Partnership for New York City has revealed that we are losing jobs because of the senseless visa restrictions and other restraints on international employment. ... Keeping these highly paid jobs – and the slots they generate for additional workers – is crucial to the futures of New York and America. The U.S. should stop barring entry to people who can keep America on the cutting edge in everything from finance to computers to medicine.” *March 30, 2008*

Orlando Sentinel

“... [L]awmakers would be foolish to wait to lift the H-1B cap, especially during the current economic slump. It makes no sense to limit a source of highly skilled labor that would help the U.S. economy grow.” *March 29, 2008*



(Evansville, IN)

“Because lawmakers lack the political will to keep the world’s talent in America, companies are following it overseas, setting up shop in Canada, India and Eastern Europe where the skills they need are plentiful. As a result, investment and jobs are being shipped abroad.” *March 26, 2008*



“What’s needed is obvious. The H-1B program should be both expanded and overhauled. ... Beyond the H-1B program, more permanent visas need to be steered to highly skilled people.” *March 25, 2008*

The Washington Post

“H-1B visas are reserved for the world’s best and brightest, and barring their entry is economic self-sabotage. The cap keeps out doctors, engineers and other specialists – people who save lives and often create jobs for others in America. One need only look at the national origins of founders of companies such as Google and Sun Microsystems to realize that foreign talent has helped keep the U.S. economy on the cutting edge.” *March 25, 2008*

The Patriot-News

(Harrisburg, PA)

“Reform of the visa system was part of the comprehensive immigration bill that failed to pass Congress last year. Since an overall bill isn’t likely, if at all, until after a new president and Congress are seated next year, lawmakers and the Bush administration should act to address what Gates calls an ‘already grave situation.’ This would be a good step toward helping America better compete in a global economy that, like it or not, is here to stay.” *March 23, 2008*

The OKLAHOMAN

“... [W]e'd love to see someone in D.C. give a little consideration to the H-1B visa problem. Raising the cap substantially would be a good start, and would be hailed by companies that now see too many talented and eager workers wind up overseas.” *March 23, 2008*

The Star THE KANSAS CITY STAR

“The bill [The Innovation Employment Act] addresses huge disconnects between the need for highly-skilled workers, the numbers of qualified people within the U.S. labor pool, and the current system for allowing technically-trained foreign workers to be legally employed. ... The U.S. is not producing enough highly-skilled workers. The economy suffers from this deficit and from fears that keep foreign workers out.” *March 22, 2008*

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

“The preponderance of evidence continues to show that businesses are having difficulty filling skilled positions in the U.S. By blocking their access to foreign talent, Congress isn’t protecting U.S. jobs but is providing incentives to outsource. If lawmakers can’t bring themselves to eliminate the H-1B visa cap, they might at least raise it to a level that doesn't handicap U.S. companies.” *March 19, 2008*



(Pensacola, FL)

“... [T]here is another group of immigrants who are highly sought by U.S. high-tech firms and by such firms in other countries. We should be making it easier, not more difficult, for these immigrants to come to the United States. They bring brain power, high-level education and needed skills to the industries that are leading the high-tech industry.” *March 17, 2008*

The Seattle Times



“Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates made a strong business case for immigration reform before members of Congress, who should be laser-focused on steering the U.S. economy through a downturn. ... [O]ne California congressman, obviously clueless about Microsoft’s generous salaries and benefits, suggested its problems would be solved if the company paid more. Other critics raise the specter of American-trained foreign workers going home only to compete with American companies. Those shortsighted arguments ignore the cost of lost commercial opportunity when a computer-engineering job goes unfilled, plus the four to five jobs needed to support it.” *March 14, 2008*

San Jose Mercury News

“Opening the door to technical professionals is key to keeping the United States competitive with fast-rising economies such as China and India. In many areas of math, science and engineering, at least half of the post-graduate degrees at U.S. universities are earned by foreign nationals. It makes no sense for the United States to educate foreign scientists and engineers and then send them home to compete against American tech companies.” *January 3, 2008*

The Arizona Daily Star

“Meanwhile, the United States limits the number of educated workers who are allowed into the country each year. This self-imposed shortage on highly educated foreigners hurts America’s competitiveness on the global stage. When U.S. companies cannot find the workers they need, they are stifled. In turn, the U.S. economy is affected.” *December 3, 2007*

