J-1 Summer Work Travel Talking Points

At a time of economic uncertainty, an administration working group led by White House staff is seeking to drastically alter or eliminate several J-1 programs, including the Summer Work Travel Program. Through this program, approximately 100,000 international students work seasonal jobs, most in resort areas and attractions. **More than 3,000 work in businesses operating in Ohio**. These programs are privately funded and operate at no cost to U.S. taxpayers.

J-1 Summer Work Travel students do not displace American workers. To the contrary, this program creates and sustains American and Ohio jobs. When these students are employed, it allows businesses to stay open longer and at a greater scale. And this means they employ more Americans and keep more Americans on year-round payrolls.

Cutting J-1 Summer Work Travel could devastate my business and impact traveler spending throughout Ohio. Without adequate staffing, I may be forced to [depending on applicability]

- Reduce my hours of operation
- Reduce days of operation
- Close areas of my business or exhibits
- Hire fewer American workers as my hours and days of operation are reduced
- Lay off year-round American workers

[If you do not employ Summer Work Travel students, consider using the points above to demonstrate how it will hurt the Ohio travel economy as it impacts some of our industry's most heavily visited attractions and communities. When they hurt, all of Ohio loses.]

We can't find enough workers. In fact, 97% of Summer Work Travel program hosts say they have more seasonal jobs than they can fill, even after hiring as many Americans as possible and J-1 Summer Work Travel students too.

Although this program achieves cultural goals, such as greater cross-cultural understanding, more than 50% of program employers said **labor shortages and the lack of available American workers were their most important reason** for participating in the program.

This program has broad bipartisan and overwhelming business support.

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