

August 3, 2020

To: Members of the U.S. Senate

Dear Honorable Senators,

As organizations representing a diverse number of immigrant communities, we write to express our continued concern with the so-called Fairness for High Skilled Immigrants Act (H.R. 1044/S. 386). There is a fierce and ugly lobbying campaign underway to intimidate Senators into accepting S. 386, which would not fix the green card backlog, would reduce the diversity of the green card process and pit one group of immigrants against others to fight over a broken and inherently unequal system.

How to address the green card backlog is not a question that should play out behind closed doors and with no public hearing. There are preferable alternatives to the deeply problematic S. 386. Sen. Dick Durbin's Resolving Extended Limbo for Immigrant Employees and Families (RELIEF) Act would actually address the green card backlog by making more green cards available, protecting the diversity of the green card process and minimizing the negative repercussions of removing the country caps. The RELIEF Act does not offer a zero-sum approach that prioritizes one group of immigrants to the exclusion of others. Sen. Durbin deserves credit for offering a real solution that protects immigrant communities, and has even negotiated a compromise across the aisle on this contentious issue which has since been reneged on.

We encourage the Senate to hold a hearing on the green card backlog and consult with the many immigrant groups who would be harmed by the passage of S. 386, rather than settle for a bill that would create new problems without solving the underlying challenge at hand of too few green cards available.

Sincerely,

All of Us

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO

Church World Service

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

Engage Action

Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)

Equality Labs

The Japanese American Citizens League

National Iranian American Council Action

National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)

National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights

OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates

Poligon Education Fund

Project South
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
UndocuBlack Network
United Chinese Americans
United We Dream
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center
Yemeni American Merchants Association (YAMA)