

CompeteAmerica

The Alliance for a Competitive Workforce

Employment-Based Green Cards:

Vital to U.S. Job Creation, Economic Growth and Innovation

– THE **PROBLEM** –

The Outdated EB Green Card System Prevents U.S. Employers from Retaining Top Talent

- ▶ Today, backlogs in the employment-based (EB) green card system leave some highly educated and skilled professionals waiting up to nine years or more.
- ▶ A study by the Kauffman Foundation estimated that more than one million highly educated people and their families are currently waiting for green cards, yet only 140,000 EB green cards are available annually, a cap Congress set in 1990.
- ▶ While EB green card applicants wait, they are limited in seeking promotions or being transferred to another city, and they risk longer delays if they change jobs because they go back to the end of the line. This professional limbo can be made worse because their foreign-born spouses are often not permitted to work in the United States.

– THE **OPPORTUNITY COSTS** –

America Risks Losing Highly Educated Professionals Who Make Great Contributions

- ▶ U.S. employers hire highly educated, foreign-born engineers, scientists, researchers, medical professionals and teachers – working professionals who keep America on the cutting edge of knowledge and innovation and create jobs.
- ▶ While temporary H-1B visas are typically used to hire these professionals, EB green cards allow U.S. employers to keep these much-needed and highly sought-after professionals living, working and innovating in America.
- ▶ In the last 15 years, immigrants have started 25 percent of U.S. venture-backed public companies.
- ▶ Major U.S. employers such as Intel, eBay, Yahoo! and Google were all founded, at least in part, by foreign nationals.

– THE **SOLUTION** –

Enact Bipartisan, Common-Sense EB Green Card Reforms

- ▶ Per country limits on EB green cards should be eliminated, thus removing artificial bottlenecks for employees from high-demand countries.
- ▶ Highly educated, foreign-born students earning an advanced degree from a U.S. university should be fast-tracked towards permanent residency and not count toward the annual limit on EB green cards.

*Create U.S. Jobs and Grow America's Innovation Economy by
Permanently Fixing the Broken EB Green Card System This Year!*