

U.S. Tech Workers Project from Progressives for Immigration Reform Highlights Negative H-1B Visa Program Effects on STEM-Trained Americans

SAN FRANCISCO (21 March 2018) – Progressives for Immigration Reform (PFIR) has launched a campaign as part of its **U.S. Tech Workers Project** to bring attention to hiring practices of companies that fill positions with workers on H-1B visas instead of American workers.

Through its U.S. Tech Workers project, PFIR is working to unite tech workers and calling on Congress to reform the visa program. The campaign is running in San Francisco’s Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) stations and train cars, with a message targeted to U.S. tech workers. Poster copy reads, “Your companies think you are expensive, undeserving & expendable. Congress, fix H-1B law so companies must seek & hire U.S. workers!” and directs viewers to ustechworkers.com.

“The Baby Boomer generation created the technology industry, and they benefited greatly from opportunities to not only earn but learn,” said Kevin Lynn, PFIR Executive Director. “However, despite the continuing growth of the industry, opportunity to earn and learn is shrinking and shrinking fast. And despite the demand for STEM workers, wages have been flat for years. We believe for this generation entering the workforce and for future generations to prosper, U.S. tech companies must seek and hire U.S. tech workers first.”

Employing foreign workers over qualified American workers is an increasingly common business hiring practice in the U.S. in many fields, including science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). For example, foreign workers account for about 70% of the workforce in California’s tech cradle, Silicon Valley.

Created through the Immigration Act of 1990, the H-1B is a U.S. visa which permits employers to hire foreign workers on a temporary basis for jobs that require highly specialized knowledge and a bachelor’s degree or higher. A 2008 assessment from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services found fraud in 21 percent of the H-1Bs granted. And the program’s history of abuse has been well chronicled by the media.

Increasingly too, foreign workers are used to replace American workers, who often must train their replacements or risk foregoing severance packages, also widely reported in the press.

Initial response to the campaign has been strong and many tech workers who have been negatively impacted by H-1B hiring practices have been sharing their personal stories. PFIR’s U.S. Tech Workers campaign in San Francisco runs through April 1.

About Progressives for Immigration Reform:

[PFIR](#) is a nonprofit organization that educates the public on the unintended consequences of mass migration. PFIR supports economic policies that protect workers’ rights, increase wages for less affluent Americans and decrease economic inequality. [PFIR’s U.S. Tech Workers](#) project is fostering a movement to unite tech workers, pressure the federal government for visa program reform and ensure companies hire U.S. tech workers before foreign workers.

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Available graphic: Campaign Poster

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