

Let Families Visit

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The Temporary Family Visitation Act

Supporting the Principle of Family Reunion, Strengthening National Interests & Economy

TFVA Overview

The Temporary Family Visitation Act (TFVA) would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish a separate nonimmigrant classification under B visa category for family members of US citizens and permanent residents. While facilitating family reunion is one of the main pillars of the US immigration policy, the current immigration law lacks a direct path for relatives of US citizens or permanent residents to temporarily visit for family purposes. The legislation, if enacted, could facilitate family reunions, help enhance national interests, and strengthen our economy, while addressing Homeland Security issues by ensuring that visits would be temporary and enforceable.

The Temporary Family Visitation Act has been endorsed by the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Arab American Institute, Bienvenido, Emgage, Frontiers of Freedom, Hindu American Foundation, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA, Iranian American Bar Association, Iranian American Democrats of California, The Libre Initiative, Muslims of America, National Immigration Forum, Niskanen Center, Pars Equality Center, Republican National Hispanic Assembly, SEWA International, Sikhs of America, United Macedonian Diaspora, Asian Business Association of San Diego, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce, Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, Lodging & Hospitality Association of Volusia County, LA Business Council, Naples Visitor's Bureau, and the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The Issue

Currently, family members of US citizens and permanent residents may only apply to visit their relatives through B2 visas, a category designated for aliens visiting for *pleasure*. US policy in regard to B2 visitor visas lacks consideration for family reunion resulting in: (1) an enormous mixed pool of *high* and *low* national security risk applicants, respectively visitors for pleasure and relative visitors, that is difficult and significantly timely to process; with (2) an unnecessary high denial rate of family member visitors; which (3) pushes many to apply for immigrant visas as the only path to visit their relatives in the US.¹

The Solution

The Temporary Family Visitation Act would create limited but practical change within the Immigration and Nationality Act. It promotes US national interests by supporting the principle of family reunion while strengthening the economy and reducing unintended immigrant visa applications. The legislation would establish a new B-3 nonimmigrant category allowing US citizens and permanent residents to petition for their family members for temporary visits. The application requires that the petitioner sign an affidavit of financial support and that the applicant purchase travel medical insurance for the duration of the stay. These requirements ensure that the applicants make specific and realistic plans for the course of their visit, provide financial assurance to the US government, and dissuade visa overstays by prohibiting individuals traveling under the TFVA from changing their visa status, limiting the duration of stay to 90 days, and prohibiting the petitioner from using the TFVA if they had previously sponsored a relative who overstayed their period of authorized admission.

¹ U.S. Congressional Research Service. U.S. Family-Based Immigration Policy (R43145; Nov. 19, 2014), by William A. Kandel. Text in: Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse Immigration; Accessed: July 26th, 2018.