



# American Bridge

## Trump Policy Brief: The Kushners and the EB-5 Visa Program

5.8.17

## THE KUSHNER FAMILY'S USE OF EB-5 VISAS

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017, President Trump signed a spending bill that included an extension of the EB-5 visa program. The EB-5 visa program allows foreigners to immigrate to the United States if they agree to make a substantial investment in an American commercial enterprise.

The day after Trump signed the bill, Nicole Meyer, the sister of Trump adviser/son-in-law Jared Kushner, traveled to China to pitch the program to investors. Meyer sought funding for her family's company, The Kushner Companies, to build a new luxury apartment complex in New Jersey. According to NBC, Meyer "mentioned her brother during the presentation, which included a photo of President Trump identifying him as a key decision-maker on the fate of the EB-5 program." Chinese investors said the Trump connection made the program more appealing.

EB-5 visas have been dubbed "golden visas" because they can be used to buy U.S. residency for wealthy families. Beyond selling access to American residency, the program has proven controversial as it has been subject to rampant fraud, raises national security concerns, and has strayed far from its expressed intended purpose of bringing jobs to economically-depressed American communities.

The Trump family has a long history of using immigration programs to their benefit, despite Donald's tough talk on immigration. The Kushner Companies has made use of the EB-5 visa program in the past, and recently announced it would seek \$850 million to fund a new property on Manhattan's 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Trump family has also routinely hired foreign workers for its various business ventures, including construction of Trump Tower, Trump Model Management, several golf clubs, Trump Vineyard Estates, Ivanka Trump Fine Jewelry, and Melania Trump's modeling career.

### Within A Day Of Trump Extending The EB-5 Visa Program, Jared Kushner's Sister Traveled To China To Promote The Program

#### TRUMP APPROVED A CONGRESSIONAL SPENDING BILL EXTENDING THE EB-5 VISA PROGRAM

**Washington Post: President Trump Extended EB-5 Investor Visas Just A Day Before Jared Kushner's Sister "Pitched The Program To Chinese Investors."** According to The Washington Post, "A much-criticized visa program that allows foreigners to win fast-track immigration in return for investing \$500,000 in U.S. properties was extended in a bill signed by President Trump just one day before a sister of senior White House adviser Jared Kushner pitched the program to Chinese investors. Trump, who advocates for restrictive immigration policies, extended the EB-5 investor program without long-promised changes as part of a massive federal spending bill." [Washington Post, [5/7/17](#)]

- **The Extension Was Part Of A Larger Spending Bill Signed By Trump.** According to The Washington Post, "This year, a bipartisan group of legislators proposed changes that included making it more costly to participate and more difficult to defraud the government. The changes included attempts to revive the program's original intent of providing investment in rural and distressed urban areas in the United States. In recent years, developers have found ways to funnel investments to high-priced urban areas such as Manhattan by expanding the application area to include lower-income neighborhoods. However, the two leaders of the reform effort, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa), and Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.), said in a March 14 letter that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and a real estate group were undercutting the reforms. [...] The failure to overhaul the program did not lead Congress to suspend it. Instead,

with the program set to expire, Congress tucked a program extension into a spending bill that passed Congress on Thursday. The overall measure was signed by Trump on Friday.” [Washington Post, [5/7/17](#)]

### **The EB-5 Visa Program Allows Foreigners To Immigrate To The United States If They Make A Substantial Investment In An American Commercial Enterprise**

**EB-5 Visas Allow Foreign Entrepreneurs To Apply For A Green Card If They Make A Sufficient Investment In A U.S. Commercial Enterprise And Intend To Create 10 Permanent Full-Time Jobs In The U.S.** According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, “USCIS administers the EB-5 Program. Under this program, entrepreneurs (and their spouses and unmarried children under 21) are eligible to apply for a green card (permanent residence) if they: Make the necessary investment in a commercial enterprise in the United States; and Plan to create or preserve 10 permanent full-time jobs for qualified U.S. workers.” [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, accessed [4/19/17](#)]

- **Washington Post: “Program Has Offered Wealthy Foreigners A Way Around Complicated U.S. Immigration Rules, Allowing Them To Live In The United States And Seek Permanent Residency In Return For Substantial Investments.”** According to The Washington Post, “Trump, who advocates for restrictive immigration policies, extended the EB-5 investor program without long-promised changes as part of a massive federal spending bill. The program has offered wealthy foreigners a way around complicated U.S. immigration rules, allowing them to live in the United States and seek permanent residency in return for substantial investments.” [Washington Post, [5/7/17](#)]
- **EB-5 Investor Visas Have Been Called “Golden Visas” Because They Can Be Used To Buy Residency For Wealthy Families.** According to The Chicago Tribune, “The program has been extremely popular among rich Chinese, who call it the ‘golden visa’ and are eager to get their families - and their wealth - out of the country. The fact that some use it to move their money out illegally, however, has made the program unpopular with the Chinese authorities.” [Chicago Tribune, [5/6/17](#)]

