



The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chair  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
Chair, Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship and Border Safety  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary

[VIA EMAIL]

December 17, 2021

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Chair Durbin and Chair Padilla:

Thank you for your commitment to advancing the Build Back Better Act and your support of immigrant communities. The undersigned organizations write to urge you to preserve the immigrant visa recapture and enhanced green card processing provisions in the House-passed bill and exercise all influence to move them forward for Senate passage.<sup>1</sup> The Build Back Better budget reconciliation will provide much-needed relief for immigrant family members stuck in the backlogs and reunite American families separated for years, if not decades.

There are currently around four million people in the family immigration backlogs waiting to reunite with their loved ones.<sup>2</sup> The average wait time for a permanent resident to sponsor an unmarried son or daughter from Mexico is over 21 years; a U.S. citizen sponsoring a sibling from the Philippines would take an average of 20 years.<sup>3</sup> The growing employment-based backlogs are mostly comprised of Indian families on H-1B visas who live in limbo in temporary

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<sup>1</sup> “Visa Recapture & Backlog Reduction in the Build Back Better Act,” FWD.us (November 10, 2021)  
<https://www.fwd.us/news/visa-recapture/>

<sup>2</sup> “Frequently Requested Statistics on Immigrants and Immigration in US,” Migration Policy Institute (February 11, 2021)  
<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/frequently-requested-statistics-immigrants-and-immigration-united-states#visa-backlog>

<sup>3</sup> “Visa Bulletin For June 2021,” US Department of State, (May 2, 2021)  
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-bulletin/2021/visa-bulletin-for-june-2021.html>

status with their children facing loss of status when they turn 21. These provisions offer a necessary reprieve to immigrant community members who are kept waiting due to bureaucratic processing delays, numerical limits, and COVID-related shutdowns.

We would appreciate your leadership and persistent efforts to advance an inclusive reconciliation package that presents a critical opportunity to reform our federal immigration system. We respectfully urge you to retain and move forward the visa recapture and enhanced green card processing provisions in the budget reconciliation package that will give families much needed relief.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Value Our Families Steering Committee Members**

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

Church World Service

HANA Center

Immigrant Legal Resource Center

National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)

OPAWL - Building AAPI Feminist Leadership in Ohio

Release MN8

Rising Voices

UndocuBlack Network

**National Organizations**

African Communities Together

American Friends Service Committee

American Immigration Lawyers Association

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

Center for American Progress

CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers

Church World Service

Communities United for Status and Protection

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd U.S. Provinces  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel  
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries  
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Faith in Public Life  
Faiths for Safe Water  
Families Belong Together  
Farmworker Justice  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Franciscan Action Network  
Freedom Network USA  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Futures Without Violence  
FWD.us  
Hanan Refugees Relief Group  
Immigration Hub  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
InterReligious Task Force on Central America and Colombia  
Japanese American Citizens League  
Justice Action Center  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)  
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA)  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Justice for Our Neighbors  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)  
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA)  
Oxfam America  
Presente.org  
Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration  
Revolutionary Love Project  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
South Asian Public Health Association (SAPHA)  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
The Center for Law and Social Policy  
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants  
UndocuBlack Network  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Woodhull Freedom Foundation

**Arizona**

AZ AANHPI for Equity

**Alabama**

Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice

**Arkansas**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

**California**

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Los Angeles  
Asian Law Alliance  
Central American Resource Center of Northern CA - CARECEN SF  
Change Begins With ME (Indivisible)  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Equality California  
Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service (IRIS)  
Progressive Asian Network for Action  
San Jose Nikkei Resisters  
SEE-LA(Social Eco Education-Los Angeles)

**Colorado**

Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition

**Connecticut**

Connecticut Shoreline Indivisible

**District of Columbia**

Central American Resource Center

JAMAAT - Jews and Muslims and Allies Acting Together

**Georgia**

Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta  
North Georgia Immigrant Justice

**Idaho**

Centro de Comunidad y Justicia

**Illinois**

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago  
HANA Center

**Maine**

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition

**Maryland**

Just Neighbors Ministry

**Michigan**

APIA Vote-MI  
Berrien Immigrant Solidarity Network  
Rising Voices

**Minnesota**

Release MN8

**Nevada**

Make the Road Nevada  
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada  
Silver State Equality

**New Jersey**

Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center

**New Mexico**

New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty  
Upaya Zen Center

**New York**

Academy of Medical & Public Health Services  
ACCESS of WNY  
Asian American Federation  
Make the Road New York  
MinKwon Center for Community Action  
New York Conference UMC Board of Church and Society  
New York Immigration Coalition  
Sampreshan Inc  
Western New York Peace Center  
Yemeni American Merchants Association, Inc.

**North Carolina**

North Carolina Justice Center

**Ohio**

Advocating Opportunity  
InterReligious Task Force on Central America and Colombia  
Miami Valley Immigration Coalition  
OPAWL - Building AAPI Feminist Leadership in Ohio

**Oregon**

Immigrant Refugee Community Organization  
VIVA Inclusive Migrant Network

**Pennsylvania**

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) Pittsburgh Chapter  
Woori Center

**South Carolina**

COOLJC Region 8 SJEREC

**Texas**

Fellowship Southwest  
Human Rights Initiative of North Texas  
Interfaith Welcome Coalition - San Antonio  
Justice for Our Neighbors El Paso  
Woori Juntos

**Tennessee**

Advocating Opportunity

**Virginia**

ACLU People Power Fairfax

Edu-Futuro

Hamkae Center

Progress Virginia

Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights

**Washington**

Central Washington Justice For Our Neighbors

Khmer Anti-deportation Advocacy Group (KhAAG)

Latino Community Fund of Washington State

Latinos Promoting Good Health

Tabco Analytical