



May 12, 2022

Chairman Dick Durbin
Committee on the Judiciary
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Chuck Grassley
Committee on the Judiciary
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Alex Padilla
Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship,
and Border Safety
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member John Cornyn
Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship,
and Border Safety
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Committee Markup of 11 Bipartisan Bills to Improve the U.S. Immigration System

Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, Chairman Padilla, and Ranking Member Cornyn:

The Niskanen Center, the National Immigration Forum, and the undersigned organizations — a diverse group of leaders from faith, business, agriculture, and other advocacy organizations — encourage the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety to markup the following immigration bills that make narrow, yet concrete, improvements to U.S. immigration policy.

These bills enjoy bipartisan support and would tackle long-standing issues relating to border security and processing, bolstering the healthcare workforce, protecting refugees persecuted by the Chinese Communist Party, expanding family reunification, and fixing bureaucratic errors:

- 1. Preserving Employment Visas Act (S.2828)** recaptures unused employment-based green cards from FY2020 and FY2021 due to bureaucratic inefficiencies and Covid-19 processing delays at USCIS.
- 2. The Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (S.1024)** makes previously unused immigrant visas available to 25,000 nurses and 15,000 physicians.
- 3. The Adoptee Citizenship Act (S.967)** fixes a loophole that blocked adoptees over 18 years of age from earning citizenship under the Child Citizenship Act of 2000.
- 4. The Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act (S.1810)** extends authority for the Conrad 30 waiver program to encourage qualified foreign physicians to serve in rural and medically underserved communities across the U.S.

5. **Bridging the Gap for New Americans Act (S.3157)** directs the Secretary of Labor to conduct a study examining the barriers to employment opportunities for immigrants and refugees in the U.S. who have international degrees or credentials.
6. **The Hong Kong Safe Harbor Act (S.295)** provides Priority 2 refugee status to Hong Kong residents who have a well-founded fear of persecution or have been formally charged, detained, or convicted for peaceful protest actions in Hong Kong.
7. **The Uyghur Human Rights Protection Act (S.1080)** provides Priority 2 refugee status to Uyghurs persecuted in Xinjiang, where the U.S. determines the Chinese are committing crimes against humanity and genocide.
8. **The Bipartisan Border Solutions Act (S.1358)** seeks to process arriving migrants and asylum seekers better through the establishment of at least four new regional immigration processing centers along the southern border, a reprioritization of the immigration court docket during irregular migration events, and the allocation of additional personnel for agencies involved in the asylum process.
9. **The Temporary Family Visitation Act (S.1635)** establishes a new nonimmigrant category allowing U.S. citizens and permanent residents to petition on behalf of their family members for temporary visits for family purposes.
10. **America's Children Act (S.2753)** prevents "aging out" by locking in the date minor children of long-term visa holders apply for a green card, preventing self-deportation for "Documented Dreamers" stuck in green card backlogs.
11. **Countering Human Trafficking Act of 2021 (S. 2991)** improves and makes permanent the Center for Countering Human Trafficking (CCHT), a pilot program that oversees efforts to eradicate human trafficking and bring those responsible to justice. The bill also mandates the development of new technologies to help law enforcement officials better manage their analytical and data sharing capabilities.

Together or individually, these bills represent widely supported and necessary improvements in U.S. immigration law and policy. Moreover, each proposal enjoys support from organizations and institutions representing diverse political ideologies. Several of the bills listed are led and sponsored by committee members, indicating a strong signal that they will receive widespread support upon broader introduction.

For too long, executive action and judicial decisions have dictated immigration policy and usurped Congress's ability to govern. These bills are an opportunity to reassert congressional authority and make meaningful changes that benefit the U.S., Americans, and immigrants alike.

We look forward to additional conversations with congressional offices and committee staff to provide further information regarding our position on these bills, including the evidence we use to support our positions. We hope you view us as a resource regarding future immigration reform legislation.

Respectfully,

Kristie De Peña
Vice President of Policy
Niskanen Center

Laurence Benenson
Vice President of Policy & Advocacy
National Immigration Forum

Americans For Prosperity

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Essential Worker Immigration Coalition

Fellowship Southwest

FWD.us

Hindu American Foundation

Improve The Dream

International Fresh Produce Association

Pars Equality Center

Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans

State Business Executives

Texas Border Coalition

United Macedonian Diaspora

Worldwide ERC