

Advocating for COVID-19 Relief Bills

Welcome to the Town Hall

We'll begin shortly...

March 24, 2020 at 12:30pm ET

- All participants are muted on entry.
- If you have questions or need assistance during the webinar, please use the Chat box to communicate those to your host.
- Questions for panelists will be held after they have finished presenting, but you can submit questions at any time.

Panelists



Erica Carley Harris
Government & Public Affairs
CIEE



Doug Wasitis
Assistant Vice President
for Federal Relations
Indiana University

Our Discussion

- What are the status and contents of the various Congressional supplemental bills as they relate to higher education in general and international education in particular?
- What can members do to advocate at the federal and state levels?
- What can we as an industry all do together to advocate for the future of international education?

COVID Relief Bills

- COVID-I: Signed March 6, \$8.3B
 - Small Business Disaster loans, public health, humanitarian assistance and emergency evacuations
- COVID-II, “Families First”: Signed March 18,
 - Emergency paid sick leave and job-protected unpaid leave gain expanded access
- COVID-III, “CARES”: Senate and House votes this week nearing \$2 trillion
 - House/Pelosi: “Take Responsibility for Workers and Families Act”
 - Senate/McConnell “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act”
 - Larger funding package, including \$349mm for SBA, expansion of unemployment eligibility
 - Collins provision to protect payroll



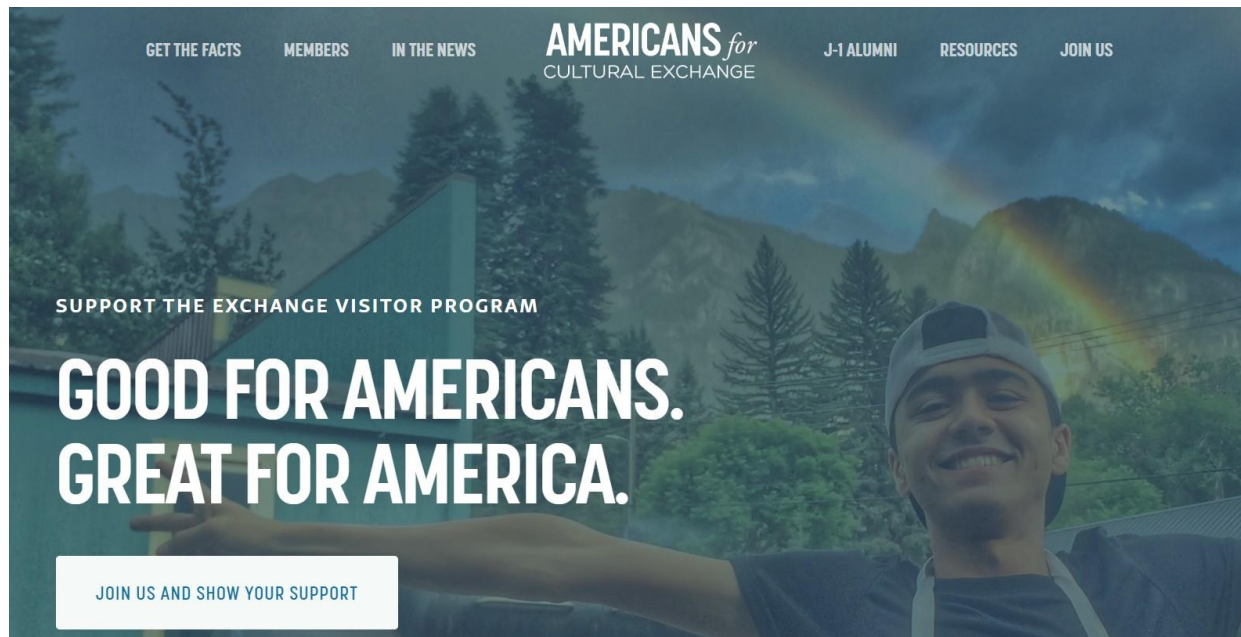
2017 BAHA: We've been here before

- The J-1 Exchange Visitor Program has come under fire in every administration since Ronald Reagan
- Early in his campaign in 2015, then-candidate Trump promised to eliminate the J-1 visa
- In April 2017 came the Buy American Hire American Executive Order directing agencies to look at changes to visas and other programs to protect American jobs (“BAHA”)
- August 2017 news broke of efforts by the Administration to severely cut back or eliminate 5 J-1 exchange programs: specifically Intern, Trainee, Camp Counselor, Au Pair, and Summer Work Travel



BAHA Response

- 3 Prong Strategy
 - Media
 - Legislative action
 - Direct diplomacy



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POLITICS

Trump Administration Considering Cuts to Cultural Exchange Visas

Summer work travel, au pair visas under review



Business

Cultural exchange programs fear visa cuts from Trump order



Cultural exchange programs fear visa cuts from Trump order



Ski resorts and others worry the Trump administration may cut visa workers program

BUSINESS Posted September 1 | Updated September 1

INCREASE FONT SIZE

Maine businesses worry Trump might cut program for foreign college students



Trump's Visa Crackdown Could Have 'Drastic Impact' on Jewish Summer Camps



Trump considering cuts to au pair work visas: report

BY JULIA MANCHESTER - 08/27/17 04:43 PM EDT

162 CC

4,470 SHARES

SHARE TWEET PLUS ONE

Wins

- J-1 coalition
- Eureka Facts reports – SWT, Camp and Intern/Trainee published
- Direct diplomacy – highly engaged hosts
- Media – wide coverage, raised the alarm
- Americans for Cultural Exchange – public face of our effort
- Legislative – protections in Appropriations Bill
- Department of State – protecting their assets
- Foreign governments – engaged and effective



What You Can Do Today

- Contact your Members of Congress
 - Make them aware of the threat to international education
 - Explain how YOUR business will be impacted financially
 - Ask for their support of any funding provisions in COVID bills that would help you
- Contact your state reps and state SBA
 - Same as above, and:
 - Funds will disburse through states, make sure you are up to date on policy and EIDL loan applications if needed
- Create positive PR
 - Share your story via blogs, social media, Op-Eds
 - Coordinated industry effort like Americans for Cultural Exchange

Q&A



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