



Congressman Smucker
127 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

August 14, 2019

Dear Representative Smucker,

Argentum is the leading national association exclusively dedicated to supporting companies operating senior living communities and the older adults and families they serve. Argentum member companies operate senior living communities offering assisted living, independent living, continuing care and memory care services to older adults.

The economic impact of senior living in this country is nearly a quarter of a trillion dollars annually. Our industry cares for nearly one million seniors and employs 767,800 workers. The silver tsunami that will sweep the country in the next decade as the baby boomers age will increase the demand for senior living. Projections are that the sector will need 1.4 million workers over the next 6 years to care for the senior living residents. The majority of the workforce need is at the direct care worker level; the unsung heroes who provide the daily assistance with personal care services such as bathing, dressing, ambulation and eating.

We applaud HR1740, The Workforce for an Expanding Economy Act that would create a new visa program to help our industry find the workers critical to the safety and security of our seniors. The Act is well balanced to provide workplace protections for employers and employees. By allowing employers to hire legal, visa-holding workers for temporary work in pre-approved, less-skilled sector jobs, your legislation creates an innovative system to address the workforce need in select areas with demonstrated low unemployment levels.

We thank you for your leadership and look forward to working with you and your colleagues in Congress to gain passage of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

James Balda
President & CEO
Argentum