

HINDU AMERICAN FOUNDATION

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June 2, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Capitol Building, S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S. 386, Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Hindu American Foundation and millions of Hindu Americans, I'm writing to you today to urge you to support passage of the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act, S. 386.

Introduced by Sens. Mike Lee (R-UT) and Kamala Harris (D-CA), S. 386 enjoys broad-based, bipartisan support and currently boasts 36 sponsors. This legislation has been endorsed by dozens of organizations and businesses representing tens of millions of Americans from all walks of life.

There is no question that America's immigration system is broken. While many people disagree on various aspects of a comprehensive immigration reform plan, there is bipartisan support for one smart way to update our current immigrations laws – the Fairness for High Skilled Immigrants Act, S. 386.

After careful review and negotiations with Senate leaders over the last year, Senators Lee and Harris amended the bill to address the concerns of their colleagues. This legislation reforms several aspects of our antiquated immigration system, for which the Hindu American community has advocated for over a decade. Namely, S. 386 eliminates the discriminatory per-country caps; unclogs the green-card processing backlog of thousands of high-skilled, highly-educated people who want to be Americans and of which 95% are already in the U.S.; ensures a fair and reasonable allocation of future employment-based green cards; establishes a first-come, first-serve basis, ensuring that immigrants are admitted into the United States purely based on merit rather than discriminating against them based on their country of origin; contains safeguards to ensure a smooth transition from a country-based to a merit-based system without unduly disrupting existing immigration flows; and includes a "do no harm" provision ensuring that green card applicants who are at the front of the line now will stay at the front of the line.

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The House version of the Fairness for High Skilled Immigrants Act, HR 1044, passed the House of Representatives on July 10, 2019 by a vote of 365-65. It's now time for the Senate to act and send this important, bi-partisan, life-changing legislation to the President before the end of the year.

We urge you to support S. 386 and to clear the way for its adoption.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suhag Shukla', written in a cursive style.

Suhag Shukla, Esq.

Executive Director