



## **AILA Opposes Proposed Changes to S.386 and Urges Support for the RELIEF Act**

On Friday, new proposed changes that would strip important protections from the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2019 (S. 386) were released. With the removal of these critical protections, AILA must oppose the legislation. AILA urges its members to support the Resolving Extended Limbo for Immigrant Employees and Families (RELIEF) Act (S. 2603/H.R. 5327), and to oppose the new changes that are being considered to S. 386. AILA asks its members to reach out to Congressional offices to educate them on the harmful amendments being proposed to the current draft of S. 386.

AILA has been a long-time, ardent supporter of the elimination of per country quotas for employment-based immigrants to ensure that people are granted visas based on their skills and not their country of origin. However, such reforms must be done in a way that does not adversely impact those who are already waiting in line for an immigrant visa and that does not close off opportunities for immigration in the future. Although the original version of S.386 did not fully protect against wait times for immigrant visas increasing for some individuals, it included an important “do no harm” provision which was essential to ensure fairness to individuals who already had approved employment-based immigrant visa petitions. AILA was active in supporting negotiations that added other important protections to the original version, including one that would allow for early filing of adjustment of status for some individuals in the United States who are stuck in the visa backlog. Unfortunately, the latest version of the bill would remove the original “do no harm” provision and unnecessarily require a two-year waiting period for early adjustment filings. The new version also keeps in place additional changes impacting the H-1B process.

AILA cannot support legislation that places additional burdens on those who are already waiting in the immigrant visa backlog and that would extend the risk of children aging out and keeping families in limbo for longer. If the sponsors of the legislation adopt these new changes, AILA must oppose the legislation. We will continue to actively support the RELIEF Act, which provides smart and sensible reforms that offer holistic solutions to the problems caused by the immigrant visa backlog and the per country quotas.