

Let Families Visit

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

June 1st, 2021

Dear President Biden,

On behalf of the Let Families Visit coalition, we the undersigned organizations are writing encourage you to support the Temporary Family Visitation Act (TFVA), bipartisan and bicameral legislation introduced by Representatives Scott Peters (D-CA), Stephanie Bice (R-OK), Jim Himes (D-CT), and Maria Salazar (R-FL) in the House and Senators Rand Paul (R-KY) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) in the Senate. TFVA establishes a new B-3 nonimmigrant visa category, to allow family members of U.S. citizens and permanent residents to temporarily visit. The B-3 visa provides an opportunity for temporary and enforceable family visits while also supporting the travel industry and stimulating the U.S. economy.

Currently, there is no visa specifically designed to temporarily reunite U.S. citizens and permanent residents with their relatives. Family members apply to visit their U.S. relatives through B-2 tourist visas. However, B-2 visitor visas lack consideration for family visitations which results in an unnecessarily high denial rate for it is presumed that applicants with family members in the U.S. intend to immigrate. A [Congressional Research Service \(CRS\) report](#) found that the presumption of immigration has resulted in a very high rate of denials and pushed many to apply for immigrant visas as the only path to visit their relatives in the U.S.

TFVA fixes this problem by allowing U.S. citizens and permanent residents to petition for their family members to visit them temporarily. The application requires that the petitioner sign a letter of financial support and for the applicant to purchase travel medical insurance for the duration of stay. These requirements ensure that applicants make specific and realistic plans for their visit and also dissuade visa overstays by prohibiting individuals from changing their visa status, limiting the visits to 90 days, and prohibiting petitioners who previously sponsored a relative that overstayed their visa from using the TFVA in the future.

According to the US Travel Association, each overseas traveler spends approximately \$4,200 when they visit the US and stays on average 18 nights. In 2018, international travel spending directly supported about 1.2 million US jobs and \$33.7 billion in wages. Based on figures from CRS, TFVA would provide a significant boost in the economy through indirect spending of more than \$1 billion and the creation of tens of thousands of jobs. For more information about the TFVA, please go to www.passTFVA.com.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans
Bienvenido
Emgage
Frontiers of Freedom
Hindu American Foundation
Hindu Swayamsevat Sangh USA
Iranian American Bar Association
Libre Initiative
Republican National Hispanic Assembly
SEWA International
U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

United Macedonia Diaspora
Asian Business Association of San Diego
Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce
Greater Naples Chamber
Lodging & Hospitality Association of Volusia County
Los Angeles Business Council
Muslims of America
Naples Visitor's Bureau
Pars Equality Center
Sikhs of America

cc: Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State
Alejandro N. Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security