### **JARED KUSHNER’S SISTER, NICOLE MEYER, PITCHED THE PROGRAM TO CHINESE INVESTORS THE DAY AFTER IT WAS EXTENDED BY TRUMP**

#### **The Kushner Companies Hoped To Raise \$150 Million For A Luxury Apartment Complex In New Jersey Through The EB-5 Visa Program**

**The Kushner Companies Hoped To Raise \$150 Million, Or 15.4% Of Development Costs, For A New Jersey Luxury Apartment Complex From Foreign Investments Through The EB-5 Visa Program.** According to Reuters, “Organizers barred journalists on Sunday from a publicly advertised event in Shanghai that offered Chinese investors the chance to get U.S. immigrant visas if they put money in a real estate project linked to the family of President Donald Trump's son-in-law. The two-tower luxury apartment complex in New Jersey, One Journal Square, is being developed by KABR Group and the Kushner Companies, which until recently was headed by senior White House advisor Jared Kushner, the husband of Trump's daughter Ivanka. The developers are seeking to raise \$150 million, or 15.4 percent of funding for the project, from investors through the EB-5 visa program, according to marketing materials posted by the event's organizer, immigration agency Qiaowai.” [Reuters, [5/8/17](#)]

#### **Meyer Identified Trump As “A Key Decision Maker On The Fate Of The EB-5 Program”**

### **NBC: “Meyer Mentioned Her Brother During The Presentation, Which Included A Photo Of President Trump Identifying Him As A Key-Decision Maker On The Fate Of The EB-5 Program.”**

According to NBC, “Journalists who attended a sales pitch in Beijing on Saturday — before they were ejected by the organizers — said that Meyer mentioned her brother during the presentation, which included a photo of President Trump identifying him as a key-decision maker on the fate of the EB-5 program.” [NBC, [5/8/17](#)]

- **Meyer Included A Picture Of President Trump On A Slide In Her Presentation, Listing Him As A “Key Decision Maker,” But Later Sought To Distance Kushner Companies From The Image.** According to CNN, “While Nicole Kushner Meyer didn’t reference President Trump by name, his photo appeared on a slide at the event that listed the ‘key decision makers’ on the EB-5 program. Kushner Companies later distanced itself from the photo. In a statement to CNNMoney on Monday, the company said the image ‘was part of a presentation by the event’s organizers.’ ‘Kushner Companies had nothing to do with it,’ it added.” [CNN, [5/8/17](#)]

### **Meyer Said The New Jersey Investment Was Something That “Means A Lot” To Her Whole Family**

**Jared Kushner’s Sister, Nicole Meyer, Pitched The New Jersey Investment Opportunity As Something That “Means A Lot To Me And My Entire Family” While Mentioning Her Brother’s Role In The Business And Trump Administration.** According to The New York Times, “On Saturday afternoon, Mr. Kushner’s sister Nicole Meyer made a pitch to attract \$150 million in financing for a Jersey City housing development, known as One Journal Square, to more than 100 Chinese investors gathered at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Beijing. The money would be provided through a much-criticized government program known as EB-5 that awards foreign investors a path to citizenship in exchange for investments of at least \$500,000 in American development projects. Speaking in a ballroom, Ms. Meyer said the project ‘means a lot to me and my entire family.’ She mentioned her brother’s service as chief executive of Kushner Companies, the family business from which he resigned in January, saying he had left to serve in the Trump administration.” [New York Times, [5/6/17](#)]

### **Kushner Companies Brochure: “Invest \$500,000 And Immigrate To The United States”**

**New York Times: The Kushner Companies Event Was “Hosted By Qiaowai, A Chinese Immigration Agency That Helps Chinese Families Move Abroad.”** According to The New York Times, “As Ms. Meyer spoke, journalists for The New York Times and The Washington Post were removed from the ballroom and told by organizers it was a ‘private event,’ even though it had been publicly advertised. It was hosted by Qiaowai, a Chinese immigration agency that helps Chinese families move abroad. Ms. Meyer is scheduled to appear in other Chinese cities in the coming days.” [New York Times, [5/6/17](#)]

**The Kushner Companies Promised Investors, “Invest \$500,000 And Immigrate To The United States.”** According to The Washington Post, “It was a day after Trump signed the bill that Meyer made her presentation in Beijing in which she and her associates urged the Chinese to invest in the luxury apartment building, One Journal Square, which is slated to be built next year in Jersey City. ‘Invest early, and you will invest under the old rules,’ one speaker said. A brochure put it even more plainly: ‘Invest \$500,000 and immigrate to the United States.’” [Washington Post, [5/7/17](#)]

