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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to report on the
H–2A program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. VASQUEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to
report on the H–2A program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Farm Workforce Sup-
5 port Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON H-2A TEMPORARY VISA PROGRAM.**

7 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than two years
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-
9 troller General of the United States shall submit a report

1 to certain Congressional committees on the H-2A pro-
2 gram, including—

3 (1) an analysis of the impact the program has
4 on hiring, including the impact on domestic workers
5 and guest workers and whether there is an increas-
6 ing reliance on the program by American employers;

7 (2) identification of any challenges in securing
8 adequate, affordable housing for guest workers;

9 (3) implications of wage rate requirements
10 under the program on an American employer's abil-
11 ity to recruit domestic workers in comparison to
12 guest workers;

13 (4) an analysis of the economic impact of lost
14 wages from a spouse and unmarried children of a
15 guest worker; and

16 (5) examining compliance with working condi-
17 tion guarantees outlined in a guest worker's contract
18 made pursuant to the H-2A program.

19 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) AMERICAN EMPLOYER.—The term “Amer-
21 ican employer” means an individual, company, or or-
22 ganization that hires another individual and pays
23 such individual a salary or wage, in the United
24 States.

1 (2) CERTAIN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—

2 The term “certain Congressional committees” means
3 the—

4 (A) Committee on Education and the
5 Workforce of the House of Representatives;

6 (B) Committee on Agriculture of the
7 House of Representatives;

8 (C) Committee on Health, Education,
9 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

10 (D) Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
11 and Forestry of the Senate.

12 (3) DOMESTIC WORKER.—The term “domestic
13 worker” means a United States citizen who is em-
14 ployed in the United States.

15 (4) GUEST WORKER.—The term “guest work-
16 er” means a worker who is a nonimmigrant de-
17 scribed in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) of the Immi-
18 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
19 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a)).

20 (5) H-2A PROGRAM.—The term “H-2A pro-
21 gram” means the admission of nonimmigrants de-
22 scribed in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) of the Immi-
23 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
24 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a)).



The Farm Workforce Support Act

REP. GABE VASQUEZ (NM-02) AND REP. JUAN CISCOMANI (AZ-06)

The H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers Program supports farms across the country that are not able to hire enough domestic workers to perform seasonal agricultural work through hiring workers from other countries. H-2A employers must also provide housing at no cost to workers in the program, as well as transportation costs to and from a worker's home country. Since the pandemic, farms across the Southwest have reported difficulty in hiring workers for their operations along with an increase in use of the H-2A program. The program has seen massive growth in recent years, with 55,000 visas issued in FY2011 compared to 258,000 issued in FY2021.

The Farm Workforce Support Act would conduct a review of the H-2A program to analyze the effects the recent growth of the program, wage rate requirements, and challenges in securing housing have had on American employers' hiring habits, as well as on the conditions of both American and guest workers. This legislation would ensure that programs designed to support American agriculture is doing just that.

This bill would:

- Direct GAO to submit a report detailing how the H-2A program has impacted the American agricultural workforce. The report would examine the following:
 - An analysis of the impact the H-2A program has on hiring, including the impact on both American workers and guest workers and whether there is an increasing reliance on the program by American employers.
 - Identification of any challenges in securing adequate, affordable housing for guest workers.
 - Implications of wage rate requirements under the H-2A program on American employers' ability to recruit American workers in comparison to guest workers.
 - An analysis of the economic impact of lost wages from spouses and unmarried children of H-2A recipients being unauthorized to work in the United States.
 - Examining compliance with working condition guarantees outlined in a guest worker's contract under the H-2A program.