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Office of Governor Steve Sisolak

July 2, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Request for teacher exemption from Proclamation 10014

Dear President Trump:

As Governor of the State Nevada, I write to express my profound concerns with the suspension of the J-1 visa program for our educators. The suspension of these visas undermines access to talents and skills that have historically enriched and enhanced our State and our nation and will potentially leave thousands of special education students without a teacher.

According to the Nevada Department of Education, there are about 250 educators on a J-1 visa at any given time in our State. While we are thankful that your Proclamation does not impact teachers already in the country, it will hinder our State's ability to hire approximately 100 teachers for the upcoming school year.

The Clark County School District (CCSD), one of the largest school districts in the country, recruited 135 teachers benefiting from a J-1 visa, and extended offers to 95. Importantly, 88 of the 95 teachers were recruited by CCSD to fill critical special education vacancies in our State. These teachers were scheduled to arrive in our State as early as this month and begin instruction in the upcoming school year. However, unless immediate action is taken to exclude these teachers from the suspension, additional students will be deprived of licensed and highly qualified teachers.

I know we both share a common interest for our children's future. As such, I urge you to amend the Proclamation and provide an immediate exemption for these teachers. I strongly believe that an exemption is necessary to avoid a devastating impact on our most vulnerable students, not just in Nevada, but across our entire nation. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Governor Steve Sisolak
State of Nevada

Cc: Secretary Betsy DeVos, U.S. Department of Education
Acting Secretary Chad F. Wolf, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Secretary Michael R. Pompeo, U.S. Department of State
Secretary Eugene Scalia, U.S. Department of Labor