

Committee on Financial Services
Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
Committee on House
Administration
Democratic Steering & Policy
Committee
Democratic Caucus; Chair, Committee
on Organization, Study & Review

www.house.gov/capuano



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Michael E. Capuano
8th District, Massachusetts

Washington Office:
1414 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2108
202-225-5111
Fax: 202-225-9322

District Offices:
110 First Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
617-621-6208
Fax: 617-621-8628

Roxbury Community College
Campus Library
Room 211

February 8, 2011

The Hon. Janet Napolitano, Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20393

Dear Madame Secretary:

I am privileged to represent great universities, research institutes, and teaching hospitals, and I have recently learned from the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals (COBTH) that their member institutions are experiencing unprecedented difficulties in securing H1-B visas for their foreign scientists and physicians. I am told, and I am frankly incredulous, that major academic medical centers are receiving Requests for Evidence to document their connection with universities and their participation in scientific and clinical research. I am concerned that their exemption from the H1-B cap may be in question and I would strongly oppose such reclassification.

I respectfully request that you clarify any proposed changes in the classification of teaching hospitals and related research institutes. My district thrives on intellectual capital and it is no exaggeration to say that discoveries made here contribute to a healthier future for our country and our species. Modern science depends upon global exchanges of knowledge, and I am sure you are familiar with the oft-quoted statistic that one-third of Nobel Prizes awarded in scientific fields to Americans have been won by men and women born abroad. I have no doubt that many of those who are beneficiaries of these H1-B applications will prove to be aliens of exceptional or extraordinary ability. They will be, however, in the early stages of their careers and their future contributions will depend upon their eligibility to work in the United States as H1-B visa holders.

Many thanks for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

Cc: Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD, Director, NIH
Alejandro Mayorkas, Director, USCIS
Senator John F. Kerry
Senator Scott Brown
COBTH

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER