Reforming American Immigration for a Strong Economy Act (RAISE Act)
A Bill to Raise Working Wages & Boost American Competitiveness

The Problem With Our Immigration System

Our immigration system isn't designed for the 21st century. The world is moving toward a knowledge and innovation economy. But only one out of every 15 legal immigrants comes to the United States because of their skills. Our immigration system does not prioritize the admission of ultra-high-skilled immigrants who spur innovation, create jobs, and make America more competitive. At the same time, the United States accepts over one million immigrants annually—the equivalent of adding the entire state of Montana each year. Far too many are low- or unskilled immigrants. A generation-long influx of low-skilled immigrant labor has put downward pressure on the wages of working Americans, with recent immigrants' wages hardest hit. This economic pressure on working-class families threatens to create a near-permanent underclass for whom the American Dream is just out of reach.

The RAISE Act Solution

The Reforming American Immigration for a Strong Economy Act (RAISE Act) would help raise working Americans' wages and spur continued economic growth by ending chain migration, giving priority to the most skilled immigrants from around the world, and reducing overall immigration levels. Specifically, the RAISE Act would:

Establish a Skills-Based Points System. The RAISE Act would replace the current permanent employment visa framework with a skills-based points system like the systems used by Canada and Australia. This system would prioritize immigrants who are best positioned to succeed in the United States and contribute to our nation. Applicants earn points based on education, English-language ability, high-paying job offers, age, record of extraordinary achievement, and entrepreneurial initiative.

Prioritize Immediate Family Households. The RAISE Act keeps immigration preferences for the spouses and minor children of U.S. citizens and residents, encouraging the unification of nuclear families. It eliminates preferences for extended family and grown adult family members of U.S. citizens and residents. For U.S. citizens who need to bring elderly parents to the United States for caretaking purposes, the bill creates a renewable temporary visa for such parents.

Eliminate the Outdated Diversity Visa Lottery. The Diversity Lottery is plagued by fraud, advances no economic or humanitarian interest, and doesn't even promote diversity. It's an arbitrary way to distribute the privilege of U.S. citizenship and the RAISE Act would eliminate it.

Place a Responsible Limit on Permanent Residency for Refugees. The RAISE Act would limit refugees offered permanent residency to 50,000 per year.

The RAISE Act's Impact

An America That's More Competitive in the World. Immigrants who come here on skills-based visas will be better educated, more skilled, more fluent in English, more likely to become entrepreneurs, and have more working-age years ahead of them. Their success will work to the benefit of all Americans as we build a more prosperous nation together.

Rising Wages for Working Americans. The RAISE Act will stem the flow of low-skilled immigrants into the United States and lead to wage increases for working Americans.