

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2106

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 20, 2017

Mr. ROSKAM (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. STEWART, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BEYER, and Mr. HIMES) 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 (c) 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)”;

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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Hey Flavio – Wanted to see if you think the attached bill is something Shimkus could consider cosponsoring. It is a Peter Roskam bill this is identical to legislation he had during the 114th Congress and provides an allocation of 15,000 professional visas to Korean nationals to work in the United States. This would be consistent with other US Free Trade Agreement partnerships which already enjoy this visa status with our country and we believe it is an important continuation of KORUS to extend this next benefit to our important ally. We are hoping to again build substantial bipartisan backing this Congress and have already secured over 50 cosponsors.

Happy to answer any questions you guys have or we can just as easily set something up to come by with some folks from the Embassy to discuss in person. The contacts for any questions on the staff level or to sign the boss on are [REDACTED] (Rep. Roskam, [REDACTED]@mail.house.gov) or [REDACTED] (Rep. Connolly, [REDACTED]@mail.house.gov).

Thanks in advance – Sarley

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