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Washington, DC 20515

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March 8, 2013

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

As Members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), we write to urge you to preserve family-sponsored immigration as you work towards fixing our broken immigration system. Comprehensive immigration reform is a top priority for our caucus and the millions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) that we represent. In 2012, Asians surpassed Hispanics as the largest group of new immigrants coming to the United States.

We are particularly concerned about proposals to eliminate the ability for U.S. citizens to sponsor their brothers and sisters and married adult children for legal permanent residence. Visa sponsorships for siblings and married adult children make up less than 9 percent of the annual total immigration to the U.S. Eliminating these categories would produce only a small reduction in visas while creating greater hardship for thousands of U.S. citizens and their loved ones, many of whom have been caught in lengthy backlogs that keep families separated for decades. It would also ignore the social and economic contributions of immigrant families.

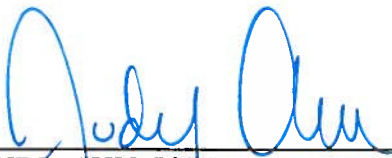
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are disproportionately impacted by family immigration backlogs. Of the 4.3 million people in line, 1.8 million are of Asian or Pacific Islander origin. The Philippines, Vietnam, India, China, Pakistan, South Korea, and Bangladesh rank among the top ten countries with the largest number of siblings and married children awaiting immigration visas. U.S. citizens sponsoring a sibling in the Philippines have waited 24 years to be reunited with their families.

We can look to the struggles and perseverance of past generations of immigrants to understand the importance of a robust and inclusive family immigration system. Families pool together resources to start and run businesses, create jobs, purchase homes, and send their American children to college for the skills that they will need to strengthen our global competitiveness. Families also provide security for aging workforces, affordable homecare for young children or elderly relatives, and the opportunity for breadwinners to contribute to our economy.

Family immigration has been a bedrock American value since our founding, and it is critical that we recognize the importance families play in the lives of new immigrants by maintaining our current family visa preferences. We oppose any efforts to further limit the definition of family and believe U.S. citizens deserve to be able to continue to sponsor their siblings and married children for legal permanent residence. A practical and well-functioning family-based immigration system is the key to growing our communities and our economy.

We request a meeting with you to discuss this issue further with representatives of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. Please contact Gene Kim, CAPAC Executive Director, at gene.kim@mail.house.gov or 202-225-5464 to schedule a meeting. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



JUDY CHU, PhD
Member of Congress
CAPAC Chair



MICHAEL M. HONDA
Member of Congress
CAPAC Immigration Taskforce Co-Chair



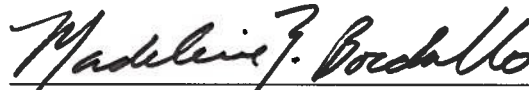
ENI FALEOMAVAEGA
Member of Congress
CAPAC Immigration Taskforce Co-Chair



BRIAN SCHATZ
Member of Congress



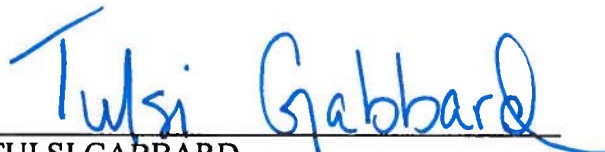
AMI BERA
Member of Congress



MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress



TAMMY DUCKWORTH
Member of Congress



TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress



AL GREEN
Member of Congress



COLLEEN HANABUSA
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



DORIS O. MATSUI
Member of Congress



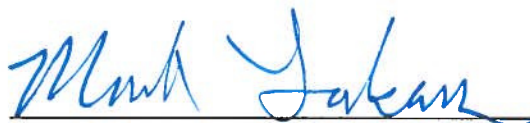
GRACE MENG
Member of Congress



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN
Member of Congress



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Member of Congress



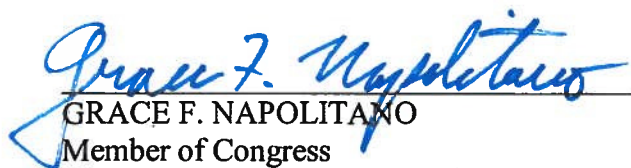
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



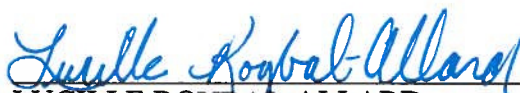
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Member of Congress



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