



Heather C. Mulligan
President & CEO

June 30, 2023

Hon. Charles Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

I respectfully request that your office consider supporting legislation to reduce the number of days asylum seekers must wait to become eligible for work. As you know, the current wait period is 180 days; however, we have a worker shortage problem in New York State and around the country while tens of thousands of immigrants sit idle, waiting to create a new life.

The most recent wave of immigrants coming to America has shined a light on the barriers they face once they enter US soil. Many families are sitting in hotel rooms just waiting for days to pass for them to become eligible to work. By reducing the waiting period, we lessen the financial burden placed on the municipalities hosting individuals while simultaneously providing the opportunity for immigrants to find gainful employment. This is all most immigrants are asking for, a chance to be part of the American way of life.

As the leader of The Business Council, the state-wide chamber of commerce in New York State, we hear daily from our members the challenges they face finding and retaining talent. The Business Council recently supported a state policy to provide undocumented immigrants a driver's license, a necessary tool in helping them contribute to society by finding a job and paying taxes. During this moment, we called on Congress to discuss immigration reform because we believe this should be handled at the federal level.

Now, four years later we are asking for help again. Comprehensive immigration policy is long overdue and is a necessary step in helping to manage the current influx of immigrants coming to the US, particularly in New York State.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/pb

cc: Hon. Andrea-Stewart Cousins, Majority Leader, NYS Senate
Hon. Carl E. Heastie, Speaker, NYS Assembly
Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor, City of New York
Hon. Kathy Sheehan, Mayor, City of Albany



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President & CEO

June 30, 2023

Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
478 Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

I respectfully request that your office consider supporting legislation to reduce the number of days asylum seekers must wait to become eligible for work. As you know, the current wait period is 180 days; however, we have a worker shortage problem in New York State and around the country while tens of thousands of immigrants sit idle, waiting to create a new life.

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