### **Chinese Investors Testified That The Kushner Companies’ Connection To Trump And The Immigration Promises Were What Made The Investment Appealing**

**Chicago Tribune: Wang Yun, A Chinese Investor Who Attended The Kushner Companies Event “Said The Kushner Family’s Ties To Trump Were An Obvious Part Of The Project’s Appeal.”**

According to The Chicago Tribune, “At Saturday’s event, attendee Wang Yun, a Chinese investor, said the Kushner family’s ties to Trump were an obvious part of the project’s appeal. ‘Even though this is the project of the son-in-law’s family, of course it is still affiliated,’ Wang said.” [Chicago Tribune, [5/6/17](#)]

- **Chinese Investor Wang Yun: “Even Though This Is The Project Of The Son-In-Law’s Family, Of Course It Is Still Affiliated.”** According to The Chicago Tribune, “At Saturday’s event, attendee Wang Yun, a Chinese investor, said the Kushner family’s ties to Trump were an obvious part of the project’s appeal. ‘Even though this is the project of the son-in-law’s family, of course it is still affiliated,’ Wang said.” [Chicago Tribune, [5/6/17](#)]

**Chinese Investor Bi Ting Said Having Trump’s Son-In-Law Associated With The Development Was “A Bonus For The Project.”** According to TIME, “Bi Ting, a 34-year-old woman who attended the Shanghai event, said having the name of the U.S. president’s son-in-law associated with it was ‘a bonus for the project.’” [TIME, [5/7/17](#)]

**Chinese Investor Bi Ting Said She Was Considering Immigrating To America To Give Her Child A More Relaxing And Open-Ended Academic Environment.** According to TIME, “The other participant, Bi, who is pregnant, said she was considering immigrating to America to give her child an academic environment that is ‘more relaxing; where one can pursue real interests and where the child can do something that they really want to do.’” [TIME, [5/7/17](#)]

## **CBS: MEYER HAS BROUGHT HER BROTHER’S CONFLICTS OF INTEREST TO THE FOREFRONT**

### **CBS: Kushner Could Continue To Benefit From His Family Business After He Leaves The White House And He Might Adjust His Decision-Making Accordingly**

**CBS: Current And Future Kushner Companies Deals Could Pose A Conflict Of Interest For Jared Kushner Because, Though He Has Divested From His Assets Temporarily, He “Could Well Reap Their Bounty Once He Returns To The Business After His White House Tenure.”** According to CBS, “In touting the deal to an audience in Shanghai, a picture of President Donald Trump was shown, and Kushner’s sister pointed out that her brother was a high administration official. That raised the issue of the family using its links to the White House as a sales tool, potentially crossing ethical lines. Could current and future deals pose a conflict for Kushner, a top aide to President Trump? They might. While Kushner has severed relations with the family business, Kushner Cos., and sold assets, he could well reap their bounty once he returns to the business after his White House tenure. And that could raise suspicions that he helped himself and his family through his government influence. He has indicated that he would recuse himself if any conflicts arose.” [CBS, [5/9/17](#)]

- **George W. Bush White House Ethics Lawyer Richard Painter Has Testified That Nothing Would Stop Jared Kushner From Rejoining Kushner Cos. After His White House Tenure As His Family Could Allow Him To Reclaim His Trusts.** According to CBS, “What’s to stop Kushner later, after he leaves the White House, from becoming a beneficiary again and rejoining Kushner Cos.? Apparently nothing, according to Richard Painter, the White House ethics lawyer under President George W. Bush. Painter, now a professor at the University of Minnesota Law School, said the assets Kushner shipped to the trust ‘belong to the family,’ and so he can reclaim them in the future.” [CBS, [5/9/17](#)]
- **If Kushner Returns To His Family Business, It “Could Raise Suspicions That He Helped Himself And His Family Through His Government Influence.”** According to CBS, “In touting the deal to an audience in Shanghai, a picture of President Donald Trump was shown, and Kushner’s

sister pointed out that her brother was a high administration official. That raised the issue of the family using its links to the White House as a sales tool, potentially crossing ethical lines. Could current and future deals pose a conflict for Kushner, a top aide to President Trump? They might. While Kushner has severed relations with the family business, Kushner Cos., and sold assets, he could well reap their bounty once he returns to the business after his White House tenure. And that could raise suspicions that he helped himself and his family through his government influence. He has indicated that he would recuse himself if any conflicts arose.” [CBS, [5/9/17](#)]

### **Kushner Is Still Attached To His Assets**

**CBS: “It Remains Murky Just How Much Kushner Has Rid Himself Of Family-Related Assets” But What Is Known Is His Common Stock And Investments Are Controlled By His Mother.** According to CBS, “It remains murky just how much Kushner has rid himself of family-related assets. In a White House briefing on March 31, officials said Kushner had resigned from more than 266 entities and ‘divested from most of those that may have created a conflict of interest.’ A report in Politico said his common stock and 35 investments had been sold to a trust overseen by Kushner’s mother, Seryl, with other assets going to his brother, Josh, and some more to third parties.” [CBS, [5/9/17](#)]

**New York Times: Kushner Has Remained The “Beneficiary Of A Series Of Trusts That Own His Stakes In Kushner Companies Properties And Other Investments, Worth As Much As \$600 Million.”** According to The New York Times, “Even as Mr. Kushner seeks to keep a distance from the family business in his new role, his persistent ties to the company have come under scrutiny. He remains the beneficiary of a series of trusts that own his stakes in Kushner Companies properties and other investments, worth as much as \$600 million, and probably more. Since his move into politics, he has divested his stakes in dozens of other entities used to hold the investments, although he has held on to the vast majority.” [New York Times, [5/6/17](#)]

## **The EB-5 Visa Has Been A Controversial Program Prone To Abuse**

### **THE EB-5 VISA HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY AND SUBJECT TO FRAUD AND NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS**

**Washington Post: The EB-5 Visa Program Has Been Noted By Federal Agencies To Be “A Bureaucratic Nightmare, Prone To Abuse And Difficult To Justify In Terms Of Economic Return.”** According to The Washington Post, “The sales pitch put a spotlight on what has long been a controversial program. A raft of reports from federal agencies have said it is a bureaucratic nightmare, prone to abuse and difficult to justify in terms of economic return. Members of both parties have said it should be killed or overhauled. The Obama administration proposed that the price of the least-expensive investor visas go from \$500,000 to \$1.3 million, and it left it to the Trump administration to decide whether to implement the change.” [Washington Post, [5/7/17](#)]

**The Government Accountability Office Said The EB-5 Visa Program Was “Subject To Fraud And Abuse, And That The Economic Benefits Are Questionable.”** According to The Washington Post, “A federal watchdog agency, the Government Accountability Office, said in two recent reports that the program is subject to fraud and abuse, and that the economic benefits are questionable. One report said that many applications are thousands of pages long, requiring a review of more than 14 million pages a year in a system that still relies largely on paper documents.” [Washington Post, [5/7/17](#)]

- **The Government Accountability Office Said Many EB-5 Visa Applications Contained Counterfeit Documentation And The State Department Has Testified That There Is “No**

**Reliable Method To Verify The Source Of The Funds Of Petitioners.”** According to Bloomberg, “The Government Accountability Office, the investigative branch of Congress, found last year in a general report about the EB-5 program that many applications contained a high risk of fraud, and discovered cases of counterfeit documentation. State Department officials told the GAO that there is ‘no reliable method to verify the source of the funds of petitioners.’” [Bloomberg, [3/7/16](#)]

**Forbes: The EB-5 Visa Program Has Been Criticized For Straying From “Its Original Intent To Stimulate Job Growth In Economically Blighted Areas.”** According to Forbes, “Despite its successes, the EB-5 program has been criticized not only for straying from its original intent to stimulate job growth in economically blighted areas but also for not doing enough to filter out fraud. Increasingly, foreign investors who have been cheated out of their money and green cards have been fighting back and suing.” [Forbes, [11/30/16](#)]

- **Bloomberg: The EB-5 Visa Program Has “Often Turned Into A Source Of Financing For High-Profile Developments In Prosperous Neighborhoods, Such As Brooklyn’s Barclays Center And Manhattan’s Hudson Yards.”** According to Bloomberg, “The visa program was intended to create jobs in economically distressed areas but has often turned into a source of financing for high-profile developments in prosperous neighborhoods, such as Brooklyn’s Barclays Center and Manhattan’s Hudson Yards. Audrey Singer, a Brookings fellow, says data collected through the program makes it impossible to track how many jobs get created.” [Bloomberg, [3/7/16](#)]

**Last Year, A Homeland Security Special Agent Testified That EB-5 Applicants From China, Russia, Pakistan And Malaysia “Had Been Approved In As Little As 16 Days, With Files Lacking Basic Law Enforcement Queries.”** According to Bloomberg, “Last spring, a Homeland Security special agent testified that EB-5 applicants from China, Russia, Pakistan and Malaysia ‘had been approved in as little as 16 days, with files lacking basic law enforcement queries.’” [Bloomberg, [3/7/16](#)]

**Bloomberg: The Department Of Homeland Security Has Raised Concerns That The EB-5 Visa Program “Is Essentially Selling Visas To Wealthy Foreigners With No Proven Skills, Paving The Way For Money Laundering And Compromising National Security.”** According to Bloomberg, “The video was produced to help raise tens of millions of dollars through a controversial government program that offers expedited visas to foreign investors overwhelmingly from China. While the program has many supporters who argue it attracts foreign capital and creates jobs at no U.S. taxpayer cost, congressional overseers and Homeland Security have raised sharp concerns. Applicants are sometimes cleared in less than a month and the critics say the government is essentially selling visas to wealthy foreigners with no proven skills, paving the way for money laundering and compromising national security.” [Bloomberg, [3/7/16](#)]

## **BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS WAS THAT THE EB-5 VISA PROGRAM NEEDED TO BE EITHER OVERHAULED OR TERMINATED**

**There Has Been Bipartisan Consensus That The EB-5 Visa Program Needs To Be Either Overhauled Or Terminated.** According to The Washington Post, “The sales pitch put a spotlight on what has long been a controversial program. A raft of reports from federal agencies have said it is a bureaucratic nightmare, prone to abuse and difficult to justify in terms of economic return. Members of both parties have said it should be killed or overhauled. The Obama administration proposed that the price of the least-expensive investor visas go from \$500,000 to \$1.3 million, and it left it to the Trump administration to decide whether to implement the change.” [Washington Post, [5/7/17](#)]

**A Bipartisan Group Of Legislators Recently Sought To Reform The Program So It Meets Its Original Intent Of Brining Investment To Distressed Areas And Harder To Defraud The**

**Government.** According to The Washington Post, “This year, a bipartisan group of legislators proposed changes that included making it more costly to participate and more difficult to defraud the government. The changes included attempts to revive the program’s original intent of providing investment in rural and distressed urban areas in the United States. In recent years, developers have found ways to funnel investments to high-priced urban areas such as Manhattan by expanding the application area to include lower-income neighborhoods. However, the two leaders of the reform effort, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa), and Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.), said in a March 14 letter that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and a real estate group were undercutting the reforms.” [Washington Post, [5/7/17](#)]

## **Kushner Has Already Used The EB-5 Visa Program To Raise Tens Of Millions Of Dollars For Construction Projects**

### **THE KUSHNER COMPANIES RAISED \$50 MILLION FROM THE EB-5 VISA PROGRAM TO FINANCE CONSTRUCTION OF A JERSEY CITY TRUMP-BRANDED APARTMENT BUILDING**

**Washington Post: “Kushner Has Previously Raised \$50 Million From The EB-5 Visa Program To Help Finance Construction Of Trump Bay Street, A 50-Story Apartment Building In Jersey City.”**

According to The Washington Post, “Kushner has previously raised \$50 million from the program to help finance construction of Trump Bay Street, a 50-story apartment building in Jersey City, according to a Bloomberg report.” [Washington Post, [5/7/17](#)]

- **The Kushner Companies Jersey City Project Raised A Quarter Of Its Funding From EB-5 Loans, Nearly All From China.** According to Bloomberg, “The Jersey City project has raised \$50 million, about a quarter of its funding, from loans obtained through EB-5, according to a slide presentation by US Immigration Fund. Mark Giresi, general counsel of US Immigration Fund, said he believed nearly all of the EB-5 investors in the Trump project were from China.” [Bloomberg, [3/7/16](#)]
- **Bloomberg Headline: “Trump Tower Funded By Rich Chinese Who Invest Cash For Visas”** [Bloomberg, [3/7/16](#)]

### **The Kushner-Trump Project Benefitted From EB-5 Visas As Trump Attacked China And Promised To Revamp Immigration Screenings**

**Despite Trump’s Tough Talk On China And Immigrant Screening, He Simultaneously Relied On EB-5 Visas For A Trump-Branded Tower, Allowing Chinese Investors To Invest \$500,000 In Exchange For Citizenship.** According to Bloomberg, “Throughout his presidential campaign, Donald Trump has attacked China and warned about the dangers of deficient immigrant screening. ‘They’ve taken our jobs, they’ve taken our money, they’ve taken everything,’ he said of China in a speech late last month. He has called for a revamping, even a freezing, of the immigration system, but says he would make an exception for the highly skilled. Yet no skills are required of the wealthy Chinese being courted by a Chinese-subtitled video to help finance a huge Trump-branded tower in New Jersey. The video leads viewers behind the wheel of a car into Jersey City with scenes of the tower, all to the tune of the theme song from The Sopranos, ‘Woke Up This Morning.’ [...]The visa program is known as EB-5. In exchange for investing at least \$500,000 in a project promising to create jobs, foreigners receive a two-year visa with a good chance of obtaining permanent residency for them and their families. In 2014, the most recent year for which records are available, the U.S. issued 10,692 of these visas -- 85% to people from China. The Jersey City project has



raised \$50 million, about a quarter of its funding, from loans obtained through EB-5, according to a slide presentation by US Immigration Fund.” [Bloomberg, [3/7/16](#)]

### **The Trump And Kushner Families May Have Benefitted From EB-5 Visas On Other Past Projects**

**Since EB-5 Visas Don’t Require Disclosure, Other Trump-Branded Properties May Have Also Benefitted From This Program.** According to CNN, “Because EB-5 investment does not require disclosure, it is also difficult to know fully how many Trump-branded properties could have benefited from it; Trump also licenses his name to properties that his company does not directly develop.” [CNN, [4/18/17](#)]

### **THE KUSHNER FAMILY HOPES TO RAISE \$850 MILLION IN EB-5 FUNDING FOR THEIR 666 FIFTH AVENUE PROPERTY**

**The Kushner Family Has Announced Their Intention To Seek \$850 Million In EB-5 Funding To Refinance And Reconstruct Their New York Office Building At 666 Fifth Avenue.** According to Bloomberg, “A current plan by the Kushner family to refinance and reconstruct its New York office building at 666 Fifth Avenue is seeking \$850 million in EB-5 funding, as well as cash from Anbang Insurance Group and other investors, according to terms of the proposal reported by Bloomberg News. A spokesman for Kushner Cos. declined to comment.” [Bloomberg, [3/26/17](#)]

## **Despite His Tough Talk On Immigration Policy, Trump Has A History Of Using Visa Programs That Serve His Business Interests**

### **TRUMP AND HIS CHILDREN ROUTINELY HIRE FOREIGN WORKERS FOR THEIR VARIOUS BUSINESS VENTURES**

#### **Trump Companies Were Permitted To Hire More Than 1,300 Foreign Workers Since 2001 Through H-1B And H-2B Visas**

**Between 2000 And 2015, Nine Companies Majority-Owned By Trump Sought To Hire Foreign Workers Through Temporary Work-Visa Programs.** According to Reuters, “Trump owns companies that have sought to import at least 1,100 foreign workers on temporary visas since 2000, according to U.S. Department of Labor data reviewed by Reuters. Most of the applications were approved, the data show. Nine companies majority-owned by Trump have sought to bring in foreign waitresses, cooks, vineyard workers and other laborers on temporary work-visa programs administered by the Labor Department.” [Reuters, [8/2/15](#)]

**Businesses Run By The Trump Family Were Certified To Hire 1,371 Foreign Visa Workers Between 2001 And April 2017.** According to CNN, “The Trump family's business ventures have made use of virtually every part of the US immigration system over time -- including reported instances of illegal labor on two Trump-branded building projects. Businesses run and owned by Trump and his adult children have been certified to legally hire 1,371 foreign visa workers since 2001, a CNN analysis of visa records shows.” [CNN, [4/18/17](#)]

- **Trump Companies Have Sought At Least 850 H-2B Visas, 80 Percent Of Which Go To Mexican Workers Overall.** According to Reuters, “The temporary work visa program through which Trump's companies have sought the greatest numbers of workers, H-2B, brings in mostly workers from Mexico. Mexicans made up more than 80 percent of the 104,993 admissions to the

United States on H-2B visas in 2013. The Trump companies have sought at least 850 H-2B visa workers.” [Reuters, [7/31/15](#)]

- **Trump Family Businesses Received 283 H-1B Visas Between 2001 And April 2017, Used To Hire Employees At Trump Model Management, Mar-A-Lago, The Trump Corporation, And Other Trump-Owned Businesses.** According to CNN, “In their business ventures, the Trumps’ businesses have received 283 H-1B visas since 2001. The high-skilled visas have been used for Trump’s modeling venture, Trump Model Management, Mar-A-Lago, the Trump Corporation and businesses associated with his hotels and resorts.” [CNN, [4/18/17](#)]

### *Trump Tower*

**The Site For Trump Tower Was Cleared By Undocumented Polish Workers.** According to The Daily Beast, “The use of undocumented workers on a Trump construction site such as the hotel described by The Washington Post this week is certainly nothing new. Thirty-five years ago, a small army of illegal immigrants was used to clear the site for what became the crown jewel of Donald Trump’s empire. The 200 demolition workers—nicknamed the Polish Brigade because of their home country—worked 12-hour shifts, seven days a week with no overtime to knock down the old Bonwit Teller building and make room for Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. According to testimony in a protracted civil suit in federal court, the laborers were paid \$5 an hour or less when they were paid at all. Some went unpaid after the contractor had financial troubles. A few never received even the paltry sum that was owed them for their dirty and hazardous efforts preceding the construction of Trump’s monument to his own wealth.” [Daily Beast, [7/8/15](#)]

**Trump Was Accused Of Withholding Wages From Undocumented Polish Immigrants, Who Worked On Demolishing The Building On The Lot That Would Be Used To Build Trump Tower.** According to CNN, “Trump faced a lawsuit in the 1980s that accused him and business partners of withholding wages from undocumented Polish immigrants and union workers hired by a contracting company called Kaszycki & Sons to demolish the building that would make room for Trump Tower.” [CNN, [4/18/17](#)]

