

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 16, 2020

Dear President-elect Biden:

We write to request that you provide immediate relief upon assuming office to the many families adversely impacted by significant delays in the processing of work authorization documents (EADs) for people on H-4 visas. These delays in EAD renewals are causing lapses in work authorization and job losses affecting many people, mostly women of color, in our districts. This is why we respectfully request that the Department of Homeland Security publish a Federal Register notice on day one of your administration that would extend the validity period of all expired H-4 EADs.

As you know, in 2015, after several years of advocacy by community members, including various South Asian women's organizations, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a rule allowing certain H-4 dependent spouses of H-1B visa holders to legally seek employment in the US. Once an H-1B holder is sponsored for employment-based lawful permanent resident (LPR) status (otherwise known as a green card) his or her H-4 visa-holding spouse may apply for work authorization. This rule presented an important step towards rectifying gender disparities in our immigration system as around 95% of H-4 visa holders who have secured work authorization are women. Before the rule was granted, many women on H-4 visas described depression and isolation in moving to a new country and not being allowed to work outside of the home.

These women on H-4 visas work in a variety of fields including as essential healthcare workers, including in research and development roles at pharmaceutical companies; these women play tremendously important roles as we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. We are confident that your incoming Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security will rectify the systemic processing issues that have been created by the Trump Administration. Unfortunately, women are and will continue to lose their jobs until this is put right, disrupting the lives of their families and the functioning of employers in our districts. We respectfully request that the Department of Homeland Security publish a Federal Register notice on day one of your administration that would extend the validity period of all expired H-4 EADs for a sufficient period of time for USCIS to resolve processing delays.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Nanette Diaz  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

/s/  
André Carson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

/s/  
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Raúl Grijalva  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Andy Kim  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

/s/  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Donald S. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress

/s/  
David Trone  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress