

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2**  
**OFFERED BY MR. MOORE OF UTAH**

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

1 **SEC. \_\_\_ SENSE OF CONGRESS ON BRIDGEUSA PROGRAMS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) BridgeUSA (formerly the J–1 Exchange  
4 Visitor Program) was created alongside the Peace  
5 Corps and United States Agency for International  
6 Development during the Cold War to promote the  
7 diplomatic and foreign affairs goals of the United  
8 States, goals the Department of State still advances  
9 in administering BridgeUSA as Federal cultural ex-  
10 change programs to this day.

11 (2) Roughly 300,000 participants from more  
12 than 200 countries and territories visit the United  
13 States on a J–1 cultural exchange visa each year.

14 (3) The work component of certain BridgeUSA  
15 programs, the largest public diplomacy program of-  
16 fered by the United States, makes travel to the  
17 United States possible for a broad and diverse group  
18 of international students and young people.

1           (4) 91 percent of Summer Work Travel (SWT)  
2 Program participants report cultural exchange as  
3 their top reason for participating in the Program.

4           (5) 84 percent of Camp Counselors report hav-  
5 ing a more positive view of America after working at  
6 a camp.

7           (6) 76 percent of SWT Program participants  
8 reported a positive change in views regarding the  
9 United States.

10          (7) 50 percent of employers stated that the ab-  
11 sence of the SWT Program participants would have  
12 a negative impact on revenues.

13          (8) 39 percent of employers said they would  
14 have to reduce hours of operation without the SWT  
15 Program.

16          (9) Annually the ski industry embraces more  
17 than 8,000 SWT participants from the Southern  
18 Hemisphere who provide a richer cultural experience  
19 for their coworkers and guests, while learning impor-  
20 tant skills about the recreation and hospitality busi-  
21 ness and at the same time generating significant  
22 economic impacts, spending, and taxes in commu-  
23 nities where they are located.

24          (10) There are similar cultural and economic  
25 benefits among participants from the Northern

1 Hemisphere who are placed in small rural commu-  
2 nities that attract large crowds in the summer at na-  
3 tional parks, amusement parks, attractions, and re-  
4 sorts across the country.

5 (11) 91 percent of host camps believe their or-  
6 ganization would be negatively impacted by the ab-  
7 sence of international Camp Counselors.

8 (12) 78 percent of host camps indicated that  
9 camp services and activities would be reduced in the  
10 absence of international Camp Counselors.

11 (13) J-1 SWT participation decreased by 96  
12 percent in 2020, and by 75 percent in 2021 com-  
13 pared to 2019.

14 (14) J-1 Camp Counselor participation de-  
15 creased by more than 99 percent in 2020 and by 78  
16 percent in 2021 compared to 2019.

17 (15) BridgeUSA work-based public diplomacy  
18 programs typically contribute over half a billion dol-  
19 lars to the United States economy annually.

20 (16) Congress supports the Department of  
21 State's ongoing commitment to protect the health,  
22 safety, and welfare of students and exchange visi-  
23 tors, and continued attention to strengthening cul-  
24 tural exchange and the experience of all participants.

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
2 gress that—

3 (1) BridgeUSA programs are vital to the econ-  
4 omy and national interests of the United States;

5 (2) BridgeUSA should continue with robust  
6 support from the Department of State to further  
7 those national interests;

8 (3) the processing of J-1 BridgeUSA visas  
9 should be prioritized at United States Embassies  
10 and consulates to ensure the program’s public diplo-  
11 macy goals are met; and

12 (4) Congress and implementing partners should  
13 be consulted on any major changes to BridgeUSA  
14 programs given the significant national security and  
15 economic impacts of the program.

