



July 7, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

The Cybersecurity Coalition strongly urges you to reconsider the implementation of the administration's Proclamation 10014 due to its counterproductive nature to cybersecurity, especially given current circumstances. The US-cybersecurity industry is the largest, most innovative, and most trusted. Public and private sector entities within the US and her allies, including critical infrastructure, rely on the products and services provided by these US companies to prevent cybercrime and state sponsored cyberattacks and espionage. Unfortunately, recent developments seriously threaten the US-based cybersecurity industry's ability to continue to maintain their best in class status.

One of the keys to the United States' success in this highly competitive and specialized industry comes from an ingrained culture to recruit the best and brightest individuals regardless of nationality. This culture is reinforced by the fact that Information technology specialists, computer scientists, and other technical experts are in short supply and high demand globally. This is not an industry where qualified Americans are unable to find employment due to the existence of foreign cybersecurity professionals. Only last year, the United States' own Department of Homeland Security estimated this country's shortage of cybersecurity practitioners was 300,000, while various private sector organizations have estimated the shortage closer to 500,000. Without significant changes, it is likely that this shortage of cybersecurity practitioners will continue to increase over the near term.

Your recent Proclamation 10014, *the Proclamation Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the U.S. Labor Market Following the Coronavirus Outbreak* is already exacerbating the serious workforce issues that plague our industry. The inability to integrate talented cybersecurity professionals from outside of the United States through the issuance of H1B visas will stymie US-based cybersecurity growth and harm the development of much needed cybersecurity products and services.

Furthermore, the United States' loss may be our adversaries gain. It is no secret that nations with competing policy interests are heavily investing in malicious cyber capabilities, as well as in emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and quantum computing. Any hindrance to American leadership in these areas may significantly impact American economic and national security interests. If cyber professionals cannot come here, they will go elsewhere.

The Cybersecurity Coalition strongly urges a reconsideration of the extension of the proclamation. We ask that you consider ending its effect immediately.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ari Schwartz  
Cybersecurity Coalition Coordinator