



---

Dear Friends - We need your participation and help bring together the maximum number of people to Immigration Voice's **Fairness and Freedom March starting at 10 AM at Circle of Palms Plaza, San Jose, CA on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The announcement of the rally by Immigration Voice is [here](#).**

**What you need to do:**

- Please make travel arrangements and plan accordingly to participate in the rally. A huge number of people from all over the country have already committed to attending the rally. Join us in this effort!
- In addition, reach out over phone/in person to all your friends/colleagues/contacts to convince people to attend our event. You are our spokesperson and experience has shown that there is no equivalent to talking to someone in person to lay out the facts and explain how H.R.3012 will help them. The FAQs below will help you answer any questions you encounter.
- This is a **make or break moment** for this bill and we need ALL members from across the country to attend the rally in San Jose and stand up in support of H.R.3012. Kindly [RSVP](#) at [www.immigrationvoice.org](http://www.immigrationvoice.org). Answer the volunteer question on RSVP form if you are interested in helping us out prior to and during the event.
- Here are some [memorable experiences and videos](#) from IV's rally in September 2007.
- Please [CLICK THIS LINK FOR FLYERS](#) created to spread message about this event. Please post these flyers at grocery stores, theaters, temples, events etc. that will be frequented by applicants from backlogged countries like India and China (there is also a Chinese language flyer available). Also reach out to student associations and cultural associations to encourage them to participate in the rally.

**Frequently asked questions:**

**1. What is this bill and how does it help me?**

In a nutshell, per-country limits have created unfairness in the system. In the current system, say a company applies for employment based green card for two people with the same skills, talent, education and experience and performing the same job for the employer at the same time. The two applicants will have different wait times based on where they are born. So a candidate born in India, China, Mexico or Philippines will wait anywhere from 10 to 70 years while an applicant born in a non-backlogged country will get it in 1 year to 3 years. This is the unfairness in the system.

Employers hire based on skills and talent and not based on where a person is born. This bill follows the same principle and removes the per-country limits/quotas in employment based (EB) immigration. In addition, H.R.3012 increase per-country limits in family-based immigration from 7 to 15%. The result of this is that GC applications will be processed in a first-come-first-served manner. **The priority dates will start moving rapidly and become CURRENT, allowing backlogged applicants to get their green cards much sooner.**

**2. I submitted my I485 application and already received my EAD. I am willing to wait for a few years till my priority date becomes current for me to get my GC. Why should I participate?**

We should remember that we are always "temporary aliens" till we receive the green card/permanent residence. Getting an EAD or renewing an H1B brings just temporary relief for a limited time.

**EAD** - People who got their EAD in July 2007 realized within a year that renewing/replacing an EAD every year is a huge hassle. We at IV have seen large number of issues over the years with people getting into problems with their jobs due to EAD approvals not coming in time before the previous EAD expired. Unfortunate scenarios like losing one's job makes things even more complicated – finding a new green card sponsor or using AC21 is a very complicated process and has its own set of big risks.

**H1B** - USCIS has become strict in adjudicating H1B extension as well as AC21 applications and DoS has become strict with H1B visa stamping. A huge number of people, even those who have been working for many years on

---

Immigration Voice

Ph: 202-386-6250 Fax: 202-403-3853

Email: [rally@immigrationvoice.org](mailto:rally@immigrationvoice.org)

Website: <http://www.immigrationvoice.org>



---

H1B, have been getting stuck abroad when they went for H1B visa stamping ([See here for examples of people like us on temporary visas who are stuck abroad with visa stamping issues](#))

So from the collective experience of thousands of IV members, getting an EAD or continuing on H1B provides a few months of relief but constant uncertainty and headache in the long run. Our best chance is in pushing for a long term fix that **H.R.3012** provides. We are very close to getting this bill passed. Let us not miss this opportunity.

