

## It's Time to Increase the H-1B Cap Again



By [Andrew M. Wilson](#)

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This year, FY 2022, was a particularly bad year for H-1B cap lottery applicants. The total number of H-1B cap registrations surpassed 300,000 (308,613). This represented a 12% increase from FY 2021. If you do the math, this year's H-1B cap selection rate was about 28%. That is inching towards a 1 in 4 shot for these H-1B cap applicants and their employers.

It is time to revisit the 85,000 H-1B cap annual quota. The base number of 65,000 was set more than 30 years ago in 1990 - with another 20,000 for advanced degree holders from a U.S. university added 15 years ago in 2006.

Addressing the imbalance and raising the H-1B cap is not unprecedented. It was elevated to 115,000 for the years 1999 and 2000, and subsequently up to 195,000 for 2001-2003. Based on the current demand, why not do this again?

Too many companies are losing employees who were the unlucky ones over several years, missing out on H-1B cap

lottery selection multiple times under the current system. How is it possible that there is such a low chance of selection for one of our immigration system's most important non-immigrant visa categories?

85,000 is simply not enough. 24-month STEM OPTs are great, but let's really address the issue at hand and raise the H-1B quota like it's 1999.

## Related Team



**Andrew M. Wilson**  
Partner | Team Co-  
Leader - Immigration



**Nisha V. Fontaine  
(Jagtiani)**  
Partner



**Elizabeth M. Klarin**  
Partner



**Eileen M. Martin**  
Partner | Team Co-  
Leader - Immigration

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**ALBANY** | 54 State Street, Suite 1001 • Albany, NY 12207 • 518.462.0110

**BUFFALO** | 50 Fountain Plaza, Suite 1700 • Buffalo, NY 14202 • 716.853.5100

**CHICAGO** | 332 S. Michigan Ave., 9th Floor • Chicago, IL 60604 • 872.254.5500

**GREATER TORONTO AREA (PRACTICE FOCUSED ON U.S. LAW)** | 1100 Burloak Drive, Suite 300 • Burlington, ON L7L 6B2 • 905.319.8964

**JACKSONVILLE** | 10151 Deerwood Park Blvd. , Bldg. 300, Suite 300 • Jacksonville, FL 32256 • 904.660.0020

**NEW YORK CITY** | 477 Madison Avenue, 6th Floor • New York City, NY 10022 • 646.673.8633

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** | 1900 K Street, NW, Suite 730 • Washington, DC 20006 • 202.888.7610