November 25, 2019

Coalition Letter Supporting the RELIEF Act

Dear Senator:

The undersigned organizations are writing to urge you to support the Resolving Extended Limbo for Immigrant Employees and Families (RELIEF) Act (S.2603). In short, the RELIEF Act provides for a fair structure for ending the green card backlog and allow U.S. companies to more equitably recruit the talent needed for leading in today's global economy.

Most importantly, the RELIEF Act increases the overall number of green cards available on an annual basis, which would eliminate the green card backlog over the course of 5 years. In so doing, the Act modifies the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) in several important ways.

First, it increases per-country limits on family-based immigrant visas from 7% per country to 15% per country and classifies spouses and children of Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) as immediate relatives, preventing children of LPRs from aging out of eligibility for obtaining LPR status. Second, the RELIEF Act gradually removes per-country limits on work visas. The Act would ensure that no individual country can exceed 25% of all employment-based immigrant visas.

These changes will provide processing for visa applicants who are ready to join their families or being work in the U.S., ensure that we stay true to the commitment to ensure that migrants from a variety of countries are able to settle in the U.S., and is responsive to the needs of U.S. businesses. For these reasons, the RELIEF Act is a common-sense bill worthy of your support.

We would be happy to discuss this matter further at your convenience. Please direct all questions to Ryan J. Suto, Policy Counsel at the Arab American Institute, at rsuto@aaiusa.org, or 202-429-9210.

Respectfully,

American Immigration Lawyers Association
Arab American Institute
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
Franciscan Action Network
National Iranian American Council Action
RAICES
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
United We Dream