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Breaking news: H4 visa holders to get employment authorization and high-skilled immigrant retention proposals!

In the early hours of May 6, 2014, the Department of Homeland Security issued a press release proposing new regulations:

1. H4 visa holders **WILL** get work authorization. The conditions will be that their H1b spouses have I-140 approvals and are in the 7th year (and beyond) extension period.
2. E3, H1b1 and CW1 visa holders normally need an approved application before they can take on new employment. The proposed rule will allow them to work during the time the application is pending and will have 240 days of work permission (similar to certain other employment-based visa applications).
3. The rules will streamline evidentiary issues for EB1 Extraordinary Ability and Outstanding Researcher categories by allowing comparable evidence.

The rules will be published in the Federal Register in the next 2-3 days. Thereafter, there will be a public comment period, likely 60 days. We will likely be able to make applications soon thereafter. Sign up to our blog to keep abreast of these changes!

Watson Immigration Law applauds President Obama, the Administration, Deputy Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and the Department of Homeland Security for taking action on such an important issue. We hope in due course implementation will be as seamless as it was for DACA.

If you want more information, you can call Tahmina Watson at Watson Immigration Law at 206-292-5237 or email tahmina@watsonimmigrationlaw.com. Please sign up to our blog at <http://watsonimmigration.wordpress.com/> to get up to date news on this and other immigration matters.

The press release can be found here. <http://www.dhs.gov/news/2014/05/06/dhs-announces-proposals-attract-and-retain-highly-skilled-immigrants>

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