We affirm the resolution: The United States federal government should increase its quota for H-1B visas

# Contention 1: Remittances

Getting an H-1B visa benefits the home country, because migrant workers offer remittances

Iyengar 17 from CNN writes that migrant workers send nearly half a trillion dollars back home

Within this overall category, H-1B workers remit at higher levels than the average migrant worker, for Bollard from Stanford University writes that migrants with a university degree remit 40% more, at around 1000 dollars

For India, [Pandey 18](https://www.nationalheraldindia.com/national/india-should-halt-defence-purchases-from-the-us-to-counter-trumps-h1-b-visa-stand) from the National Herald notes that around 10 billion comes yearly from the U.S., much of which is from H1B visa holders.

Remittances impact communities enormously, for CNN reports that the small amounts of $200 make up about 60% of the family household income

**Thus, the impact of remittances is gutting poverty**

UNCTAD 2011 finds that a 10 percent rise in remittances reduces the poverty headcount ratio by 3.9%

This, in turn, ameliorates horrid labor conditions, for Bayot 07 for the University of Nevada finds that

A mere 50$ increase in remittance level decreases the probability of child labor by as much as 27.9%

# Contention 2: Funding Scholarships

Increasing the quota for H-1B Visas would increase the amount of visa petitions in two ways

**First, by increasing employment chances**

[The AIC writes that](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/h1b-visa-program-fact-sheet) if the cap is reached in five days, a lottery determines which employers’ petitions for H-1B workers will be processed.

Increasing the cap therefore increases the chance that an employer wins, making petitions more desirable,

[Which is why the U.S. Department of Labor reports that](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/h1b04annual_08_7.pdf)

After the increase in the H-1B cap from 65 to 195,000 for Fiscal Year 2001, H-1B petitions rose roughly 43,000, an increase of roughly 12.6%

**Second, by dispelling fears**

Visa petition levels are depressed due to fears of U.S. crack-down on the program

[Mendonca 17](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/nri/visa-and-immigration/h-1b-visa-application-from-indian-it-companies-down-15-this-year/articleshow/59870464.cms) from Economic Times writes

H-1B visa applications from Indian IT companies are down 15% this year, reducing requests in anticipation of stricter regulation

Raising the cap would reverse this perception, revitalizing discouraged firms

**Increasing the amount of petitions is crucial**, because companies pay fees that fund STEM scholarships for low-income students

Levine from Cornell University writes that

Every H-1B visa petition has a $500 processing fee that funds STEM education and training

And [The Murthy Law Firm aggregates in 2011](https://www.murthy.com/2011/04/08/report-on-3-billion-in-h1b-employer-fees/)

Over a decade, the National Science Foundation collected more than $2.3 billion, financing over 58,000 college scholarships

These scholarships play a key role in retention for low-income students

For Swain 14 writes from South Carolina State University that

Inadequate financing is a major factor for dropping out, preventing many academically talented students from meeting their potential.

Increased scholarship funding ultimately leads to two impacts

**First, upward mobility**

[The Gates](http://www.tc.columbia.edu/articles/2008/november/education-as-a-tool-for-breaking-the-cycles-of-poverty/) Foundation explains

Providing low-income students with a degree is the most effective way to end multigenerational poverty and promote social mobility.

Which is why [Haycook 15](https://edtrust.org/the-equity-line/higher-eds-pivotal-role-in-breaking-the-cycle-of-poverty/) writes

Compared to a high school diploma, attaining a college degree reduces the chance of remaining in poverty by 3 times

**Second,** **functional flexibility**

Investments in education allow smooth adaptation to shifting working dynamics, increasing economic efficiency in the long-run

Serban 12 explains

Skilled and well educated workers can adapt faster and more effectively to technological change, making the economy more flexible and more productive over the long term. This is known as functional flexibility, necessary to solve both skills shortages and gaps as well as combat structural changes and increased competition raised from globalization

Flexibility is a necessity in the global dynamic of rapid, disruptive technological growth

[Sharon 2017](https://www.cio.com/article/3068595/leadership-management/it-talent-gap-an-existential-threat-in-need-of-new-tactics.html) from CIO writes

It is not the ‘nuts and bolts’ of technology that is the problem, for they can be outsourced or hosted in the cloud. Instead, the focus of technology is increasingly around human capital. The lack of such qualified talent holds back businesses from the innovation critical for business success.

