

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.248

Reps. Kuppa, O'Malley, Roth, Damoose, VanSingel, Brixie, Stone, Hood, Peterson, Hope, Breen, Steckloff, Calley, Cavanagh and Rabhi offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to urge the federal government to quickly enact  
2       legislation addressing the backlog in employment-based green cards,  
3       including, but not limited to, H.R. 3648 of 2021.

4       Whereas, Immigration is a central pillar of the United States,  
5       both economically and culturally. The employment-based green card  
6       system allows those who provide value to the economy to have  
7       permanent residence in America. The vast majority of applicants for  
8       this program are already working in the United States while paying  
9       taxes and raising families here; and

10       Whereas, Classical, historical legal immigration has helped  
11       address America's employment needs and worker shortages. Millions

1 of immigration applicants have been and continue to be from beyond  
2 our contiguous geographical borders. While waves of immigration  
3 have been from various parts of the world, applicants who are stuck  
4 in the long country backlog lines today include Guatemala,  
5 Honduras, and India. At last count, the numbers are 19,414  
6 (Guatemala), 12,441 (Honduras), and 769,269 (India); and

7       Whereas, The current structure of the employment-based green  
8 card system is unoptimized, hurting both immigrants and the country  
9 as a whole. The program places an arbitrary limit of 7 percent on  
10 the number of green cards that can be granted to immigrants from  
11 any one country. This creates a decades-long wait for immigrants  
12 from large countries compared to a dramatically shorter wait for  
13 those from less-populated countries. The total number of workers  
14 and investors, and their family members, who cannot receive  
15 permanent residence due to this green card cap has exceeded 1  
16 million; and

17       Whereas, The cap on green card recipients from each country  
18 limits the immigration of highly skilled workers and hurts the  
19 United States. Long wait times can lead highly skilled workers to  
20 choose to immigrate to another country where the process is less  
21 burdensome. A study by the CATO Institute estimated that the  
22 average wage offered to new employer-sponsored immigrants would  
23 have been more than \$11,000 higher in 2019 if the per-country cap  
24 was eliminated; and

25       Whereas, Even though many employment-based green card  
26 applicants are already working in the United States, the long wait  
27 for permanent status creates significant economic limitations. For  
28 example, those working on temporary visas cannot start a business  
29 in the United States, resulting in missed opportunities to create

1 jobs and restricting their ability to support a healthy economy. In  
2 addition, they cannot change employers or accept a promotion  
3 without being forced to the back of the line for a green card; and

4       Whereas, The unnecessary backlog of green card applicants  
5 creates significant stress for families. If an applicant's child  
6 turns 21 before receiving a green card, they must secure a  
7 different immigration status or risk becoming undocumented and  
8 deported. More than 100,000 children are at risk of aging out of  
9 their immigration status over the next two decades if current rates  
10 continue; and

11       Whereas, Enacting policies to reduce the backlog in  
12 employment-based green cards would significantly benefit our state.  
13 In 2018, immigrant entrepreneurs in Michigan generated more than  
14 \$27 billion in total sales and employed more than 167,000 Michigan  
15 residents. Reforming the employment-based green card system and  
16 allowing more immigrants to contribute to our state will only  
17 increase these benefits; and

18       Whereas, Previous opportunities to address the backlog have  
19 been squandered. In September 2021, an estimated 80,000 unused  
20 green card slots expired when applications to allocate them to  
21 immigrants stuck in years-long waits were not processed in time;  
22 and

23       Whereas, Previous legislation to address the backlog in  
24 employment-based green cards had significant support in both  
25 chambers of Congress. The Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act  
26 passed both the U.S. House and Senate with overwhelming support in  
27 2020 but the versions passed by each chamber were not reconciled  
28 before the end of the legislative session; and

29       Whereas, Bipartisan legislation has been introduced in the

1 current Congress that would address the issues with the employment-  
2 based green card program. Among other changes, H.R. 3648 of 2021,  
3 also known as the Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment  
4 (EAGLE) Act of 2021, would eliminate the per-country cap on  
5 employment-based green cards and raise the per-country cap for  
6 family-based green cards to 15 percent; now, therefore, be it

7 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the  
8 federal government to quickly enact legislation addressing the  
9 backlog in employment-based green cards, including, but not limited  
10 to, H.R. 3648 of 2021; and be it further

11 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
12 President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States  
13 House of Representatives, the President of the United States  
14 Senate, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.