

Capitol Hill's Worker Subversion Program Continues

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Today's hottest Capitol Hill topic is jobs. But the debate doesn't directly center on how to best put 22 million unemployed and underemployed Americans back to work. Instead the focus is on whether the United States needs more foreign-born workers.

President Obama, his biased and ineffective Council on Jobs and Competitiveness, Congress and the Republican presidential candidates agree resoundingly that, yes, America has a shortage of high skilled workers especially in the science, technology, engineering and math fields-so called STEM occupations. **With the big business lobby's feverish support, the nation's elite illogically insist that more overseas labor creates more American jobs.** Accordingly, as many as 15 different Congressional bills designed to drastically reduce or eliminate caps on non-immigrant worker visas like the H-1B are now moving forward.

Advocates for unrestricted visas ignore evidence from Washington, D.C.-based nonpartisan think tanks like the Sloan Foundation that no STEM shortage exists. Among its findings: The number of STEM students graduating each year from U.S. universities far exceeds the number of new jobs.

While U.S. corporations cry wolf about a tech talent shortage, industry data indicates there are as many as 200,000 tech workers unemployed across the country today.

Over the Christmas season, I watched an HD.net special hosted by Dan Rather that showed the human impact on displaced American workers. Titled "No Thanks for Everything," the program interviewed four Americans fired by Microsoft, Blue Cross, Honeywell and American Express. All four told identical stories. Because their replacements had inadequate skill sets, the Americans had to train them. Then, they were fired. Since being dismissed, none can find a job.

While it's shocking to realize that middle-aged Americans who have worked for their companies for decades are cravenly tossed aside and replaced by temporary (but actually permanent) H-1B visa holders, the legislation functions exactly as it's intended to.

That is, employers easily substitute foreign nationals eager to work for less. Corporations who apply for and hire cheaper labor face no meaningful oversight. Although fraud is widespread in the H-1B program and in other non-immigrant visa categories, the financial consequences when caught are significant.

Being displaced, undercut and traded in for younger, cheaper but not better talent is the reality of today's job market for dismayed and disbelieving Americans.

To fully understand America's elected officials' deceit, deception and subversion perpetrated against the middle class working population, consider Cree, the North Carolina company that President Obama chose as the backdrop for his job summer jobs initiative. According to U.S. Department of Labor records, Cree has filed dozens of H-1B applications in recent years.

If you're lucky enough to have a job, don't consider yourself safe. In an instant you can be replaced. If you have school age children, pay attention to what's going on in Washington. Those who come to America on temporary visas rarely return home. They'll be around — and working at jobs you and your kids would like to have — for years.

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