**A Judge Ruled In 1991 That Trump And His Associated Owed The Workers More Than \$300,000, But The Case Was Later Settled Under A Sealed Agreement.** According to CNN, “Trump faced a lawsuit in the 1980s that accused him and business partners of withholding wages from undocumented Polish immigrants and union workers hired by a contracting company called Kaszycki & Sons to demolish the building that would make room for Trump Tower. Trump testified he did not know the workers were undocumented and blamed the contractor for hiring them. A judge ruled in 1991 that Trump and his associates owed the workers more than \$300,000 plus interest. The ruling was appealed, and the case was eventually settled under a sealed agreement, according to a source familiar with the proceedings.” [CNN, [4/18/17](#)]

### *Trump Model Management*

**Trump Model Management Used Foreign Models Who Lacked The Proper Visas To Work.** According to Mother Jones, “But the mogul’s New York modeling agency, Trump Model Management, has profited from using foreign models who came to the United States on tourist visas that did not permit them to work here, according to three former Trump models, all noncitizens, who shared their stories with Mother Jones. Financial and immigration records included in a recent lawsuit filed by a fourth former Trump model show that she, too, worked for Trump’s agency in the United States without a proper visa. Foreigners who visit the United States as tourists are generally not permitted to engage in any sort of employment unless they obtain a special visa, a process that typically entails an employer applying for approval on behalf of a prospective employee. Employers risk fines and possible criminal charges for using undocumented labor.” [Mother Jones, [8/30/16](#)]

**Between 2000 And 2015, Trump Model Management And Trump Management Group Sought Visas For Nearly 250 Foreign Fashion Models.** According to Reuters, “Nine companies majority-owned by Trump have sought to bring in foreign waitresses, cooks, vineyard workers and other laborers on temporary work-visa programs administered by the Labor Department. [...] Two of his companies, Trump Model Management and Trump Management Group LLC, have sought visas for nearly 250 foreign fashion models, the records show.” [Reuters, [8/2/15](#)]

### *Golf Clubs*

**Trump Hired Over 1200 Foreign Workers At His Mar-A-Lago And Jupiter, Florida, Golf Clubs Over A 15 Year Period, With A Preference For Young, Attractive Women From South Africa And Romania.** According to CNN Money, “But recent filings with the government show that two of the billionaire candidate's businesses have once again taken steps to bring in foreign workers to do jobs that critics say could be handled by Americans. Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club and Jupiter Golf Club have filed documents to bring in as many as 78 foreign workers for the next fiscal year. In total, records filed at the U.S. Department of Labor and reviewed by CNN reveal that in the last 15 years, Donald Trump's various businesses have been granted approval to import at least 1,256 foreign guest workers. The guest workers were brought in on a variety of different U.S. visa programs that allow companies to import workers temporarily from overseas. Trump seems to like his overseas workers to be young and attractive, and with strong specific accents from Romania and South Africa -- countries that convey a well-heeled, exotic appeal, according to numerous former workers interviewed on background. And Donald Trump especially likes the workers when they are women, who he lavishly tips, according to several of the former workers interviewed.” [CNN Money, [7/28/16](#)]

- **Trump Claimed He Hired Foreign Workers Because He Could Not Find Americans To Accept The Positions.** According to CNN Money, “Trump's argument, in all cases of importing foreign workers, is that no Americans would accept the jobs he is offering, and that he tried his best to find Americans to work, but couldn't fill the positions. Trying to find Americans to fill the jobs is a requirement on the Department of Labor Visa Applications, and the Trump Organization claims it followed the regulations to the letter.” [CNN Money, [7/28/16](#)]
- **CNN Money: “Records Show Mar-A-Lago Appears To Have Done The Bare Minimum Required By Law To Advertise The Jobs To U.S. Workers.”** According to CNN Money, “The Department of Labor requires proof that an employer seeking to import workers tried but failed to attract qualified U.S. workers. Records show Mar-a-Lago appears to have done the bare minimum required by law to advertise the jobs to U.S. workers. According to a CNN analysis of hundreds of pages of Labor Department documents, Mar-a-Lago did not place advertisements in the area's largest newspaper. Instead, ads were placed in a local paper with a small circulation and the ads were routinely posted for just two days, the minimum required by law. Department of Labor documents obtained by CNN also show Mar-a-Lago failed to comply with government regulations on some previous applications for visa workers.” [CNN Money, [7/28/16](#)]
- **Of 300 American Applicants For Jobs At Mar-A-Lago, Just 17 Were Hired; 500 Foreign Workers Were Hired For The Same Jobs Over The Same Time Period.** According to New York Daily News, “Department of Labor records show Trump has sought H-2 visas for hundreds of foreigners to fill temporary positions at the two properties in recent years. The visas are issued through a legal program that allows employers to temporarily hire foreign workers when there are no Americans available to do the work. But hundreds of U.S. applicants either applied or were referred for the jobs, but only a handful were hired, the New York Times reported in February. Since 2010, nearly 300 U.S. residents applied or were referred for jobs as waiters, waitresses, cooks and

housekeepers there, but only 17 were hired, according to The Times. Over the same time period, 500 visas for foreign workers were filed at Mar-a-Lago.” [New York Daily News, [4/5/17](#)]

