



**Support Alliance of
US Immigrants**

December 8, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

From: Support Alliance of United States Immigrants

Re: Opposition to H.R.1044/ S.386, the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2019

Dear House Speaker Pelosi, Senate Majority leader McConnell, House Minority Leader McCarthy, and Senate Minority Leader Schumer,

We are writing to you as members of the “Support Alliance of United States Immigrants” (**All of US**) to highlight an important ongoing issue in the House of Representatives that could potentially worsen the already broken immigration system. Our grassroots organization consists of more than 5,000 graduate students, researchers, and university professors in the US from all over the world. Our organization has been diligently working to raise awareness about the disastrous consequences of the so-called “Fairness for High Skilled Immigrants Act” (HR1044/S386) on the US economy and the immigration system.

As you may already know, this bill passed in the House without any public hearing last year (July 2019), and it has recently passed in the Senate (December 2020) **without any public hearing through unanimous consent**. Since the bill is currently back to the House, we would like to discuss some of the reasons this bill is detrimental and controversial.

- 1- This bill is not eliminating the green card backlog at all. According to the CRS report (CRS R46291) *“H.R.1044/ S.386 would not reduce future backlogs compared to current law. The total backlog for all three categories would increase from an estimated 915,497 individuals currently to an estimated 2,195,795 individuals by FY2030. These outcomes would occur whether or not H.R.1044/ S. 386 is enacted, because the bill maintains the current limit on the number of green cards issued.”*



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- 2- This bill will destroy the business model for the US universities. According to the CRS report, *by FY2030 employment-based petition holders could expect to wait up to 37 years.* This long wait time means that both the **international students, faculty, and researchers** would not be willing to attend the universities and colleges due to the lifetime waiting time for permanent residency.

We appreciate the house majority rejected the new provision on banning Chinese nationals. (It is overly broad and open to interpretation which could limit many Chinese nationals from immigrating to the US and potentially affects the lives of many well-deserving immigrants.) Yet that is beside the point that the underlying bill has numerous problems and unintended consequences.

We respectfully ask you to not allow the passage of HR1044 as an amendment to the Covid-19 relief or appropriation bill. It is not ready to be passed as part of an omnibus package. Without solving the underlying challenge of too few green cards available, the harm that HR1044 passage will do to the immigrant communities around the US will be irreversible and devastating. With the new administration, there will be a real chance to have a substantive argument on a real solution to solve the green card backlog. Should you need any further evidence or questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely
Support Alliance of Us Immigrants