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From: Ervin, Clark

Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 3:45 PM

To: 'rachel.brandenburg@mail.house.gov' <rachel.brandenburg@mail.house.gov>

Subject: Partner with Korea Act, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1762>

Ms. Brandenburg, by way of background and introduction, I am the former Inspector General of the U.S. Departments of State and Homeland Security, and I am now a partner in the Washington office of the global law firm, Squire Patton Boggs. One of our clients is the Embassy of Korea, and one of their priorities is passage of the Partner with Korea Act. I am writing to ask whether Rep. Slotkin would be willing to be among the co-sponsors of the bill.

As you may already know, the particulars are as follows. The bill would establish a special category of visas, numbering 15,000, for highly-skilled workers from Korea who'd fill hard to fill "specialty occupation jobs."

There would be no diminution of U.S. wages because employers would have to pay the higher of the prevailing wage or wages paid to U.S. workers.

Also, the workers' status in the U.S. would be temporary; they would have to attest that they intend to return to Korea upon the expiration of the specified employment period.

There are strong economic reasons to support the bill –Korean-owned companies like Samsung, Hyundai, and Kia provide a significant number of U.S. jobs, needless to say and our high-tech industries need the workers. Further, there is a compelling geopolitical reason to support the bill. Given the continuing tensions on the Korean Peninsula, it is in the U.S.' national security interest to enact a bill that is politically and economically important to a key strategic ally in an important region.

Many thanks for considering this request. If a call or meeting would be helpful, the Embassy and I would be happy to arrange. I hope to hear back from you soon. All best wishes.

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116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1762

To provide high-skilled visas for nationals of the Republic of Korea, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. YOHO, Mr. BERA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CASE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COOPER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIND, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LONG, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. SHIMKUS, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. WOODALL, and Mr. WOMACK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide high-skilled visas for nationals of the Republic
of Korea, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Partner with Korea
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RECIPROCAL VISAS FOR NATIONALS OF SOUTH**
2 **KOREA.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 101(a)(15)(E) of the Im-
4 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(E))
5 is amended—

6 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “or” after “cap-
7 ital;”; and

8 (2) by adding at the end “or (iv) solely to per-
9 form services in a specialty occupation in the United
10 States if the alien is a national of the Republic of
11 Korea and with respect to whom the Secretary of
12 Labor determines and certifies to the Secretary of
13 Homeland Security and the Secretary of State that
14 the intending employer has filed with the Secretary
15 of Labor an attestation under section 212(t)(1);”.

16 (b) **NUMERICAL LIMITATION.**—Section 214(g) of
17 such Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)) is amended by adding at the
18 end the following:

19 “(12)(A) The Secretary of State may not approve a
20 number of initial applications submitted for aliens de-
21 scribed in section 101(a)(15)(E)(iv) that is more than the
22 applicable numerical limitations set out in this paragraph.

23 “(B) The applicable numerical limitation referred to
24 in subparagraph (A) is 15,000 for each fiscal year.

1 “(C) The applicable numerical limitation referred to
2 in subparagraph (A) shall only apply to principal aliens
3 and not the spouses or children of such aliens.”.

4 (e) SPECIALTY OCCUPATION DEFINED. Section
5 214(i)(1) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(i)(1)) is amended
6 by striking “section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii),” and inserting
7 “clauses (iii) and (iv) of section 101(a)(15)(E),”.

8 (d) ATTESTATION.—Section 212(t) of such Act (8
9 U.S.C. 1182(t)), as added by section 402(b)(2) of the
10 United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement Implementa-
11 tion Act (Public Law 108–77; 117 Stat. 941), is amend-
12 ed—

13 (1) by striking “or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii)”
14 each place it appears and inserting “or clause (iii)
15 or (iv) of section 101(a)(15)(E)”; and

16 (2) in paragraphs (3)(C)(i)(II), (3)(C)(ii)(II),
17 and (3)(C)(iii)(II), by striking “or
18 101(a)(15)(E)(iii)” each place it appears.

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