



TechServe Alliance
1420 King Street, Suite 610
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 838-2050
www.techservealliance.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer Douris
Government Affairs
(703) 838-2050 x. 100
douris@techservealliance.org

Seven Year H-1B Visa Fee Hike Rejected; Fee Extended for One Year

Alexandria, VA, December 22, 2010 - Today, the Senate approved a less expensive version of the 9/11 Health Bill. The Senate passed version will extend the H-1B visa fee hike, originally passed in the Border Security Bill, for one year or 2015.

"While we are disappointed that Congress has once again decided to pay for a bill by taxing hard working small, U.S.-based IT staffing businesses for an additional year, we are grateful that the originally proposed seven year extension was defeated. Though we fully appreciate the worthiness of providing additional funds for 9/11 workers, we believe that the fee extension is based on an erroneous assumption that the groups impacted by the H-1B visa hike provision are only the large foreign outsourcing firms," commented Mark Roberts, CEO TechServe Alliance. Instead of the longer H-1B visa hike extension, a majority of the offset for this less expensive bill will be paid for through a procurement fee. "I want to thank all those who answered our call to weigh-in with Senator Schumer's office," added Roberts.

The extension of the H-1B visa fee hike affects many small companies throughout the U.S. that are not in the business of taking jobs offshore. Instead, these companies do all they can to keep good paying jobs in the United States and grow their businesses here. Ironically, this provision, which is meant to inhibit "offshoring", makes it harder for small U.S.-based IT staffing firms to compete against their much larger foreign competition who regularly move job "offshore".

The 9/11 Health Bill was passed today in the Senate by Unanimous Consent. The bill will now go to the House of Representatives for consideration, where it is expected to be swiftly approved and then sent to the President for his signature.

###

TechServe Alliance is a collaboration of IT services firms, clients, consultants and suppliers dedicated to advancing excellence and ethics within the IT services industry. Hundreds of IT staffing, IT solutions and IT consulting firms and tens of thousands of affiliated professionals, count on TechServe Alliance to keep their leadership informed, engaged and connected. TechServe Alliance serves as the voice of the industry before the policymakers and the national and trade press. By providing access to the knowledge and best practices

of an entire industry and tapping the "collective scale" of hundreds of companies, TechServe Alliance supports its members in the efficient delivery of best-in-class IT services for clients and exceptional professional opportunities for every IT consultant.