**3. I am just a student and I am not sure why I should support the bill?**

If you are student, you will very soon be part of the process and will be stuck in the backlogs as well. So your support is to ensure that you do not get stuck in the same green card backlogs in the future. **A foreign student from India or China ends up spending a decade or more on a temporary work visa** (which has its own set of concerns and uncertainties) while waiting for a Green Card. The reason for this is the current backlogs for employment-based green card applicants from India and China. If H.R 3012 is passed, one can apply for and receive a Green Card to become a permanent resident shortly after beginning employment. On the other hand, the current system, with per-country caps, will make you wait for anywhere between 10-20 years just because you were born in India or China. With H.R.3012, that wait will be reduced to less than 3 years.

Think about it. If you apply for a green card today - the current system will cause you to get your green card along with someone who applies 7-10 years later than you, while those who you applied with will get it in a year from now. H.R 3012 fixes this problem and brings in fairness.

**4. Why should I participate in the peaceful Fairness and Freedom march? How will my support help?**

When thousands of us come together and express our desire for fairness peacefully, we will make our voices heard. We are very close to seeing H.R.3012 passed in the Senate and this rally will bring much-needed attention to the plight of people like us stuck in green card backlogs and on temporary visas for years. Let's march together because we are in this together and asking for a fairer system that matters to all of us. There is nothing stronger and more powerful than honest hardworking people coming together to call for fairness and freedom in a peaceful manner.

**5. I am a citizen or green card holder. Why should I support this bill or attend this rally?**

Fundamentally, this bill is about restoring fairness to the system and to issue green cards on a first-come-first-serve basis based on skills, talent, education and experience. Even though you are no longer in the queue, you might have a friend, cousin, brother, sister or another family member who is in the queue or going to be a part of it in the future. Please speak up on their behalf. Remember that you are voicing your support for fairness and that will help all the backlogged candidates now and will make the system fair for everyone in future. Many of our active volunteers who work on a day-to-day basis (outside of their 9-5 jobs) are green card holders and citizens.

**6. Will I be affected in any way if I voice my support?**

The greatness of this nation is in letting everyone voice their support. Remember that you are not alone. Immigration voice is a grassroots organization and had a very successful rally in Washington D.C in September 2007. [Here are some memorable experiences from that event](#). There are hundreds of IV members who have been grass-roots volunteers for a long time and are working in support of this bill **on your behalf**. Many of these volunteers are not citizens or GC holders. Most of them are either in the current system stuck in backlogs or will soon be part of the process and will be stuck in backlogs. In addition, there are also citizens and green card holders who are our volunteers and these folks have either been through the backlogs themselves or know of someone who underwent this process or plainly support this bill for its underlying principle of fairness

**7. Is there anything else in the bill?**

There is another component which increases the per-country limits of family based category from 7% to 15%. This will once again help those who are stuck in decade long backlogs in the family-based immigration side.



### **Background Information**

#### ***Brief Introduction of Immigration Voice:***

Formed in 2005, Immigration Voice (IV) is a national grassroots, nonprofit organization of over 90,000 highly skilled and highly educated future Americans spread across all 50 states. Our mission is to reduce application backlogs and make priority dates current in EB-GC system by pushing for **H.R.3012** to be passed in Congress.

#### **Regarding HR 3012**

- Immigration Voice is driving efforts towards removal of per-country limits in the high-skilled green card system via H.R.3012. This bill makes the employment-based green card queue fair and first-come-first-serve reducing wait times from current levels (between 10-70 years) to around 3-4 years, **making priority dates move faster**. Ultimately, the bill is about fostering American innovation and enabling entrepreneurs and job creators stuck in backlogs to get the green cards to end their uncertainty. This will enable them to contribute more effectively and create jobs in the innovation economy.
- This bill was overwhelmingly passed by the U.S House of Representatives. Here are the [press release](#) and the [vote on the floor of the US House of Representatives \(5 min mark\)](#) where Rep. Chaffetz (Utah), the sponsor of this bill recognizes Immigration Voice.
- H.R 3012 will shortly come up for a Senate vote. Immigration Voice has been involved in the conception and advocacy for this bill, every step of the way, and hence urges you to understand the significance and criticality of the rally.
- Additional information on the background of the bill is available at this [H.R 3012 Wiki](#).