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Comment from Blackwill, Alex

Posted by the **Employment and Training Administration** on Jan 21, 2025

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I support increasing the number of H-2B visas because these visas give many migrants the opportunity to legally work in the United States. In turn, these workers fill the much needed labor shortage that many industries face. The temporary portability aspect of the proposed rule further protects workers from abusive labor practices and further exploitation. The protections ensure that workers' immigration statuses are not placed on the line when switching employers. This proposed rule, however, still focuses on the benefit of the employers instead of the migrants. The lived experiences of migrant workers who are granted these visas are not recognized and it is disheartening to see how the economic contributions of migrants seem to be the only recognized contribution. While workers are not technically tied to a single employer, they are tied to a certain type of employer which limits their mobility. Workers should instead have the ability to freely move between employers and industries without having to place their immigration status on the line. Being able to work in the US in these limited industry options is not enough and instead of fostering growth and stability, promotes vulnerability and unsustainable practices that further hurt those involved. The country caps on numbers of visas allotted further ignores the reality of those looking to work in the United States. Labor is sought after universally and is not more desirable in Guatemala vs Honduras but according to the quotas it is. The ability to become a permanent resident in the United States should be a more widespread option and the expansion of labor protections and fair wages should be paralleled.

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