



November 15, 2021

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairwoman
House Subcommittee on Immigration and
Citizenship
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom McClintock
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Immigration and
Citizenship
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Ramiro A. Cavazos
President & CEO

Dear Chairwoman Lofgren and Ranking Member McClintock,

On behalf of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) and our Board of Directors, we write to you to urge you to support the Temporary Family Visitation Act (TFVA). This bipartisan piece of legislation would set a precedent for a more humane and organized way to allow for legal U.S. residents to be reunited with their families.

The USHCC actively promotes the economic growth, development, and interests of more than five million Hispanic-owned businesses that, combined, contribute over \$800 billion to the American economy every year. We also serve as a platform for our nationwide network of over 260 local Hispanic chambers of commerce.

While facilitating family reunion is one of the main pillars of U.S. immigration policy, the current immigration law lacks a direct path for relatives of U.S. citizens or permanent residents to temporarily visit for family purposes. The legislation, if enacted, could facilitate family reunions, help enhance national interests, and strengthen our economy, while ensuring that visits would be temporary.

Currently, family members of U.S. citizens and permanent residents may only apply to visit their relatives through B2 visas, a category designated for aliens visiting for pleasure. Our national policy in regard to B2 visitor visas lacks consideration for family reunion resulting in an enormous mixed pool of high and low national security risk applicants, respectively visitors for pleasure and relative visitors, that is difficult and significantly timely to process. Moreover, there is an unnecessary high denial rate of family member visitors which pushes many to apply for immigrant visas as the only path to visit their relatives in the United States.

The Temporary Family Visitation Act would create limited but practical changes within the Immigration and Nationality Act. It promotes U.S. national interests by supporting the principle of family reunion while strengthening the economy and reducing unintended immigrant visa applications. The proposed legislation would establish a new B-3 non-immigrant category allowing U.S. citizens and permanent residents to petition for their family members to temporarily visit. The application requires that the petitioner sign an affidavit of financial support and that the applicant purchase travel medical insurance for the duration of their stay.

The requirements for this visa ensure that the applicants make specific and realistic plans for the course of their visit. Applicants must provide financial assurance to the U.S. government. The TFVA also dissuades visa overstays by prohibiting individuals traveling from changing their visa status, limiting the duration of their stay to 90 days, and prohibiting the petitioner from using the TFVA if they had previously sponsored a relative who overstayed the period of their authorized admission.



Thank you for your service and partnership in supporting America's Hispanic and minority-owned businesses as well as the more than 63.5 million Latinos/as living in America. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to C. LeRoy Cavazos-Reyna, Vice President of Government and International Affairs via phone at 956-844-9628 or email at LCavazos@ushcc.com. We look forward to a positive outcome on this important legislative matter.

Respectfully,

Ramiro A. Cavazos
President & CEO
U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

CC: The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC)
Ernesto Apreza, Office of Public Engagement, The White House