

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 9457

To protect the integrity of the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program, prevent unauthorized program-wide suspension, ensure transparency and congressional oversight of executive action, and reaffirm congressional intent.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2026

Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BROWN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASAR, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. GREJALVA, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MEJIA, Mr. MENEFEE, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. WILSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To protect the integrity of the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program, prevent unauthorized program-wide suspension, ensure transparency and congressional oversight of executive action, and reaffirm congressional intent.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Diversity Visa Protec-  
3 tion and Modernization Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The Diversity Immigrant Visa Program is a  
7 congressionally authorized program established  
8 under section 203(c) of the Immigration and Na-  
9 tionality Act to promote diversity in lawful perma-  
10 nent immigration to the United States of America.

11 (2) Congress has delegated to the executive  
12 branch authority to administer immigration pro-  
13 grams, including conducting security screening and  
14 imposing targeted restrictions where justified by na-  
15 tional security or foreign policy concerns.

16 (3) Such authority has historically included  
17 country-specific, regional, or case-by-case limitations,  
18 including restrictions related to armed conflict, sanc-  
19 tions, diplomatic breakdowns, or individualized secu-  
20 rity risks.

21 (4) Program-wide or indefinite suspension of  
22 the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program, including  
23 halting issuance across all eligible countries, exceeds  
24 routine administrative discretion absent explicit stat-  
25 utory authorization.

1           (5) National security screening of Diversity Im-  
2 migrant Visa applicants occurs prior to visa issuance  
3 and can be strengthened or tailored without sus-  
4 pending the program as a whole.

5           (6) Indefinite or opaque administrative pauses  
6 undermine congressional intent, due process, and the  
7 lawful expectations of Diversity Immigrant Visa se-  
8 lectees.

9           (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to—

10           (1) reaffirm the authority of Congress over the  
11 continuation of the Diversity Immigrant Visa Pro-  
12 gram as a whole;

13           (2) distinguish between permissible targeted re-  
14 strictions and impermissible wholesale suspension of  
15 the program;

16           (3) ensure transparency, accountability, and  
17 congressional oversight when the executive branch  
18 limits Diversity Immigrant Visa processing; and

19           (4) protect eligible Diversity Immigrant Visa se-  
20 lectees from losing lawful immigration opportunities  
21 due to broad, non-specific administrative pauses (or  
22 Executive action).

1 **SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON PROGRAM-WIDE SUSPENSION OF**  
2 **THE DIVERSITY IMMIGRANT VISA PROGRAM.**

3 (a) PROHIBITION ON PROGRAM-WIDE SUSPEN-  
4 SION.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary  
5 of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security, as appli-  
6 cable, may not suspend, pause, or stop the issuance of  
7 visas pursuant to section 203(c) of the Immigration and  
8 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(c)).

9 (b) LIMITED EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary of State  
10 or the Secretary of Homeland Security, as applicable,  
11 may—

12 (1) implement a country-specific or regional  
13 suspension or limitation on the issuance of visas  
14 pursuant to section 203(c) of the Immigration and  
15 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(c)) following notifi-  
16 cation to Congress in accordance with subsection (c);

17 (2) undertake a case-by-case delay, denial, or  
18 request for enhanced screening based on an individ-  
19 ualized security, criminal, or eligibility determina-  
20 tions; or

21 (3) suspend the issuance of visas pursuant to  
22 section 203(c) of the Immigration and Nationality  
23 Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(c)) for a limited period not ex-  
24 ceeding 60 days with issuance automatically resum-  
25 ing on the date that is 60 days after the date of

1 such suspension following notification to Congress in  
2 accordance with subsection (c).

3 (c) CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE AND TRANSPARENCY  
4 REQUIREMENTS.—

5 (1) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 7  
6 days before initiating a suspension or limitation de-  
7 scribed under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary of  
8 State or the Secretary of Homeland Security, as ap-  
9 plicable, shall submit to the appropriate congres-  
10 sional committees notice of such suspension or limi-  
11 tation, including —

12 (A) the scope, geographic reach, and dura-  
13 tion of the suspension or limitation;

14 (B) identification of the specific and ex-  
15 traordinary threat that necessitates the  
16 issuance of visas pursuant to section 203(c) of  
17 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
18 1153(c)) and explanation why a narrower, tar-  
19 geted, or country-specific measure would not  
20 sufficiently address the identified threat, if ap-  
21 plicable;

22 (C) the specific national security or foreign  
23 policy rationale for the suspension or limitation;

24 (D) the legal authority relied upon for  
25 such suspension; and

1           (E) the steps being taken to resume nor-  
2           mal issuance of visas pursuant to section 203(c)  
3           of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
4           U.S.C. 1153(c)).

5           (2) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—The notice described  
6           under paragraph (1) shall be published in the Fed-  
7           eral Register, except for classified annexes provided  
8           to the appropriate congressional committees.

9           (d) PROTECTION FOR DIVERSITY IMMIGRANT VISA  
10          SELECTEES.—No individual issued a visa pursuant to sec-  
11          tion 203(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
12          U.S.C. 1153(c)) shall lose eligibility for such visa as a re-  
13          sult of a suspension described under subsection (b)(3).

14          (e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE DE-  
15          FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-  
16          sional committee” means—

17                 (1) the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
18                 House of Representatives and the Senate;

19                 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the  
20                 House of Representatives; and

21                 (3) the Committee on Foreign Relations on the  
22                 Senate.

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