

M A S S A C H U S E T T S  
**HIGHTECHNOLOGYCOUNCIL**

*Dedicated to Growth... Committed to Action*

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**MASS. HIGH TECH COUNCIL STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT'S H-1B VISA PROGRAM ORDER**

The Massachusetts innovation ecosystem and tech-centric economy thrive on employers' ability to attract, engage, and retain talented individuals and teams from the US and around the world, including significant contributions made by H-1B visa holders.

Despite decades of emphasis on expanding the talent pipeline of highly skilled domestic scientists and engineers, persistent shortages remain. Our robust pre-COVID-19 economy was—and in recovery will continue to be—reliant on access to a diverse, global workforce.

The President's order to suspend the H-1B visa program is a unfortunate example of the type of policy misstep that government needs to avoid if we are to have a sustained recovery from the economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Technology employers use the H-1B program as part of their comprehensive efforts to identify and employ talented individuals with skills that are in high demand but limited supply. Impeding Massachusetts tech firms' capacity to do so will damage their ability to compete and grow in the US, reducing opportunities for all.

The Council supports efforts to expand the H-1B program, as well as modify it to prevent potential misuse. Shutting the program down completely is a step backwards, not a solution, and will have the opposite effect of the Presidents' stated objective.

**About the Massachusetts High Technology Council – [www.mhtc.org](http://www.mhtc.org)**

The Massachusetts High Technology Council, Inc. is an organization of CEOs and senior executives representing technology companies, professional services firms, and research institutions who are dedicated to creating and sustaining conditions that support investment, job growth and improved quality of life in Massachusetts. Our members are growth-oriented, knowledge-intensive employers and institutions that develop, deliver and depend on technology products, services and innovations to advance their organizational objectives—a definition which covers just about all business enterprises in Massachusetts today.

Our mission is to help make Massachusetts the world's most attractive place in which to live and work, and in which to create, operate, and grow high technology businesses.

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