

# QSS20S1 Final Project Memo 1

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## 1 What I learned

More than 250,000 foreign workers entered the US using H2-A or H2-B visas between 2009 and 2013. Abuses including excess fees and misleading job information have been reported in the past as employers use third parties to recruit these workers in their home countries. A challenge in measuring these abuses lies in the fact that DHS does not make this data regarding job information publicly available - thus leaving workers and their advocates in the dark. The use of third party recruiters, while better for employers, is often worse for potential employees, who cannot make informed decisions as to the companies they will be joining. Unfortunately, dealing with abuses from third party recruiters (such as hidden recruitment fees, or visa fraud - being recruited for a job which doesn't exist) makes these workers more likely to suffer further abuses from their employers. Unfortunately, the structure of H2-A and H2-B programs causes employees to hesitate to report abuses, as they are locked into their one employer and cannot find other employment if the company retaliates for reporting abuse.

## 2 Gaps and questions

I have a difficult time understanding why a database of companies and recruiters that have a history of committing these kinds of abuse is not made publicly available - or at least available to workers and their advocates should they request it. Simply distributing brochures informing them of their rights is a good start, but just a start. Additionally, I'm curious as to why, given that two of the three H2-A employers interviewed no longer use third party recruitment due to