

The h1-B hiring program circumvents Equal Opportunity laws. It allows companies to narrow the applicant pool for 85,000 job openings to only citizens from abroad *each year*. The program never asks companies to verify that the job opening was competed under EEOC guidelines, nor does it require that companies seek US residents.

But a bill just introduced by Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) and Maxine Waters (D-CA) will change all that. Citizens and green card holders will be able to apply for these job openings. The answer, problem and impact are our web site: <http://www.campaignwindow.com/brightfuture/index.cfm>

We have a unique opportunity in Illinois. Senator Durbin is willing to submit mirror legislation in the Senate to reform this program. Would you and your organization join him in this effort? The letter we are signing is attached. Contact me, Donna Conroy if you would like to be part of this effort.

Regards,

Donna Conroy

<http://www.campaignwindow.com/brightfuture/index.cfm>

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Bright Future

Restoring Equal Opportunity

—85,000 jobs at a time*

“Mr. Chairman, I would like to go back to one point on these H1-B visas....And the number one field of occupations coming into the United State with these visas are computer related occupations. It looks like it dominates almost by a factor of 3 over any other occupation. Engineering is second and education third and administrative specialization is fourth.

The data here given by the Department of Professional Employees, the AFL-CIO says, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics data, joblessness for computer scientists is at 45%, system analysis is at 133%, programmers and software engineers is at 115, higher than in the year 2000.

Why would we not be creating incentives for companies to hire American workers...?”

-Senator Dick Durbin, October 20, 2005

February, 2006

Dear Senator Durbin,

Restoring Equal Opportunity to the US workforce is the best way to incentivize American employers.

The H1-B hiring program, prevents citizens and green card holders from applying for top dollar, white-collar jobs. Worse, these programs are the foundation of off-shore outsourcing companies. Sadly, these job openings are filled with a workforce who are denied basic "at will" employment rights and severely under-paid.

Will you introduce a mirror bill to H.R. 4378, “the Defend the American Dream Act” in the Senate? It will reform the H1-B hiring program in three important ways:

- **It requires that companies advertise the job opening for 30 days before resorting to the H1-B program**
- **It stems falling salaries for H1-B job openings**
- **It enables US professionals to sue for job discrimination and indentured professionals to sue for wage discrimination**

Within Chicago’s city limits, 6,881 companies have removed **107,717 jobs** from the local job market via the H1-B hiring program between 2001 and 2004. During the same period, 14,835 Illinois companies have taken advantage of this program to remove **230,006 job openings** across the state and fill them with indentured workers.

For years, many of us have been preaching technical education as the path for the jobs of tomorrow. Now, we find ourselves confronted by colleagues bearing high tech degrees in one-hand and 2-year-old pink slips in the other.

The H1-B hiring program prevents citizens and green card holders from applying for job openings listed in its database. The program allows American companies and universities to consider only citizens from abroad for these open positions. The program does not require

***current number of slots available annually to for-profit companies. Non-profits have an unlimited number of slots.**

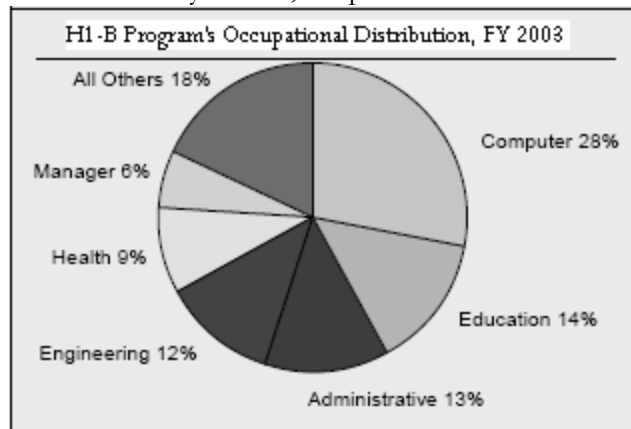
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these employers to seek Americans or green card holders. The program doesn't even ask employers if the job opening was ever competed under EEOC hiring guidelines.

The discrimination in technical fields that victimized only Blacks, Hispanics and women has now been expanded to white and Asian-American men via this program. Just as the Black Codes excluded newly freed Black men from trade skills, this program is further isolating the US workforce from participation in the expanding Digital Age.

This program also creates an indentured workforce whom fills these job openings. Many employers take advantage of this program to build a workforce that doesn't have the basic American freedom to change jobs easily.



Salaries for job openings under the H1-B hiring program have always been lower than salaries competed under EEOC guidelines. However, a disturbing trend has emerged: **salaries under the H1-B hiring program are trending downward while salaries competed for under EEOC guidelines are trending upward.** According to Computerworld, "...David Foote, president and chief research officer at Foote Partners, said there was a split in 2003: The salaries of U.S. workers increased, while H-1B wages continued downward."

White-collar offshoring depends upon the H1-B hiring program. According to Ron Hira, Rochester Institute of Technology public policy professor and author of "Outsourcing America", his research shows their use by foreign-based companies has accelerated the shift of tech work abroad. According to Hira, Infosys' use of H-1B guest workers roughly doubled to more than 2,000 from March 2001 to the end of 2002, a period during which the U.S. technology industry lost hundreds of thousands of jobs.

A recent financial statement from Wipro says: "If U.S. immigration laws change and make it more difficult for us to obtain H-1B and L-1 visas for our employees, our ability to compete for and provide services to clients in the United States could be impaired." **Wipro's Ramasubbu said there could be a delay in work heading to India if the visa programs were abolished.**¹

We, the undersigned, join you in this effort to restore the ability to apply for **every job** in the US economy.

Donna Conroy
Bright Future

Brittan Bolin
National Society of Professional Engineers, IL chapter

¹ Visa program may aid foreign companies, Ed Frauenheim, CNET News.com, January 14, 2004