

**From:** Ervin, Clark <clark.ervin@squirepb.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 26, 2021 11:46 AM  
**To:** john.doty@mail.house.gov; andrew.heineman@mail.house.gov  
**Cc:** O'Melinn, Barbara <barbara.o'melinn@squirepb.com>  
**Subject:** Partner with Korea Act [I-AMS.FID4394142]

Dear Messrs. Doty and Heineman, 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 at Squire Patton Boggs. I am writing on behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea.

As you may have already seen, Representatives Connolly and Kim have reintroduced the Partner with Korea Act. Modeled on the E-3 visa category for Australians, the bill would establish a special E-4 visa category, 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 employers 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 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 continuing 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 volatile region.

I have attached the "Dear Colleague Letter" that Reps. Connolly and Kim have circulated. We are hoping that Chairman Nadler will agree to co-sponsor the bill. Would you be available for a quick call later this week to discuss?

Many thanks, and we hope to hear back from you soon.



**Clark K. Ervin**  
Partner  
Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP  
2550 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
T +1 202 457 5234  
O +1 202 457 6000  
F +1 202 457 6315  
M +1 202 299 6152

[clark.ervin@squirepb.com](mailto:clark.ervin@squirepb.com) | [squirepattonboggs.com](http://squirepattonboggs.com)

These materials are distributed by Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP on behalf of its foreign principal, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. Additional information is on file with the FARA Registration Unit, Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia

**Ervin, Clark**

---

**From:** Ervin, Clark  
**Sent:** Monday, July 26, 2021 11:08 AM  
**To:** Ervin, Clark  
**Subject:** e-DearColleague: Improve Business Ties Between the U.S. and South Korea - Cosponsor the Partner with Korea Act

**From:** e-Dear Colleague <[e-dearcolleague@housemail.house.gov](mailto:e-dearcolleague@housemail.house.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 4, 2021 12:44 PM  
**To:** Cosgrove, Kat <[Kat.Cosgrove@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kat.Cosgrove@mail.house.gov)>  
**Subject:** e-DearColleague: Improve Business Ties Between the U.S. and South Korea - Cosponsor the Partner with Korea Act

## Improve Business Ties Between the U.S. and South Korea - Cosponsor the Partner with Korea Act

Sending Office: Honorable Gerald E. Connolly  
Sent By: [Kat.Cosgrove@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kat.Cosgrove@mail.house.gov)

Request for Cosponsor(s)

**Co-Sponsors:** Kim (CA)\*, Blunt Rochester\*, Kilmer\*, Pascrell\*, Cooper\*, Kim (NJ)\*, Nunes\*, Lowenthal\*, Gallego\*

Dear Colleague,

Please join us as a cosponsor of the Partner with Korea Act, which would help facilitate increased business opportunities through the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) and strengthen the bond between the United States and South Korea.

South Korea is an essential American ally, and our Alliance is a cornerstone of U.S. national security and stability in East Asia. South Korea is also our sixth largest trading partner. Bilateral trade with Korea supports over 350,000 American jobs and South Korea is an important destination for American products ranging from cheese to automobiles.

We reintroduced the Partner with Korea Act to build on the KORUS FTA and encourage greater ties between American and Korean businesses. This legislation would create an allotment of 15,000 E-4 high-skilled visas for Korean nationals to work in the United States. Similar visa allotments have been created following our free trade agreements with Australia and Singapore. Applicants must have specialized education and employment requiring such skills, and employers must ensure that the visa holders do not take jobs that American workers could fill.

Please join us in showing support for a strong U.S.-Korea alliance and enhancing the bilateral trade and investment opportunities created by the KORUS FTA. To cosponsor this bill, or if you have any questions, please contact Kat

Cosgrove ([kat.cosgrove@mail.house.gov](mailto:kat.cosgrove@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Connolly's office or Colin Timmerman ([colin.timmerman@mail.house.gov](mailto:colin.timmerman@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Young Kim's office.

Sincerely,

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

Young Kim  
Member of Congress

#### Related Legislative Issues


**Selected legislative information:** Foreign Affairs, Immigration, Trade

#### Related Bill Information

**Bill Type:** H.R.

**Bill Type:** 3382

**Special Note:**

 [Manage Your Subscriptions](#)



e-Dear Colleague version 2.2.1

 [Contact eDC Support](#)

**e-Dear Colleagues are intended for internal House use only.**