In South Carolina, 15 businesses reported a total loss of $3,963,000, averaging $264,200 per business.
- PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IMPACT -

Lack of J-1 Visa Exchange Visitors hamstrings U.S. public diplomacy goals by taking away a key positive U.S. experience from tomorrow’s international leaders, and preventing them from engaging with their American host communities.

Host employers across America agree or strongly agree that Summer Work Travel and Camp Counselor participants:

- 95% Enable U.S. based staff to gain a better understanding of other cultures
- 97% Contribute to a positive culture in the workplace
- 92% Make the community more sensitive to other cultures

“The staff we were able to employ were burned out and with good reason. Customer service suffered and so did our ability to get merchandise out to the customers leading to financial loss.”
- Retail Store in Myrtle Beach, SC

“Exchange participants bring a cultural flare to our business. Customers hear their accents and it makes for an immediate ice breaker. Patrons enjoy their store experience and it builds customer loyalty!”
- Retail Store in Myrtle Beach, SC

“We have lost considerable business, time and financial strain due to the inability to staff our retail and restaurant locations. The stress of this impact could affect future business.”
- Retail Store in Charleston, SC

“Our American employees get to experience different cultures, learn about the students’ countries, and make friendships that last forever. The students also open the eyes of many of our customers about the world outside the U.S.A.”
- Amusement Park in Myrtle Beach, SC

“We usually had to have one person work two hours by themselves in the morning and night. When only one person is on the floor, sales are impacted because you can’t help everyone, ring the register and take in stock. The estimate of $45,000 in lost sales may be low.”
- Retail Store in Myrtle Beach, SC

“Closing outlets early or completely, reduction of services offered, complaints due to poor or lack of service.”
- Hotel in Myrtle Beach, SC