

A J-1 visa is a short-term (up to a year) cultural exchange visa.

The Southern Poverty Law Center in a [report](#) detailing the J-1 visa program had this to say:

"Employers are using the program to fill labor needs, transforming a program designed to foster international goodwill into a source of cheap, exploitable labor. For the employers, the program offers a way to cut labor costs. Employers do not have to pay payroll taxes for J-1 workers. The savings an employer can realize by not paying an employee's Medicare, Social Security or federal unemployment tax - around 8 percent on its total payroll expenses - have led staffing agencies to promote the program as an inexpensive labor force.... U.S. workers also suffer from the program's weak regulation. Employers aren't required to recruit U.S. workers before hiring J-1 workers. There are no meaningful regulations that prevent employers from paying J-1 workers a wage that undercuts U.S. worker wages."

Leaving the minimum wage lower for workers with J-1 visas would make matters worse for all workers.