

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to encourage you to proceed with modernizing and streamlining the U.S. immigrant visa system, a policy you announced that you would pursue as part of the Presidential memorandum on executive immigration action on November 21, 2014. We agree with your characterization that “immigrants have helped the United States build the world's strongest economy,” and hope that further administrative progress toward reform can be made as quickly as possible given the urgent need to address economic challenges posed by our broken immigration system.

As you know, businesses big and small, in nearly every sector of our economy, support immigration reform. Additionally, more than 3 in 4 Americans across the political spectrum support fixing our badly broken system. As American companies continue to grow, improving U.S. economic competitiveness, they need the ability to hire employees with specialized skills, specifically in the STEM fields. While we must continue to take steps to create the native-born high-skilled American workforce we need, high-skilled immigrants contribute to our expanding technology sector, create American jobs, and raise the wages of native-born American workers.

Our broken immigration system is far behind the needs of our rapidly expanding economy. Immigrants allow the U.S. to compete in a global economy. Without reform, entrepreneurs and business owners are unable to hire the talent they need, many workers may be separated from their families, and hardworking foreign students who've earned their education at U.S. institutions will be kicked out to work for our global competitors – rather than creating their companies and growing jobs here at home. Year after year, applications for H-1B visas are met within mere days of the lottery opening. Our current immigration visa problems prevent the best and the brightest from expanding their companies in the U.S., growing our economy, and creating American jobs.

In the absence of fundamental legislative reform to our broken system, we strongly encourage you to do what you can administratively to right this wrong. We are encouraged that you state in the memorandum that you will consult with relevant stakeholders to “ensure that administrative policies, practices, and systems use all of the immigrant visa numbers that the Congress provides for and intends to be issued, consistent with demand.”

Visa recapture is an essential part of fixing our broken immigration system. We believe that in the absence of fundamental legislative reform, we can make progress toward the goal of recapturing and reallocating all previously unused visas administratively. This reform could impact hundreds of thousands of employment-based visas and would be the largest boost in decades impacting the business community's urgent challenges navigating our broken legal immigration system.

We urge you to modernize our immigrant visa inefficiencies by recapturing all previously unused green cards to benefit our country's innovation, spur economic power, and help entrepreneurs create American jobs without further delay.

Sincerely,



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



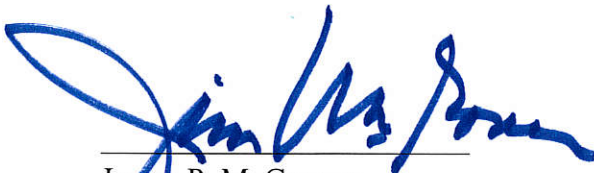
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



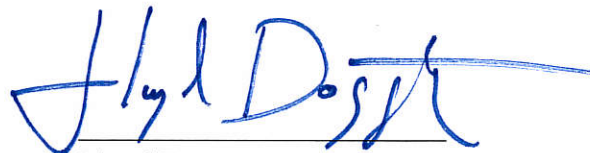
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
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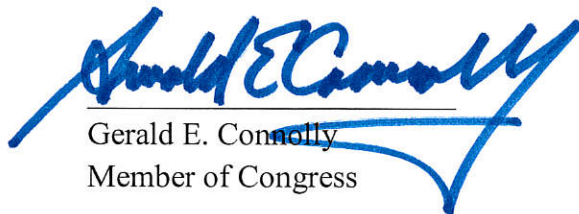
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu
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Sam Farr
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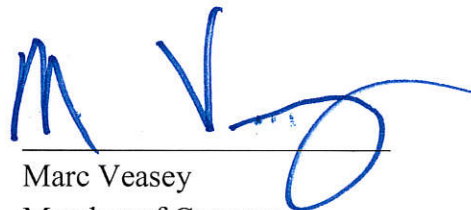
Gerald E. Connolly
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



