

October 3rd, 2023

Governor JB Pritzker
401 S. Spring St.
Springfield, IL 62704

Mayor Brandon Johnson
121 N LaSalle Street, Floor 4
Chicago City Hall
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Governor Pritzker and Mayor Johnson:

On behalf of the Cleaning Coalition of America (“CCA”), which represents the nation’s largest facility cleaning companies and collectively employs more than one million people across the country, I am writing to commend and strongly support your effort to streamline work authorizations allowing for noncitizens to work in specific industries facing labor shortages.

As you highlighted in a recent public letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, this approach will alleviate two pressing problems in the country: 1) the rising costs for states and cities to provide for asylum seekers who have been legally admitted to the country; and 2) a critical shortage of existing workers in important industries.

For elected officials across the country, the costs of caring for migrants has become a crushing weight. As you noted in your letter, the state of Illinois spent over \$250 million – in the last year alone – on migrant care. Other states face similar burdens, with acute issues in New York and Massachusetts, among many others.

Under existing federal law, these migrants are prohibited from immediately seeking employment, resulting in higher costs for local governments that must care for them. At the same time, recent data shows there are 9.9 million open positions, with 5.8 million unemployed workers. Even if every unemployed person found a position, there would still be over 4 million workforce openings.

While the recent announcement by Secretary Mayorkas that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will be extending Temporary Protected Status for asylum seekers from Venezuela who were in the United States prior to July 31, 2023 is a positive development in this effort, those asylum seekers only represent a subset of the total population of migrants in the State of Illinois, the City of Chicago, and the country as a whole.

Allowing additional migrants to seek employment would enable companies in essential industries to fill open positions. The CCA still needs more workers to meet demand. Communities in every state depend on CCA member companies to help keep businesses, schools, places of worship, public buildings and other organizations in operation.

We strongly support this policy initiative and are prepared to help you pursue this issue to seek additional positive action out of DHS. More broadly, we look forward to partnering with other individuals and organizations to solve the twin issues of a growing migrant crisis and a shortage of available workers.

Sincerely,



Josh Feinberg
President, Cleaning Coalition of America

