

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

RECEIVED
By ESEC at 1:45 pm, May 14, 2021

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

While a significant amount of DHS's attention is rightfully focused on the southern border, it is critical that DHS also focus on our nation's foreign student and exchange visitor programs. The Optional Practical Training (OPT) programs raise a number of significant national security issues which is why increased transparency in recent years on Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) data has been welcomed on Capitol Hill. Accurate data is essential for conducting proper oversight, yet the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has recently significantly reduced transparency on 2020 data. This was quite unexpected as SEVP has been posting this information online for many years.

I am requesting that SEVP immediately provide data for 2020 in the format that has been previously publicly posted for 2017, 2018, and 2019.

I ask that this information be provided to me no later than (30) days after receipt of this letter. The tables should include **all employers in the SEVIS database who were reported as employers** by foreign students and exchange visitors, to include employers that may or may not be legitimate, broken down as follows:

- “2020 Top 200 Employers for OPT”: Top 200 employers for students participating in OPT by the number of students employed at each employer, in calendar year 2020.
- “2020 Top 200 Employers for STEM OPT”: Top 200 employers for students participating in STEM OPT by the number of students employed at each employer, in calendar year 2020.
- “2020 Top 200 Employers for CPT Students”: Top 200 employers for students participating in Curricular Practical Training (CPT), by the number of students employed at each employer, in calendar year 2020.
- “2003 – 2020 Top 200 Employers for Pre- and Post-Completion OPT Students”: Top 200 employers for students participating in pre- and post-completion OPT, by the number of students employed at each employer, in calendar years 2003 through 2020.
- “2008 – 2020 Top 200 Employers for STEM OPT Students”: Top 200 employers for students participating in STEM OPT, by the number of students employed at each employer, in calendar years 2008 through 2020.
- “2003 – 2020 Top 200 Employers for CPT Students”: Top 200 employers for students participating in CPT, by the number of students employed at each employer, in calendar years 2003 through 2020.

- “Top 500 Program Sponsors of New Exchange Visitors in Calendar Year 2020”: Top 500 institutions or organizations designated to sponsor exchange visitors ranked by the total number of exchange visitors.

On January 27, 2021, officials within SEVP pledged publicly that “SEVP will continue to ensure transparency into OPT data and compliance via @ICEgov and Study in the States.”¹ It has broken this pledge rather quickly by reducing transparency without explanation.

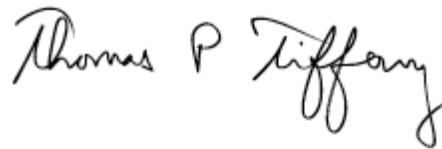
The data requested has been made public for past years, is contained within the SEVIS system, and can be quickly produced by SEVP. It should not be much of a burden.

Your prompt attention and response to this matter is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Madison Cawthorn
Member of Congress



Thomas P. Tiffany
Member of Congress



Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Steube
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Paul Gosar
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

¹ <https://twitter.com/StudyinStates/status/1354441021925576704>