

*Press Release*  
*February 24, 2025*

## **EWIC statement on CRA and Employment Authorization**

### **Urgent Request to Protect the 540-Day Work Permit Extension Rule from repeal under Congressional Review Act**

The Essential Worker Immigration Coalition strongly urges lawmakers to oppose H.J. Res. 23 and S.J. Res. 8, resolutions introduced under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to overturn the final rule issued by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on December 13, 2024. This final rule permanently extends the automatic renewal period for certain Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) from 180 days to 540 days, a necessary and well-reasoned policy that benefits U.S. businesses, workers, and the economy at large.

This rule is an essential workforce stability measure. Government estimates indicate that the temporary 540-day extension has already prevented at least 800,000 legally authorized workers from being forced out of the labor force due to bureaucratic processing delays within U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The consequences of rescinding this policy would be dire for businesses, workers and U.S. economic growth.

### **Economic and Workforce Implications:**

- The U.S. labor market continues to face significant workforce shortages in multiple sectors, and EAD holders play a crucial role in filling these gaps. Without this rule, many legally authorized workers will face unnecessary job losses due to increasing government inefficiencies, exacerbating labor market instability.
- The DHS estimates that maintaining the 540-day extension has saved U.S. employers approximately \$3.5 billion in labor turnover costs and has contributed an estimated \$1.1 billion in federal tax revenue.
- Employers in many industry sectors depend on the certainty this rule provides to prevent disruptions to their operations, workforce planning, and economic productivity.

## Addressing USCIS Processing Backlogs:

- The rule was necessary because USCIS processing times for EAD renewals have regularly exceeded 180 days, making the prior extension period inadequate to prevent work authorization lapses.
- USCIS data demonstrate that processing delays have become extreme. This has created a widespread crisis where thousands of individuals—who had timely filed for EAD renewal—lost their ability to work due to government administrative delays beyond their control.
- The 540-day extension provides a sustainable solution to mitigate the impact of USCIS backlogs while the agency continues to improve processing efficiency.

Again, EWIC strongly urges lawmakers to support stability in the U.S. workforce by opposing H.J. Res. 23 and S.J. Res. 8. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

*The Essential Worker Immigrant Coalition (EWIC) is a broad-based coalition of national businesses and trade associations from across the industry spectrum concerned with the shortage of both semi-skilled and unskilled (“essential worker”) labor. EWIC supports policies that facilitate the employment of essential workers by U.S. companies that are unable to find American workers ([www.ewic.org](http://www.ewic.org)).*