- **As Of October 2016, Palm Beach County Had 35,766 Unemployed Job Seekers.** According to the Palm Beach Post, “As of October, Palm Beach County’s labor market included 35,766 job seekers who were officially unemployed.” [Palm Beach Post, [12/6/16](#)]

**President Trump’s Mar-A-Lago Club Used H-2B Visas To Hire Low-Cost, Low-Skilled Seasonal Labor.** According to The New Yorker, “When it comes to the hospitality industry, though, Trump is much more, well, hospitable. His Administration recently made it harder to get H1-B visas, but he has expressed no objection to the visa category that hotels and resorts use—the H-2B—to attract low-cost, low-skilled seasonal labor. In fact, at Mar-a-Lago, his Palm Beach club, the visas are still in active use.” [New Yorker, [3/20/17](#)]

- **As Of March 2017, H-2B Visas Were In Active Use At Mar-A-Lago.** According to The New Yorker, “When it comes to the hospitality industry, though, Trump is much more, well, hospitable. His Administration recently made it harder to get H1-B visas, but he has expressed no objection to the visa category that hotels and resorts use—the H-2B—to attract low-cost, low-skilled seasonal labor. In fact, at Mar-a-Lago, his Palm Beach club, the visas are still in active use.” [New Yorker, [3/20/17](#)]

**Trump-Owned Businesses Received 1,024 H-2B Visas Between 2000 And April 2017, Which Were Used By Mar-A-Lago, Jupiter Gold Club, Lamington Farm, And The Trump National Golf Club.** According to CNN, “Trump businesses have received 1,024 H-2B visas since 2000, according to a CNN review of Labor records. Those visas have gone to Mar-A-Lago, Jupiter Gold Club, Lamington Farm and the Trump National Golf Club for jobs like cooks, waiters and waitresses and housekeepers.” [CNN, [4/18/17](#)]

#### *Trump Vineyard Estates*

**Trump Vineyard Estates Sought Permission To Hire 29 Foreign Workers Through The H-2 Visa Program During The 2017 Season.** According to The Daily Progress, “As President Donald Trump continues to advocate ‘buy American and hire American,’ his son’s Albemarle County winery has again applied to hire foreign workers. Trump Vineyard Estates, better known as Trump Winery, has asked to bring in 29 workers this season through the federal H-2 visa program. The winery initially applied for six vineyard farm workers in December and applied for an additional 23 workers in February.” [Daily Progress, [3/18/17](#)]

- **As Of March 2017, The Winery Was Owned By Eric Trump.** According to the Associated Press, “Trump Vineyard Estates, owned by Eric Trump, initially applied for six foreign workers in December. Two months later, the company applied for 23 more.” [Associated Press, [3/21/17](#)]

**Since President Trump’s Inauguration, The Winery Requested Permission To Hire 23 Foreign Workers At \$10.72 Per Hour.** According to Newsweek, “Eric Trump applied for six foreign workers in December, just before his father moved into the White House and described his ‘America first’ vision in his Inauguration Day speech. Now, Trump Vineyard Estates is seeking permission to hire 23 more foreign workers at \$10.72 an hour.” [Newsweek, [3/21/17](#)]

**Trump Vineyards Received 64 H-2A Permits Between 2006 And April 2017 For Agricultural Work.** According to CNN, “Trump Vineyards has received 64 H-2A permits since 2006, a CNN review found, for agricultural work.” [CNN, [4/18/17](#)]

#### *Ivanka Trump Fine Jewelry*

**Huffington Post: “Between 2008 And 2013, Ivanka Trump Fine Jewelry Applied For 5 H-1B Visas.”**

According to The Huffington Post, “Between 2008 and 2013, Ivanka Trump Fine Jewelry applied for five H-1B visas — which allow companies in the U.S. to temporarily employ foreign workers in certain jobs — to hire public relations, marketing and operations staff at salaries from \$41,370 to \$45,000.” [Huffington Post, [8/31/16](#)]

*Melania Trump’s Modeling Career*

**Melania Trump Used An H-1B Visa To Work In The U.S. As A Model Before She Was Granted A Green Card.** According to CNN, “Melania Trump also used H-1B visas as a model to work in the US before she was granted a green card, according to a letter from her attorney released last year.” [CNN, [4/18/17](#)]