

Coburn Amendment 1371 —To allow market demand to determine the level of participation in the nonimmigrant agricultural worker program.

Summary: This amendment would strike the numerical limit for the non-immigrant agricultural (guest) worker visa program created in S. 744. That program is currently capped at 113,333 visas annually by the bill for the first five years, increasing at a level set by the Secretary of Agriculture after the five years. Rather than having an arbitrary limit set by the government, this would allow the market to dictate how many guest workers are brought in.

Establishing a Guest Worker Program is a Good Way to Give Our Country the Workers We Need and Decreasing the Incentive for People to Come Here Illegally.

It is a win-win for American businesses and for the people who come here and have an opportunity to earn a living legally, and return home to their native country when their guest worker permit expires.

But it is unfortunate that this bill would cap the guest worker program for agricultural workers at 112,333 visas per year.

This amendment would strike the numerical limitation to allow as many guest workers as need to be hired to work on our farms as are needed.

Allowing the market to set demand for the guest worker program for farm workers will help take pressure off of border patrol and our other immigration services by reducing the incentive for people to come here illegally.

There is no reason why this number should be arbitrarily set.