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

“Economic protectionists oppose lifting the visa cap to meet demand. But it makes little sense for our universities to be educating these talented foreign students, only to send them packing after graduation. ... Closing the door to foreign professionals puts U.S. companies at a competitive disadvantage and pushes jobs out of the country. Worse, it does so at a time when other nations are rolling out the welcome mat.” *November 30, 2007*

The OKLAHOMAN

“The government should do all it can to pull the cork out of the H-1B bottleneck. That should include deep-sixing a plan recently introduced in Congress to increase the fee companies pay on their employees working under those visas. Instead of making the process more burdensome, this country should do what it can to increase the number of bright and highly skilled people in the work force.” *November 27, 2007*

The Patriot-News

(Harrisburg, PA)

“While we prefer to see immigration issues addressed under a comprehensive bill, specific legislation targeting H1-B visas, or “green cards,” may be among the exceptions. ... Congress needs to start picking off a few less contentious issues pertaining to immigration, and the H1-B visa for legal workers might be a good place to begin.” *November 21, 2007*

DESERET Morning News

(Salt Lake City)

“Last month, the EU introduced a new “blue card,” which acts as a temporary work visa for educated professionals. The message it sends is clear. While the U.S. dollar is shrinking in value and American leaders clearly don’t want foreigners on their shores, the European Union is laying a giant welcome mat for people who can help its surging economies. ... Some people worry that foreign professionals will drive down the wages of American workers with the same skills. They don’t understand how companies need the freedom to attract the best and brightest workers in order to keep up in a competitive world.” *November 17, 2007*

THE NEWS & OBSERVER newsobserver.com

(Raleigh, NC)

“The United States long has benefited from foreigners coming here to better themselves. If we’re on the receiving end of a “brain drain,” and if the new workers can be absorbed into our labor force without disadvantaging our citizens or dragging down wages, why shouldn’t we streamline the process of accommodating the newcomers?” *November 14, 2007*

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

the source

(Winston-Salem, NC)

“Sometimes we get lucky, too. After these students come here and pay the full ride for their educations, some decide to stay in the United States. They provide this country with a steady source of highly trained scholars and workers in fields that demand skilled workers. These are productive, wealth- and job-creating students for whom the American taxpayer paid not a single cent for elementary, high-school and, in most cases, college education. It’s like recruiting the best basketball prospects from other states to play at North Carolina colleges.” *November 14, 2007*



The Harvard Crimson ONLINE EDITION

“Fortunately, the solution to this problem is simple: the H-1B cap must be raised. ... Today, competition for highly skilled workers is truly global. If it wishes to stay competitive, the United States cannot afford to continue its backward policies. The government should increase the quotas as soon as possible in order to avoid losing another generation of some of the world’s most talented workers.” *November 14, 2007*

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

“Mr. Grassley’s justifications notwithstanding, the reality is that these skilled foreign nationals help U.S. companies compete globally and keep jobs and innovation inside the U.S. This is especially important when other countries are opening their doors to this human capital. ... If Congress can’t see its way to fix our broken immigration system, the least it can do is not drive more jobs offshore.” *November 2, 2007*

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

“Congress has been far too stingy with H-1B work visas for skilled foreign nationals, many of whom are educated in the U.S. only to be sent away after graduation to work for our overseas competitors. The H-1B visa cap has been set at 65,000 since 2004, when it took 10 months to exhaust it. This year the cap was reached on the first day applications were accepted. Lawmakers should eliminate the cap, or at least let market forces influence its size.” *October 18, 2007*

San Jose Mercury News

“It is imperative that U.S. companies be able to attract the brightest minds in the world. But this year’s annual cap of 65,000 temporary visas was gobbled up in two days. A good place to start, as we’ve noted before, would be to double the number of H-1B visas.” *September 20, 2007*

Houston Chronicle

“Every year, ... 1 million skilled workers must compete for 120,000 green cards. They might have had little choice in the past, but many of these workers now have attractive alternatives. Some are already giving up on the United States, taking their talents back to their newly dynamic home economies, such as India and China. ... We want these workers. They strengthen us. As more employers and local leaders warn about the consequences of losing them, Congress needs to change the quotas now freezing them out.” *September 16, 2007*

