



# UNITED STATES MINORITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**“A VOICE CRYING OUT IN THE DESERT”**



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Today January 11, 2022.

The message is simple. We need to open the border for Business not for illegal immigration. The United States Minority Chamber of Commerce highlight the importance of working to restart **trade and investment** and increase international business, strengthen the United States' global leadership, and accelerate economic recovery.

We envision an economic catastrophe in the lives of all American businesses and our economy if we don't changes to take all necessary steps to restore visa processing operations, reduce the backlog of appointments, and lower visa wait-times.

Today limited visa processing capacity and extended wait-times are a legacy of measures taken in the early days of the pandemic that are no longer appropriate or necessary as testing and vaccines become more widely available in a desperate position of Biden's administration.

As international and domestic travel begin to recover, many travel businesses rely on B1-B2, H-2B and J1 visas to meet short-term and seasonal workforce demands that cannot otherwise be filled. The Chamber has more than 250 U.S. Employers with interest to hire people as temporary workers. Our members and partners around our nation, are feeling the negative effects of lowered visa processing operations more than ever.

We are making a call to the Department of State and particularly the Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Mr. Brian A. Nichols, to consider our proposals, take the necessary steps to shorten wait times, and ease the tension felt by so many business people across the country.

The U.S. Minority businesses across our nation continue to experience workforce shortages, and our needlessly lowered visa processing operations are exacerbating this problem, particularly in consulates located in Honduras, Haiti, Colombia, Dominican Republic and Mexico.

However, this organization is ready to partner with the U.S Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of States and all consulates located in the Americas, and we are urging the State Department to expedite processing for H-2B, B1-B2, and J1 visas by clearing the appointment backlog and lowering visa wait times. The Chamber has their own HUBs in Honduras, Colombia and Dominican Republic to facility all process with an intelligent format avoiding waste public funding with corrupt organizations in the region.

The United States of America's Small Business already struggling economy depends on international visitors and temporary workers, and I hope to see this issue resolved in a timely manner. The Chamber can facilitate all process since the beginning:

1. Selecting the right candidate for our employers
2. Coordinate all logistic and infrastructure for the applicants in their arrival to the United States.
3. Organize a MOU of security and response against candidate broking visa and relations with employers

To finalize our monthly point of view of January, is extremely important about swift and efficient visa processing is critical to restoring the United States as a top destination for business travelers.

With 60% of U.S. embassies and consulates partially or completely closed for visa processing—and average appointment wait times climbing to more than a year in some locations—a commitment to restoring visa operations and reducing the appointment backlog is necessary to ensure the U.S. inbound travel market will recover more quickly to pre-pandemic levels.

We applaud the initiative of the National Interest Exception for international leaders in business and others skills has been created, the processing of these visas in a timely way continues to be a challenge.

All our business 'delegations coming to the United States provide significant and essential value to the economy. While we recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic remains a challenge, other competitor countries have issued clear guidance for international business , and we urge the State Department to do everything it can to expeditiously process business visas.

We need to be clear-eyed that this is also about protecting our economy and U.S. businesses at home and abroad. For this reason, today's our statement is designed to outline a vision and to provide a road map in the VISA process .

We are very confident about this intention to do this with partners from the Federal Government to launch this call for action.

I look forward to what we all can accomplish together in the months to come particularly in the business relations with Colombian and Hondurans counterparts.

Thank you.



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