

## The Chamber Gets an Immigration Win for Its Members

The Chamber continues working hard to ensure American companies are able to hire the best workers to maintain competitiveness. We got a nice win, but the fight continues.

**Good news.** Last week, the Chamber and the business community won a legal victory against the administration.

**What happened?** Judge Jeffrey White in Oakland [blocked](#) the administration from enforcing its entry ban on various types of nonimmigrant workers from entering the U.S. through the end of the calendar year. This is a great victory for American businesses and our nation's economy, as the bans cover the following nonimmigrant visa classifications that many employers rely upon to meet their workforce needs: H-1B, H-2B, L-1, and J-1.

**Why it matters.** The judge's ruling, in effect for the duration of the lawsuit, only applies to businesses that are members of the U.S. Chamber and the other three associations that are our co-plaintiffs. Non-members are not covered by the preliminary injunction. Membership, as they say, has its privileges.

**Bad news.** This hasn't stopped the administration from continuing to make it harder for American companies to get the talent they need to be competitive in a global economy.

**What happened?** This week, the Department of Homeland Security and the Labor Department proposed new rules that will further restrict the ability of American companies to meet their workforce needs with skilled foreign workers. For example, an administration official expects these new rules will result in the rejection of one-third of all H-1B visa applications. Furthermore, the DOL rule stands to cause significant disruptions for employers of immigrant and nonimmigrant workers alike.

**Why it matters.** H-1B workers and employment-based immigrant workers help companies innovate, grow, and create jobs.

Under the new DHS H-1B program rule, the federal government will implement more stringent eligibility requirements for H-1B workers. In addition, the rule will impose onerous compliance burdens upon various H-1B employers.

The new DOL prevailing wage rule would force companies to pay significantly higher wages for various immigrant and nonimmigrant workers. These wage levels are completely detached from the prevailing wages in the market, and many companies who are relying upon their current immigrant workers risk not being able to retain these critical individuals on their payroll.

**Our take.** The Chamber is closely examining these proposed rules, as they have the potential to inflict serious harm upon many companies in a variety of industries. We will consider all options to stop them from taking effect.

–Jon Baselice, Executive Director of Immigration Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and  
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