

# 2019 NALP ADVOCACY TALKING POINTS



## H-2B

### KEY TALKING POINTS

- NALP members help homeowners and businesses maintain their lawns and landscapes and take pride in their communities. Provide examples of customers in your state you provide services.
- Every H-2B worker creates or sustains 4.64 American jobs. Please explain the role of H-2B workers in your company and how they support American managers, administrative positions, etc.
- In order to ensure that landscape businesses continue to have access to needed H-2B workers in fiscal 2020, Congress must pass meaningful and lasting H-2B cap relief, immediately!
- For FY19 DOL certified approximately 147,000 petitions including about 91,000 with an April 1 state date.
- DHS used discretionary authority granted by Congress to release an additional 30,000 in May. This should have been nearly double that number and released sooner. Make this action mandatory!
- If you were shut out of the H-2B program in 2017, 2018 or 2019 due to the cap, explain how your company and your American workers suffered, further elaborate what will happen if you do not receive workers in 2019.
- Explain the current labor shortage that has resulted from record-low unemployment and your challenges in recruiting seasonal workers. Domestic workers don't want seasonal work, when permanent positions remain abundant. Provide concrete examples of how you have attempted recruiting domestic workers (high schools, colleges, job fairs, etc.).
- The H-2B program is extremely costly and complicated. Landscape companies would gladly hire American workers to fill seasonal positions if they could. Add your own challenges i.e., direct costs and time you spend. Provide the prevailing wage you paid H-2B employees most recently vs. minimum wage.

### REQUESTED ACTION

- Please urge your party leaders to include in final spending bills the H-2B cap relief & reforms included in the house-passed FY20 appropriations bill for the Department of Labor & the house appropriations committee-passed bill for the Department of Homeland Security.
- Please pass comprehensive H-2B cap relief as standalone measure or as part of any other relevant legislation to provide a permanent solution.
- Please provide H-2B cap relief that reflects actual demand and enact reforms that provide certainty for compliant employers.