

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 13, 2015

Senator Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-230  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell and Speaker Ryan,

We write regarding the potential inclusion of visa waiver program reforms in the pending omnibus appropriations legislation.

There is widespread bipartisan support for efforts to ensure that the visa waiver program does not present avoidable security concerns for U.S. citizens. However, there are growing concerns with the dual nationality provisions contained in H.R. 158.

As you are aware, these provisions would prevent citizens of visa waiver program countries who are dual nationals of countries such as Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Sudan from benefiting from the program. Unrelated to other provisions suspending visa waiver benefits for those who have recently travelled to select countries of concern, this restriction of benefits in particular would apply regardless of an individual's travel history. It not only sends the wrong message to those who have fled the very circumstances we are seeking to address but would no doubt court reciprocal treatment of similar U.S. citizen dual nationals from our European allies.

We urge you to carefully consider both the direct and indirect impacts of provisions to restrict these dual nationals from utilizing the visa waiver program and to ensure such provisions are not included in legislation providing appropriations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Sincerely,



JEFF FLAKE  
United States Senator



DICK DURBIN  
United States Senator



DEAN HELLER  
United States Senator



PATRICK LEAHY  
United States Senator