



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU  
Governor

April 1, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

With the recent expiration of Presidential Proclamation 10052 I ask that you direct embassies and consulates to immediately open visa interview appointments for J-1 applicants. Prior to its expiration, this proclamation suspended the entry to the United States of certain nonimmigrant visa applicants, in particular the J-1 visa, which presents a risk to the U.S. labor market during the economic recovery following the novel coronavirus outbreak. I am concerned because we are still encountering U.S. embassies and consulates denying visas or refusing to schedule J-1 applicant interviews even though the proclamation has been enjoined by a Federal Court and expired on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

New Hampshire's economy is booming and as people begin traveling once again, we need to ensure that we have an adequate workforce to support our thriving tourism industry in the state this summer. By way of example, Hampton Beach State Park can see up to 100,000 visitors a day during the summer tourism season. For years, we have relied on up to twenty-five J-1 students to comprise up to half of our staffing needs to keep the parks clean and safe for our visitors. For the coming season, we are counting on the eight J-1 students that we have already offered jobs to this year, pending approval of their J-1 visa. In addition, many of the local restaurants and lodging establishments that serve those visitors to Hampton Beach State Park also rely substantially on J-1 students.

The J-1 Exchange Visitor Program, including the Summer Work Travel, Au Pair, Camp Counselor, Intern, and Trainee programs provide a critical cultural diplomacy tool for our country. These programs also provide many of our seasonal tourism-related small businesses and our state parks with a crucial supplement to local staff. Many of these small businesses have a short window to generate much of their annual revenue which in turn contributes to our state's year round economy.

Ending the ban on seasonal, employer-sponsored and cultural exchange visas and directing embassies and consulates to immediately open visa interview appointments for J-1 applicants is an important step in supporting businesses that were hit particularly hard by the pandemic and gets our economy fully back on track.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor