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## H-1B Visa Cap Popped After One Day

By Mary Benoit  
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### ARTICLE SYNOPSIS:

Over 150,000 applications flooded U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on Monday for H-1B visas — the controversial work permits that allow foreign workers with bachelor's degrees to remain in the United States for up to 6 years.

**Follow this link to the source article:** "[Annual H-1B visa cap met—already \[1\]](#)"

### COMMENTARY:

The congressionally-mandated cap for H-1B visas is 65,000. That is, 65,000 foreign workers with advanced degrees, who are allowed to enter the United States legally for up to a 6 year term. Monday marked the first day where new applicants could apply for the visa in 2008. As of Monday afternoon, however, the 65,000 limit had already been doubled. In fact, by the end of day Monday, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services [2] (USCIS) received a whopping 150,000 applications.

Some argue that the surge of H-1B applicants indicates that some changes are needed on Capital Hill. Last year it took two months for USCIS to receive enough H-1B applicants to meet its annual quota. This year it took less than a full day! The remedy, some members of Congress say, is to simply raise the number of H-1B visas to fulfill the needs of applicants.

Many of the workers entering the United States on an H-1B visa are in the high-tech job field. These foreign workers are willing to accept jobs for a lower wage than many Americans, narrowing the job potential for American professionals quite considerably. If Congress

chooses to raise the visa cap to meet the demand of foreigners, would any pre-set cap ever suffice?

The current House bill [H.R. 1645](#) [3] (the Security Through Regularized Immigration and a Vibrant Economy Act of 2007, or STRIVE Act) would allow for a total of 115,000 H-1B visas to be issued for the 2008 Fiscal Year. The STRIVE Act, however, would not only grant an over-abundance of guest-workers via the H-1B visa, it would also provide a [path to citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants](#) [3] who are already residing within the United States.

Instead of Congress seeking to expand the number of foreign workers in our country, they first must address the illegal immigration crisis that we are facing today. Congress should provide veto-proof support for increasing our Border Patrol, and not cave-in to the demands of foreigners by granting them legal status, or by flooding the job market with an even greater number of workers on the H-1B visa program.



### **Mary Benoit** [3]

Mary Benoit is a Research Associate for the John Birch Society.

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