This is why education leads to economic growth, as

[Hoxby](http://www.princeton.edu/~lboustan/research_pdfs/research05_education_growth.pdf) discovers in 2009 at Princeton University that

Every thousand dollars of four-year college spending per person raises growth by 0.07 percentage points.

Crucially, [Brenner 2002 from Yale University finds](https://news.yale.edu/2002/05/23/rising-unemployment-causes-higher-death-rates-new-study-yale-researcher-shows) that economic growth is the single most important factor relating to length of life.

Thus, we urge an affirmative ballot

# Contention 1 is Remittances

H1-B workers comprise roughly 40% of all migrant workers

Dahms of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology finds that

There are currently over 600,000 foreign workers in the H-1B category across all industries.

Costa from the EPI in 2017 continues that

Roughly 1.42 million temporary workers were authorized to be employed in the United States

Migrant workers are a key component to remittances sent back to their home country

Iyengar 17 from CNN writes that

Migrant workers send nearly half a trillion dollars back to their home countries

In addition, these H-1B workers remit at higher levels, for Bollard from Stanford University writes that, migrants with a university degree remit 40% more than other migrants annually, at around 1000 dollars

These remittances are crucial, for CNN reports that the small amounts of $200 or $300 that each migrant sends home make up about 60% of the family's household income, and this makes an enormous difference in their lives and the communities in which they live

This is why the impact is gutting poverty

UNCTAD 2011

On average, a 10 percent rise in remittances led to a reduction of 3.9 percent in the poverty headcount ratio

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Xue,Yi;Larson,Richard C., 5-26-2015, "STEM crisis or STEM surplus? Yes and yes : Monthly Labor Review: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics," No Publication, https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2015/article/stem-crisis-or-stem-surplus-yes-and-yes.htm

Numerous reports detail the growing concern of policymakers and industry leaders regarding a shortage in the STEM workforce believed necessary to sustain the U.S. innovation enterprise, global competitiveness, and national security.[5](https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2015/article/stem-crisis-or-stem-surplus-yes-and-yes.htm#_edn5) Most notable is the National Academies’ report *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, which called for improvements in kindergarten through 12th-grade science and mathematics education and increasing the attractiveness of higher education, among other recommendations.[6](https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2015/article/stem-crisis-or-stem-surplus-yes-and-yes.htm#_edn6) The report highlighted troubling issues in a number of areas: low STEM retention rates, a relative decline in the number of U.S. citizens enrolled in science and engineering graduate school, and lower percentages of STEM graduates than those of other developed countries. These sentiments were echoed in a 2012 report by the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee which stated that the current STEM workforce was falling short of demand in both STEM and non-STEM occupations.[7](https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2015/article/stem-crisis-or-stem-surplus-yes-and-yes.htm#_edn7)**According to the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, the United States would need to increase its yearly production of undergraduate STEM degrees by 34 percent over current rates to match the demand forecast for STEM professionals.**

In order to receive one of the 65,000 H-1B visas currently offered, companies must petition and in doing so pay a processing fee. These processing fees go toward STEM scholarships for the lower class.

Levine from Cornell University writes that

The fee of $500 per each additional H-1B visa petition is used to largely to fund mathematics, engineering, or science education and to fund technical skills training in order to better match the supply of qualified U.S. workers with the nature of employer demand

[Sharon 2017](https://www.cio.com/article/3068595/leadership-management/it-talent-gap-an-existential-threat-in-need-of-new-tactics.html) from CIO writes

This may be an extreme example of close-combat as battles for cutting-edge technology talent heat up, but there’s no doubt tha**t IT hiring challenges are one of the biggest, and most quickly accelerating, industry trends** keeping CIOs on their toes. In fact, the 2016 State of the CIO survey found that 49 percent of CIOs expect to experience IT skills shortages in the next 12 months, while the Harvey Nash/KPMG CIO Survey 2015 discovered that nearly 6 out of 10 CIOs believe skills shortages will prevent their organization from keeping up with the pace of change — one-third more than just three years ago. The trials and tribulations of tech hiring get constant press. The Boston Globe, for instance, wrote recently about the escalating issues in this area among Massachusetts technology teams. Starting salaries for software developers right out of college, the article reported, can soar to $90,000, while those same employees may get as many as 20 recruiting calls a day to get them to jump to another company. **But with the future of disruptive technology at hand** — including Internet of Things, Robotic Process Automation, drones, 3D printing and Smart Homes — **those shortages are sure to further worsen**. “CIOs must figure out how to handle these challenges now,” said Marc Snyder, a technology consultant with KPMG,” many are already finding that a **lack of qualified talent is holding them back from the innovation critical for their business’ success.**” “**The speed of technology is what’s driving IT today**,” said Bob Miano, president and CEO of Harvey Nash USAPAC, in a recent CIO Insight post. “**Disruption is the norm now, so it’s about how fast companies can innovate. Pressure to produce at an accelerated pace is felt across all vertical markets, and has direct ties to the talent war.**” A new generation of technology jobs has emerged to fit the needs of companies implementing disruptive technologies and working to deliver on their promises. These jobs include data scientists, cybersecurity specialists, industrial network engineers, mobile app developers and network programmers. To meet future demand, **CIOs need to invest in boosting the skills of existing employees to fit those positions, as well as bring in the right new talent and skill sets to their workforce.** According to the Harvey Nash/KPMG CIO Survey 2015, nearly two-thirds of respondents said they believe digital disruption will bring significant change to their businesses in terms of new business models, products and services. Over a third of CIOs say they are already responding to and managing that disruption, while another 3 in 10 expect to be heading down that path within the next two years. This digital disruption has also disrupted the way CIOs think about staffing and technology, says Albert Ellis, CEO, Harvey Nash Group. “In the past, CIOs would set their IT strategy first, followed by a resourcing plan. Now, it’s all changed. Certain skills are in such demand IT executives are facing up to the reality there’s no point in having the right technology platform if you don’t have the right people to build and support it.” The skill CIOS want the most? There has been an almost insatiable increase in demand for big data analytics skills. In fact, that demand is almost six times higher than the rise in the next most in-demand skill, change management. And don’t neglect the so-called “soft,” non-technical skills, says Ellis. “**As technology teams become more consumer driven, and much of the ‘nuts and bolts’ of technology is outsourced or hosted in the cloud, the focus of technology is increasingly around the human experience and innovation,**” says Ellis. “Without doubt this shift is welcome as the IT industry admits it’s too focused on technical skills and not open enough to candidates who bring wider, more diverse experience, to the business. It’s not a silver bullet for the skills shortage; strong innovation and customer-facing skills are just as rare as the most sought after technical ones.”

Furthermore, the National Science Foundation’s fiscal year 2019 budget details

The Scholarship foundation is provided with 40% of total H-1B receipts collected, 75% of which is used for low-income scholarship program known as S-STEM.

[Serban 12](https://ac.els-cdn.com/S1877042812020289/1-s2.0-S1877042812020289-main.pdf?_tid=c53a0815-9810-42a7-bc97-d360bdb5d5ab&acdnat=1524794734_6c4d48dd4dbb10969d7a0646edcc564a)

Functional flexibility refers to the ability of the labour force to acquire and apply different skills, enabling them to adapt to technological change. The skill shortages might constrain the ability of a country to respond to the structural changes and increased competition raised from globalisation. An increase in unemployment, including long-term unemployment suggests that functional flexibility has been a less functional concept and the solution can be a lifelong process because skilled and well educated workers can adapt faster and more effectively to technological change, making the economy more flexible and more productive over the long term. Functional flexibility refers to the educational attainment of the labour force and also to the skills acquired during active working life within the lifelong learning process in order to solve both (HM Tresury, 2003): skills shortages: this relates to difficulties in recruitment where the skills of the workforce do not match those demanded by actual or potential employers; and skills gaps: orkforce.

NSF

The maximum duration for a Track 1 project is expected to be 5 years. The maximum S-STEM request may not exceed $650,000. At least 60% of the total requested amount must go to scholarships to academically talented low-income students with demonstrated financial need. Funds should support the implementation and testing of existing high quality evidencebased practices (e.g., curricular and co-curricular activities and student support services), contributions to knowledge use and generation, project evaluation, and project management.

https://ac.els-cdn.com/S1877042810021683/1-s2.0-S1877042810021683-main.pdf?\_tid=ceef1002-6c37-412c-a7e3-b0b4690327d8&acdnat=1524928389\_3e94872d625d7b24759b0e495dd5da5f

Over this time, students in the STEM program had a 97% retention rate, indicating that nearly all students funded by this scholarship persist in and complete their undergraduate education (Table 4). In comparison, the retention rate in STEM academic departments ranged between 40% (Biology) and 57% (Mathematics and Computer Science). For all TWU undergraduate, the 1-year retention rate was 75% (Table 4).