

Let Families Visit

December 3, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader, U.S. House of
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the Let Families Visit coalition, we strongly urge you to include the Temporary Family Visitation Act (TFVA) in the end-of-year legislative package. This bipartisan bill, introduced in the House (H.R. 5155) by Representatives Scott Peters, Stephanie Bice, Jim Himes, and Maria Salazar, and in the Senate (S. 3255) by Senators Rand Paul and Richard Blumenthal, provides a practical solution for facilitating family reunification while addressing national security concerns.

Currently, the B-2 tourist visa process presents significant challenges for travelers seeking to visit family members in the U.S., often leading to lengthy delays and denials, pushing many to apply for immigrant visas as the only path to visit relatives in the U.S. ([CRS-Limitations on Visiting U.S. Relatives p.18](#)). The TFVA would create a new B-3 visa with key safeguards, including:

- Requiring a U.S.-based relative to submit an affidavit of financial support.
- Mandating travel medical insurance for visitors.
- Limiting visits to 90 days per year, with clear intent to depart.
- Preventing future petitions from sponsors whose relatives have overstayed previous visas.
- Prohibiting status changes for visa holders during their stay.

This legislation not only addresses the issue of visa overstays, 42% of which occur due to individuals entering legally but overstaying, but also provides a legitimate pathway for family visits. The Congressional Research Service has highlighted the TFVA as an effective policy solution to reduce unauthorized immigration while fostering family unity ([CRS- R47848 p. 36 – Nonimmigrant Overstays](#)).

A version of the TFVA was included in both the Senate's [Emergency National Security Supplemental bill](#)—a carefully negotiated bipartisan measure—and the Bipartisan House Dignity Act, which was recently endorsed by the [Problem Solvers Caucus](#). This broad, continued

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support highlights the bill's practicality and the widespread backing it has received from both members of Congress and [22 national and regional organizations](#).

We respectfully request your support to move this important legislation forward in the upcoming package. For more information, visit www.PassTFVA.com.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans (paaia.org)

Hindu American Foundation (hinduamerican.org)

Ideaspace Project, Inc. (ideaspace.com)

Iranian American Bar Association (iaba.us)

Iranian American Democrats of California (iademca.org)

Pars Equality Center (parsequalitycenter.org)

United Macedonian Diaspora (umdiaspora.org)

United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (ushcc.com)