The New York Times

“On Sept. 14, Washington will see the first rally by highly skilled immigrants, the engineers and Ph.D.’s who play by the rules and still get the visa runaround. ... They’re immigrants: smart, industrious self-starters, like your grandparents. ... Fix legal immigration first, [former Connecticut congressman Bruce Morrison] says – get those backlogs down, get a steady supply of nurses, engineers and M.B.A.’s flowing ... Maybe then, he says, you will establish the trust you need to tackle the problem of the 12 million undocumented.” *September 9, 2007*

The Dallas Morning News

“[T]he scarcity of certain high-tech skills will further encourage businesses to outsource that work overseas. After this spring’s bruising battle, Congress is unlikely to want to tackle immigration reform quickly, but it must. The problems aren’t going away and, in fact, will become increasingly intractable with further delay.” *September 3, 2007*

Star-Telegram

(Fort Worth, TX)

“The number of H-1B visas is capped by federal law, and the organization Compete America says that the entire complement of 65,000 visas available in the current fiscal year was exhausted in the first 24 hours they were available. ... The American educational system drew the best minds on the planet to U.S. shores for bachelor and advanced degrees Without jobs, those people return to their home countries and go into competition with the United States. ... At stake is the global competitive position of the United States. ... [A]djusting the H1-B visa policy is a solution.” *August 24, 2007*

San Jose Mercury News

“Congress must also allow more skilled immigrants to fill jobs in high-demand fields like technology and nursing. ... Some reforms just can’t wait for a new president and a new Congress to try again.” *July 17, 2007*

The Miami Herald

“Congress should increase U.S. immigration quotas, which have not changed for years despite economic growth and labor shortages.” *July 13, 2007*

Orlando Sentinel

“Business is good in Canada, thanks to the failed efforts of the U.S. Congress to pass a comprehensive immigration bill. ... Consider: Software giant Microsoft is going to open an office in Canada. A key factor in the move is the frustration level of company officials, upset that the shortage of H-1B visas for high-tech workers is forcing them to do business elsewhere. ... That’s what happens when you take a hard-line approach. You exclude everybody, even the best and the brightest the world has to offer.” *July 11, 2007*

Los Angeles Times

“A comprehensive fix to U.S. immigration policy is overdue, but failing that, Congress should at least adopt a more sensible approach to H-1B visas.” *July 10, 2007*



“The U.S. government caps the number of [H-1B] visas at 65,000 annually, which is nowhere near the number that could be used to great benefit by American companies. ... Working to bring more bright minds to this country should be a priority in Congress.” *July 10, 2007*

The Boston Globe

“Massachusetts would benefit if the country expanded its H-1B visa program [T]he United States isn’t producing enough engineers and scientists to meet the needs of high-tech industries, so there’s ample room to welcome more of the world’s skilled workers. ... Even if it’s with small steps, Congress still has to pursue reform.” *July 7, 2007*

DESERET Morning News

(Salt Lake City, UT)

“... [I]n a competitive world where emerging nations are becoming serious threats to the U.S. high-tech dominance, companies need more freedom to attract the best and brightest. ... [T]he biggest fear should be that Congress would put too many limits on immigration, which has been the secret to the nation’s continued prosperity.” *June 26, 2007*

San Jose Mercury News

“[L]awmakers should adopt an amendment sponsored by Sens. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., and John Cornyn, R-Texas The provision, which is supported by the tech industry, would create an extra category of 140,000 employer-sponsored visas per year. It also would expand the number of H-1B visas for workers with advanced degrees.” *June 4, 2007*

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

“Immigration policies should acknowledge that the U.S. is not producing enough home-grown computer scientists, mathematicians and engineers to fill our labor needs. Last year, U.S. universities awarded more than half of their master’s degrees and 71% of their Ph.D.s in electrical engineering to foreign nationals. It’s foolhardy to educate these individuals and then effectively expel them so that they can put their human capital to work for U.S. competitors. There’s no shortage of countries that would be thrilled to benefit from a U.S. brain drain.” *May 30, 2007*



“If the United States doesn't get the smart people, some other country will. We’re in a competition with high global stakes.” *May 27, 2007*

The Washington Post

“The tens of thousands of H-1B rejects will constitute some of the world’s best and brightest, and America is foolish to block them from the U.S. economy. ... If they want America’s high-tech industries to stay innovative, members of Congress should address the labor problem vis-a-vis visas – and preferably before the class of 2007 heads home.” *May 4, 2007*

