Ensuring an Adequate Seasonal Workforce for Outdoor Mobile Entertainment
Using Temporary, Non-Immigrating Foreign Worker Visas

State and county fairs, festivals, and community events across America rely upon revenues generated by their mobile carnival and concession partners to sustain agricultural youth and education programs or other charitable activities. Unfortunately, over the last decade, the number of carnival companies operating in the United States dropped by 50%. This is in large part due to a chronic worker shortage preventing companies from having an adequate workforce to meet contract demand and sustain profitability. Most outdoor mobile entertainment companies currently utilize the H-2B temporary, non-immigrating foreign worker visa on a seasonal basis to supplement their American workforce. The Department of Homeland Security, because of a statutory cap, is only issuing enough H-2B visas each year to meet about 61% of the need certified by the Department of Labor.

The **Carnivals are Real Entertainment Act – or the CARE Act** (H.R. 2729) and its companion legislation in the Senate, the **Restoring Industry Development in Entertainment - or the RIDE Act** (S.1281) would simply correct and clarify the eligibility definition to allow use by carnival workers under the uncapped, long-existing, non-immigrant (P) visa category currently used by circus performers, athletes, and a variety of other mobile entertainers. This allows carnivals an alternative to the utilization of the H-2B non-immigrant category, for which there is more demand than availability, thus resulting in significant business uncertainly for mobile entertainment providers and their event sponsors relying upon their services to drive attendance and generate revenue. Allowing carnivals to utilize the P-Visa will reduce demand on the H-2B program by approximately 10,000 visas, making more visas available to other H-2B employers.

The Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA) is the national trade organization for America's finest carnivals and small circuses. **We urge Members of Congress to: Co-sponsor either the CARE ACT H.R. 2729 in the House or the RIDE ACT S. 1281 in the Senate**

The P non-immigrant visa classification was created by the Immigration Act of 1990, Public Law 101-649 of November 29, 1990, specifically to provide for certain athletes, entertainers, and artists, including those in circuses, who are coming to perform in the United States. To work under a P-1, P-2, or P-3 visa recipient in the U.S., an applicant must be coming to the United States to perform essential support services that cannot be readily performed by a US worker and is an indispensable part of the performance. A new P-4 category would be restricted to providers of services normally affiliated with carnivals or circuses that travel around the United States on a seasonal basis to provide services to state, county, and local fairs and festivals, or support events sponsored by not-for-profit organizations for fundraising.

CARE Act was introduced by Representatives Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) & Maria Salazar (R-FL)
RIDE Act was introduced by Senators Thom Tillis (R-NC), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), & Tina Smith (D-MN)

To Co-Sponsor H.R. 2729 – The CARE ACT – Please Contact:

Representative Zoe Lofgren's Office	Representative Maria Salazar's Office
Arlet Abrahamian – Legislative Counsel	John Mark Kolb – Deputy Chief of Staff
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To Co-Sponsor S. 1281 – The RIDE ACT – Please Contact:

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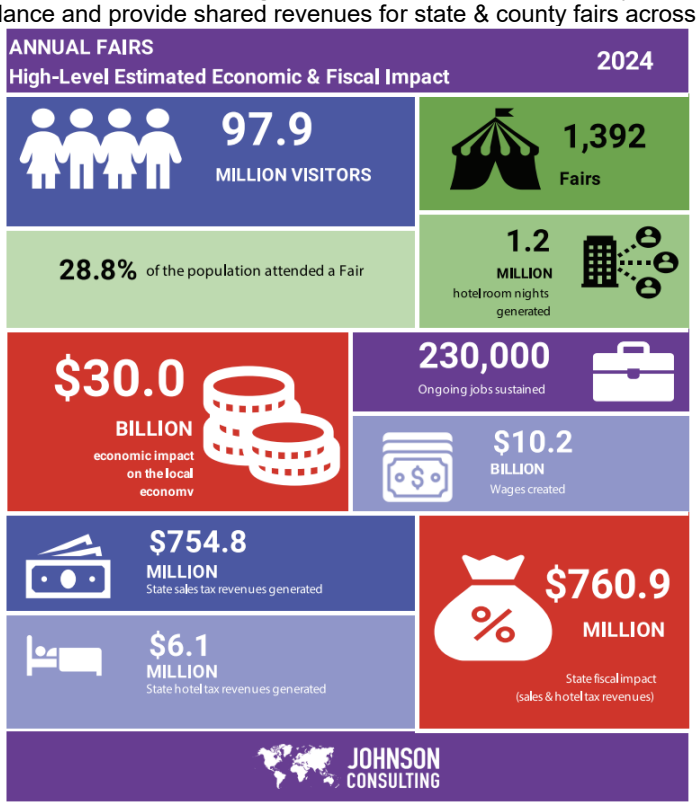
Mobile carnival and concession operators are not just entertainment providers; they are essential fundraising partners for thousands of community based organizations across the country. Their presence at local events directly translates into meaningful and vital financial support for charitable, non for profit, and civic causes.

Mobile carnival and concession operators partner with a wide range of community organizations including:

- Chambers of commerce and local municipalities
- Volunteer fire departments and emergency responders
- Church groups and faith-based organizations
- Lions Clubs, Shiners, Rotary Clubs, Jaycees, Kiwanis Clubs
- Schools, colleges, and scholarship programs
- Sporting events and music concerts
- **Agricultural fairs** and community festivals

Below highlights the national economic impact of **agricultural fairs** powered in part by mobile carnival and concession operators that drive attendance and provide shared revenues for state & county fairs across the country.



The **CARE Act H.R. 2729** and the **RIDE Act S. 1281** ensure a reliable workforce for mobile entertainment operators thereby directly protecting and sustaining **millions of dollars in local fundraising** for nonprofits and civic organizations nationwide. Please support these efforts by becoming a cosponsor of this important legislation today.

For additional information, please contact OABA's representative in D.C.

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