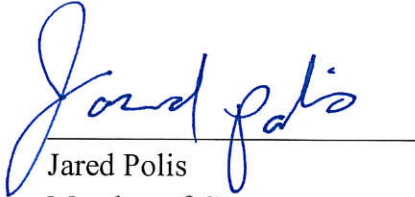
Michael M. Honda
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Kathleen Rice
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Jim McDermott
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Jared Polis
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Alcee Hastings
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Sheila Jackson Lee
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Patrick Murphy
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Betty McCollum
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Nita Lowey
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Eric Swalwell
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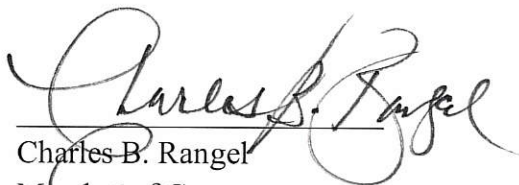
Ron Kind
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Anna G. Eshoo
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Charles B. Rangel
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Mark Takano
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Susan Davis
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Chellie Pingree
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Jackie Speier
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Suzanne Bonamici
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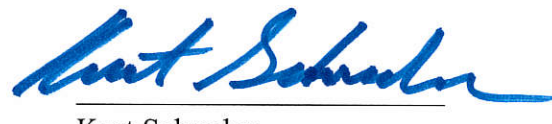

Ami Bera
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Gwen Moore
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Mike Quigley
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Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
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Kyrsten Sinema
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Kurt Schrader
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Adam Schiff
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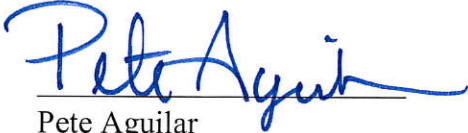

John Lewis
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



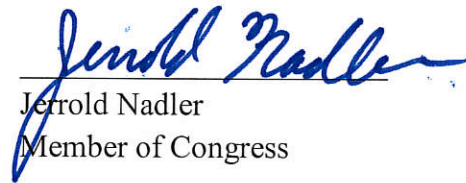
Pete Aguilar
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John Yarmuth
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Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



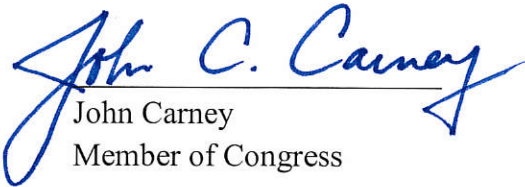
Jerrold Nadler
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Rosa DeLauro
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Zoe Lofgren
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John Carney
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Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Linda Sanchez
Member of Congress



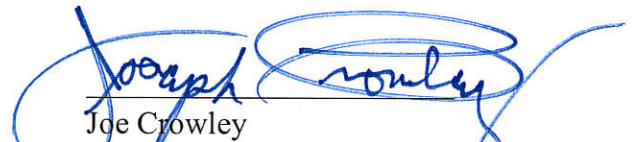
John Delaney
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



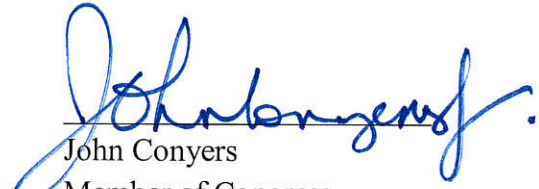
Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Joe Crowley
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress



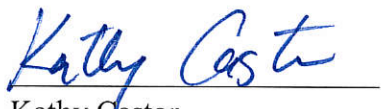
John Conyers
Member of Congress




Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



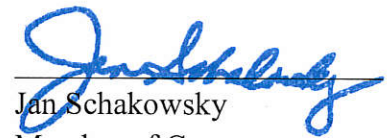
Kathy Castor
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Luis V. Gutierrez
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Hakeem Jeffries
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Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



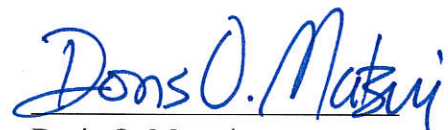
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Brendan P. Boyle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brendan Boyle
Member of Congress