The Florida Times-Union

“Highly skilled individuals should be welcomed into the workforce, especially ones we have educated and trained. When foreign workers with high skills want to work here, let them.” *May 2, 2007*



“[A] major increase in the number of H-1B visas must be part of the immigration discussion. Tucson high-tech companies and those around the United States no longer see other U.S. companies as their competition. They are competing in a global market, and to do that, they must compete for the best available employees.” *April 24, 2007*

San Jose Mercury News

“Visa caps for those workers must be raised across the board, with priority status for the highest-skilled, such as students who complete graduate school here and want to work for U.S. companies.” *April 15, 2007*

The Miami Herald

“There is agreement that the nation needs to move forward aggressively to attract the best and the brightest from abroad. The House bill would increase the cap on H-1B visas for skilled workers to 115,000 from 65,000 per year. This still isn't enough – but it is better.” *April 15, 2007*

San Antonio Express-News

“Congress and the White House need to get back to work on comprehensive immigration reform that addresses the H-1B problem and other issues before other nations detract from the American medal count.” *April 11, 2007*

The Oakland Tribune

www.oaklandtribune.com

“What’s ultimately at risk is America’s continued leadership, dominance or in some cases the survival of information businesses. ... We must admit enough skilled foreign workers to fill the void.” *April 11, 2007*

The Harvard Crimson ONLINE EDITION

“Congress must realize that workers turned away may be a permanent loss and must respond by issuing additional visas for this year as soon as possible. ... America would be foolish not to lay out the welcome mat for highly skilled workers.” *April 9, 2007*

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

“While politicians haggle over immigration reform, the U.S. economy’s demand for workers foreign and domestic continues to grow. On Monday U.S. officials began accepting applications for the 85,000 available H-1b visas – the kind that go to foreign professionals – for the fiscal year starting in October. By Tuesday, the quota had been filled, making this the third straight year that the cap was reached before the fiscal year had even begun.” *April 4, 2007*

The News Journal

(Wilmington, DE)

“If America wants to continue to lead the world in innovation, and thus maintain the prosperity that comes with success, that foreign talent must be made available. ... The H1B visa law needs to be revised. Congress must recognize reality.” *March 25, 2007*

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

“The law’s unrealistically low allowances for legal immigration, both temporary and longer term, must change to meet the demand from this country itself. ... Even with needed strengthening of U.S. higher education, there will still be a shortage of students preparing for math, science and tech careers. Recruiting workers from abroad is anything but new.” *March 13, 2007*

The Washington Post

“America’s knowledge-based economy is increasingly dependent on the best and brightest immigrants, who account for a quarter of the nation’s doctorates and a third of its engineering professors. Foreign-born entrepreneurs were among the founders of Sun Microsystems Inc., Intel Corp., Google Inc. and other leading firms. To educate the next generation of them in America, only to export them to foreign universities and corporations, is foolish in the extreme.” *March 12, 2007*



“Unless and until U.S. schools are turning out the kind of workforce this nation’s corporations need to grow, there is no reason NOT to lift the current limit on H-1B visas and thousands of reasons to do so.” *March 11, 2007*

The Columbus Dispatch

“[T]housands of talented, foreign-born engineers and other scientists graduate from U.S. colleges every year with less and less chance of finding a place in the U.S. economy. ... This benefits no one except the countries that gain the knowledge, innovation and productivity of the people who eventually give up on the United States.” *March 11, 2007*

Herald Sun

(Durham, NC)

“Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates went to Washington on Wednesday to issue a warning: America is falling behind the rest of the world in technology, innovation and competitiveness. ... At other times in our history – during World War II and after the Russians launched Sputnik, for example – America has been energized to innovate. We need to find that energy again.” *March 9, 2007*

San Francisco Chronicle

“But the numbers of temporary visas available to U.S. employers don’t come close to matching their needs. The demand for H-1B visas in Silicon Valley, for example, has been so high that the annual quota of 65,000 is typically exhausted even before the fiscal year begins.” *October 1, 2006*

San Francisco Chronicle

“The H-1B visas have fallen victim to the congressional disaster over illegal immigration.” *September 19, 2006*

Life. Captured daily.
The Sacramento Bee

“Immigrants are America’s wealth. They have revitalized entire cities in this nation. They bring skills, a strong work ethic and family values that this country needs.” *August 14, 2006*

