

# UniteFamilies

a movement to unite lawful US permanent residents with their families

Volume 1, Issue 2—February 2006

## In This Issue

H.R. 4448 . . . . .	1
PR firm update . . . . .	1
Statistics . . . . .	2
Other activities . . . . .	2
Call to Action . . . . .	2
Call for Donation . . . . .	3

Welcome to the second issue of the *UniteFamilies.org* newsletter. We update our members and supporters on our most recent activities and the status of legislation related to the unification of families of lawful permanent residents.

## New Bill Introduced—H.R. 4448

Currently, U.S. immigration law does not permit the spouse and children of a lawful permanent resident to visit or study in the country while their immigrant visa applications are pending.

This situation may change. Just before the end of 2005, a new bill was introduced that would help lawful permanent residents (LPRs, or green card holders) to meet with their spouses and minor children in the U.S. while the immigration process takes its course.

The bill, H.R. 4448, was introduced on December 6, 2005, by Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ-6). It amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow spouses and children of lawful permanent residents to qualify for visitor (“B”) and student (“F”) visas. Under

*H.R. 4448  
will allow  
spouses and  
children to  
qualify for B  
and F visas.*

current law, visitor and student visa applicants need to prove that they will return to their home countries after their visit to the U.S. Spouses and children of permanent residents are automatically disqualified.

The bill has seven co-sponsors and is pending before the House Committee on the Judiciary. More information on this bill can be found in the Library of Congress website (<http://thomas.loc.gov>).

We encourage you to email, call or write your Senators and Congressperson and request their co-sponsorship of H.R. 4448. When writing or calling, mention the other bills (H.R. 1823 and S. 1919). Remind them of President Bush’s promise in 2000: “If we are a nation that believes in family values, we need to [allow] husbands and wives, and children of permanent residents . . . to visit, while the [Immigration Service] is handling their paperwork.”

## Update from our PR Firm

In December 2005, our public relations firm—Crosby Volmer International Communications—prepared materials to be distributed to the media. They contacted several newspapers, websites and blogs. Here is a partial list of who they contacted:

- Arab American News
- Asian American Press
- Legal Blog News
- Wadias, Inc.
- Khabar

Over twenty other newspapers and websites will publish similar articles in the coming months.

Unfortunately, due to lack of funds, we are no longer able to pay our PR firm. Do consider a donation to *UniteFamilies.org*, so that we can continue to work to unite permanent residents with their loved ones. See the end of this newsletter for more information.

## Group Statistics

We introduce a new column in this issue—statistics. Readers of our discussion group will be familiar with the twice monthly statistics posted there. The statistics are current as of February 11.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Statistic</i>
Online petition signatures	1,337
Paper petition signatures	173
Home page visits	9,071
Discussion group members	657
Co-sponsors H.R. 1823	10
Co-sponsors S. 1919	None
Co-sponsors H.R. 4448	7

We urge you to sign our online petition to Congress if you have not already done so. Please sign the English or the Spanish petition. English: <http://petitiononline.com/unitefam>; Spanish: <http://petitiononline.com/unirfami>.

Our home page is at <http://unitefamilies.org>.

If you are not a member of our discussion group, consider joining. The group is at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/unitefamilies> and you can join by filling the form at <http://unitefamilies.org/action/join.html>.

## Other activities

Last December, Ricardo Lu, one of our most active members, was interviewed by WLAC Radio in Nashville, Tennessee. He explained the problem faced by lawful permanent residents and possible solutions to it. You can hear the interview on our website (<http://unitefamilies.org/news>). We hope that his message reached a large number of WLAC listeners. We ask every member of *UniteFamilies.org* to be more active in raising awareness.

## Call to Action

### Contact your Lawmakers

It is critical for lawmakers to hear from their affected constituents. The more constituents they hear from, the more likely they will act to fix the problem. There is no adverse consequence in contacting a lawmaker.

When attempting to arrange a meeting with a lawmaker, persistence pays off. A single letter or phone call usually does not get their attention. In our experience, repeated attempts to contact our Congresspersons and Senators result in meetings.

We can help with the presentation materials and meeting preparation. However, you need to take the initiative to contact your lawmaker.

Nothing is going to happen to fix our problem until each one of us plays a more active role. Write to your Congressperson and Senators. Write again and request a meeting. Call their offices and ask them to support H.R. 1823, S. 1919, or H.R. 4448. Write to your local newspaper, radio and TV stations requesting an article or segment highlighting our problem. Ask your spouse to join our Yahoogroup. Every action by every member counts.

## Los Angeles Times

The *Los Angeles Times* is interested in writing an article on our issue and would like to interview Southern California residents who are affected by the problem. If you are from Southern California, please contact Arin Gencer of the *Times* by phone at 213-237-7244 or by email (<mailto:arin.gencer@latimes.com>).

## Senator Arlen Specter

Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, is drafting an immigration reform bill that is likely to be introduced later this month or next month. We must get a solution to our issue included

in his bill. If you are a resident of Pennsylvania, please contact us immediately. You can reach us by email at (<mailto:info@unitefamilies.org>).

## Call for donation

Please donate! We are critically short of funds and are unable to pay our PR firm. You can donate to *UniteFamilies.org* by writing us a check or by PayPal; the instructions are on our website (<http://unitefamilies.org/action/donate.html>).<sup>1</sup>

Consider this as an investment—the time and money saved in avoiding frequent travel to be united with your spouse and children will more than compensate the donation.

This newsletter was prepared by Ajit Natarajan and Alex Maslov.

*UniteFamilies.org*,

P.O. Box 404,

Elmore, OH 43416-0404

<mailto:info@unitefamilies.org>

<http://unitefamilies.org>

© 2006, *UniteFamilies.org*

---

<sup>1</sup>We are *not* a 501(c)(3) registered charity, so donations are *not* tax deductible. Accounts of donations received are tabulated in the database section of our Yahoo group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/unitefamilies>).