

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump Increases Labor-Market Regulation

Although businesses no doubt have welcomed regulatory relief in some areas, the Trump administration is increasing regulation of the U.S. labor market via its immigration policies ("Trump vs. the Deep Regulatory State" by Christopher DeMuth, op-ed, Nov. 18).

With little transparency as to the changing rules, companies have seen new interpretations of who qualifies as a high-skilled worker, have received numerous "requests for evidence" when applying for professional visas and will soon face additional enforcement visits if they hire skilled-visa holders. New regulations are expected that will take away the ability of spouses of H-1B visa holders to work in America and will compel most international students in STEM fields to leave the U.S. within a year after graduation, effectively removing them from the labor market. These actions will likely lead companies to move more work and investment out of the U.S.

The administration will potentially remove from U.S. workplaces up to 800,000 young workers after eliminating the Deferred Action for Childhood

Arrivals program, while Immigration and Customs Enforcement has promised immigration raids on stores, restaurants and factories. For U.S. businesses, not all is Morning in America.

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I have spent my entire career in hospital administration, mostly in rural areas. Visa options, whether the H-1B or the J-1 waiver, are critical to the availability of medical services across rural America where foreign-born physicians often provide much of the care. The tightening of visa options won't ease physician shortages in the U.S., won't make U.S.-born physicians suddenly want to practice in rural areas, and won't turn displaced coal miners and factory workers into physicians.

Perhaps there have been abuses of the immigration system in the past, but let's not throw the baby out with the bath water.

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