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FAIR is a nonprofit public interest organization working to end illegal immigration and to set levels of legal immigration that are consistent with the national interest



FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

April 23, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

On Monday night we were thrilled to learn that you would be instituting an Executive Order suspending immigration into the country, saying you were doing so to protect American workers as the coronavirus ravages the economy. Not only would such a desperately needed temporary halt on all immigration be popular with around 80% of the American people, it would also stand on strong legal footing.

However, after great fanfare and outcry from open borders Democrats, your Executive Order does not deliver for the twenty-six million Americans who have lost their jobs since March 21. Instead, it contains massive exemptions and is designed to satisfy powerful business interests that value a steady flow of cheap foreign labor.

Not only does your exemption filled Executive Order apply to less than 10 percent of immigrants due according to FAIR's analysis, it completely ignores what is arguably the largest component of foreign-born impact on the welfare of American workers: out of control guestworker programs including H-1B, H-2A, and H-2B.

These programs contribute to a yearly flow of around one million foreign workers, many of whom stay for years while occupying jobs that could be held by Americans. Even worse, under the ill-advised legal concept of "dual intent," some of these guest workers enter the country with the full intention of becoming a permanent resident. Besides that, Mr. President, where are the health screenings, and the assurance that the employers of these guestworkers abide by proper social distancing at work and in employer-provided housing? Consider the lessons from Singapore.

The fact is this: guestworker programs have spun completely out of control and do a world of harm on American workers, something that



has been exacerbated as we inch closer to Great Depression unemployment levels. Under what craven notion of American equity would the United States continue a subordinated labor importation program at a time when American workers are in such distress? The optics are devastating – we are becoming a two class society, with a servant caste relegated to guestworker status continuing apace while Americans search desperately for employment.

Despite what some advisers within your orbit say, the fact that Democrats have abandoned core common sense on immigration controls also doesn't mean a capitulation on the issue won't have consequences affecting voter enthusiasm come November. The American public understands that a meaningful pause of immigration must include *all* immigration, especially guestworkers.

So what can you do to make things right? It's simple. In the next 30 days, a new Executive Order must be issued to include all forms of immigration, including guest worker programs, which would allow hundreds of thousands of Americans out of the labor force to come back in, both now and when the economy finally starts to recover.

Mr. President, the American people are counting on you. Quit placating to business interests and reliance on a corrupt, flawed system that harms American workers. If you would like, we would be more than happy to work with you on the new Executive Order.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Stein', written in a cursive style.

Dan Stein
President