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# GPS - Office for Global Professionals and Scholars

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## Memorandum

To: Hospital Staff

From: Noel Palatas, Manager

Date: November 12, 2020

### **Outcome of the 2020 Presidential Election and U.S. Immigration**

With the 2020 Presidential election behind us, we can expect the Biden Administration to bring positive changes to U.S. immigration. The new administration has issued a [comprehensive set of goals](#) - “[The Biden administration] will need to take urgent action to end the Trump Administration’s draconian policies, grounded in fear and racism rather than fact, work to heal the wounds inflicted on immigrant communities, and restore America’s moral leadership. As president, Biden will move immediately to ensure that the U.S. meets its responsibilities as both a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants.”

We must remember, changes to U.S. immigration will take time. President-elect Joe Biden will not take office until January 2021 and has stated that his administration’s priority will be addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. When his administration does address immigration, they will need to remedy problems with the immigration courts, ICE, asylum, DACA, TPS, and refugees in addition to addressing policies that impact the types of visas handled by GPS.

President-elect Biden will be able to rescind any executive orders issued by the outgoing administration. His immigration plan includes lifting the Muslim travel bans, but he has not provided information on how his administration will handle the COVID related travel restrictions.

The new administration will also appoint new leadership to federal government agencies and departments. A change in leadership will help re-shape the mission and direction of many of these agencies. However, these appointments require congressional approval and the process may be contentious and will take time.

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Further, the Trump Administration created significant havoc through agency level policy changes (i.e., Buy American, Hire American Policy). In time, these changes can be revised. However, regulatory changes will be harder to fix quickly. If any of the proposed rules issued under the Trump Administration become law (i.e., abolish D/S, H-1B wage changes etc.), they will need to go through the formal rule making process to be rescinded or face litigation. On a positive note, the Biden Administration will direct the Department of Justice (DOJ), which can choose to stop defending any of the proposed rules and agree to permanent injunctions.

Finally, one area that will be hard to address is the enormous backlog with both U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the U.S. Department of State. The Department of State may continue to limit consular visa services in countries with high COVID numbers out of concern for the safety of their staff.

Our office looks forward to the road ahead and know it will take time, but we are now moving in a positive direction. We will continue to send updates as new information is released.