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**Cc:** O'Melinn, Barbara <[barbara.o'melinn@squirepb.com](mailto:barbara.o'melinn@squirepb.com)>  
**Subject:** Partner with Korea Act, S.843 [I-AMS.FID4394142]

Messrs. Love and Khrestin, by way of background and introduction, I am the former Inspector General of the 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 the Republic of Korea, and a priority of theirs is passage of the Partner with Korea Act. The bill was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Isakson, and, to date, there are two co-sponsors, Senators Blunt and Hirono. Distinctively, the bill has both an immigration aspect and a national security-related one, hence my outreach to both of you. Noting also Senator Gardner's support for a recent resolution touting the U.S.-Korean alliance, I am writing to ask whether he would agree to sign on as an additional co-sponsor of the Partner with Korea Act.

Modeled on the E-3 visa category for Australians, this bill would establish a special E-4 visa category of visas, numbering 15,000 annually, for highly-skilled Koreans who would fill hard to fill "speciality occupation" jobs.

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

There would be no direct path to U.S. citizenship or permanent residency; workers would have to attest that they intend to return to Korea upon the expiration of the specified two-year employment period.

There are strong economic reasons to support the bill. Large Korean companies like Samsung, Hyundai, and Kia provide a significant number of U.S. jobs, needless to say, and our high-tech industry desperately needs more skilled workers. And, Korea is our sixth largest trading partner, accounting for approximately 350,000 U.S. jobs.

Moreover, there is a compelling geopolitical reason to support the bill. Given the mounting nuclear tensions on the Korean Peninsula, it is in the U.S.' national security interest to support a bill of such political and economic importance to a key strategic ally in a key region at a volatile time.

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



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