The Arizona Daily Star

“United States needs foreign talent to stay competitive because American students, for the most part, aren’t interested in engineering and science careers. ... Our nation will be stronger and more competitive if Congress can agree on changes that allow all segments of the immigrant community to contribute to our nation's economy.” *August 11, 2006*

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

“The U.S. has long been a magnet for the world's top talent. But in an increasingly global economy, U.S. employers unable to attract the necessary human capital will lose to their competitors abroad.” *August 2, 2006*

Los Angeles Times

“High-skilled immigrants have long played a key role in the country’s technological prowess. But that magnetism is being threatened by inadequate visa policies and this year’s volatile immigration debate.” *July 24, 2006*

San Jose Mercury News

“Countries from Ireland to India and from Croatia to China have been investing in their own futures and minting millions of educated workers who want to eat America’s lunch. And if we don’t remain a step ahead of these new competitors, they will.” *July 13, 2006*

San Antonio Express-News

“Raising the H1-B quota serves the national interest and is the unimaginably – for this Congress – pragmatic thing to do.” *July 10, 2006*

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

“Right now, we’re not developing enough scientists and engineers with the right skills to fill the needs of American corporations. ... Every foreigner who earns an advanced degree in science or engineering in America and is offered a job here should be able to get a green card.” *June 24, 2006*



“The situation is so clearly perilous to the American economy that Congress seems likely to do something about it Ultimately, the United States should move towards a regime in which any person offered a legitimate job by an American employer is allowed to take it up.” *May 6, 2006*

**THE GRAND RAPIDS
PRESS**
Be someone who gets it.

(Grand Rapids, MI)

“At least two Senate bills would permit more specialized foreign workers to come to the United States and more foreign students, educated in U.S. colleges, to remain here. ... The purpose is to fill vacancies on U.S. payrolls and to enable U.S. companies to continue their technical work without moving overseas to hire technical staffs.” *April 18, 2006*

**South Florida
Sun-Sentinel**

(Ft. Lauderdale, FL)

“Lawmakers need to address legal immigration as well, specifically the H-1B visa and the employment based green card programs. Deficiencies in both systems are hurting American competitiveness.” *April 2, 2006*



“The cap should be lifted on H-1B visas, basically for high-tech workers, and foreign students who come here and do well in select fields – math, science, engineering – should be encouraged to stay.” *March 30, 2006*



“It’s clear from the emerging focus on higher education and high-level research in other countries that competition for brainpower is fierce. The United States need not be left behind if our representatives will welcome the very kind of immigrants we ought to be embracing – the highly educated seeking legitimate work and a place to foster their extraordinary abilities.”
March 29, 2006

San Jose Mercury News

“The increase in the number of visas for skilled tech workers, part of a broader immigration bill approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee, is an important step to boost America’s and Silicon Valley’s competitiveness. ... Talented immigrants had a hand in founding Intel, Sun Microsystems, Yahoo, Google, eBay and other valley icons. These provisions would keep America’s door open for the world’s best innovators and entrepreneurs.” *March 29, 2006*

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

“[T]he U.S. labor market has also long been a magnet for highly skilled and educated foreigners, many of whom attend school in America at some time in their lives. In a world where these brains have more options than ever in Asia and Europe, we drive them away at our economic peril.” *March 27, 2006*

Rocky Mountain News

(Denver, CO)

“[C]ompanies are begging for native and immigrant workers. Investor’s Business Daily reports a brain drain from the U.S. to Canada, as our neighbor to the north hires immigrant scientists and engineers who cannot get visas from American companies. The least we can do is restore the higher visa limit, and possibly increase it.” *March 25, 2006*



“Others wish to come to America to seek a better life. ... [T]hey are the foreign professionals – from engineers to mathematicians to computer programmers – who hope to get one of the precious few H-1B visas.” *March 15, 2006*

The San Diego Union-Tribune.

“Given the starkness of the economic threat facing the United States, the president’s [research and education] initiative is welcome and overdue. But there is a big step he also could take that would produce dramatic results much more quickly: launching an all-out push to attract brilliant foreign scientists, engineers and mathematicians to the United States and to encourage top foreign students who are studying here to stay here after graduation.” *February 2, 2006*



(Saint Paul, MN)

“It’s no secret many of our most talented scientists, engineers and software programmers come here from other countries. But because the H-1B program is limited to 65,000 visas a year, the program is often closed in the first few months of the year.” *January 15, 2006*