



For Immediate Release
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SEARAC Applauds House Immigration Subcommittee on Passage of Bill to Address Visa Backlog

Washington, DC – Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) joins our immigrant rights partners in applauding the House Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law on today's passage of H.R.5882, a bill co-sponsored by Representatives Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) and Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), to recapture unused visas from previous years and apply them toward future admissions.

Because of bureaucratic delays and the loss of unused immigrant visas in years past, many families have to wait years—in many cases, decades—to reunite with their family through the family immigration system. As a result, there is a huge backlog of people waiting in line to legally enter the U.S. H.R.5882 addresses this backlog to ensure that families can be reunited in a timelier manner by taking those unused visas and applying them to those who have been waiting for many years to be reunited with their families in the U.S.

This legislation is significant for refugee families, including Southeast Asian Americans, who, in times of war and conflict may have been separated from family members and are looking to be reunited through the family immigration system.

“We are thankful to members of the subcommittee who voted in support of H.R. 5882 today and look forward to their continued support as the bill moves through Congress. Their leadership shows their value for families and is an important step forward in our constant fight to ensure immigrant rights,” states Doua Thor, Executive Director of the SEARAC.

Subcommittee members who voted YES in support of H.R.5882:

Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) 202-225-3072
Representative Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) 202-225-8203
Representative Howard Berman (D-CA) 202-225-4695
Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA) 202-225-2201
Representative Bill Delahunt (D-MA) 202-225-3111
Representative Linda Sanchez (D-CA) 202-225-6676
Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN) 202-225-4755
Representative Anthony Weiner (D-NY) 202-225-6616

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