

# American Workers Coalition OPT (Optional Practical Training) 2019 FACT SHEET



## Support HR3564 to END OPT NOW!

*HR3564 – The Fairness for High-Skilled Americans Act*

### OPT has grown 400% -- now bigger than H1B

- ✪ OPT is a jobs program that allows foreign F-1 visa holders to get tax-free jobs
- ✪ OPT was NOT authorized by Congress
- ✪ OPT is not merit based; any F-1 visa holder is eligible for OPT
- ✪ OPT is unlimited in number; there are NO caps
- ✪ OPT is unlimited in scope: Any job/multiple jobs can be taken.
- ✪ Neither the employer nor the F-1 worker pay the 16% payroll taxes (Medicare, Social Security & Federal Unemployment Insurance). They each pocket savings of 8.25% of payroll.
- ✪ OPT costs American taxpayers **\$3 billion** each year
- ✪ OPT allows foreigners to maintain their F-1 visa status and work in the US indefinitely (12 months initial OPT period for any F-1 visa holder; 24-month extensions for each STEM degree earned.)
- ✪ Less than 50% of U.S. STEM grads are landing jobs in STEM
- ✪ Every U.S. company has a 16% financial incentive to hire OPTs

*OPT is replacing U.S. citizen college graduates with foreign graduates*



*Fighting the sellout of American STEM jobs*

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#### FACT SHEET SOURCES

<https://bloustein.rutgers.edu/new-analysis-finds-no-shortage-of-stem-workers-in-the-united-states/>

<https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/02-25-16%20Salzman%20Testimony.pdf>

<https://cis.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/Proposed%20Amicus%20Brief%20Stamped.pdf>