



Sunset Caucus

Waste Action Alert

*A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)
Rep. Tom Price (R-GA), RSC Chairman*

Eliminate the Immigrant Visa Lottery Program

March 17, 2010

Program or Item Targeted: The Immigrant Visa Lottery Program

One-Year Cost of Program or Item: Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the elimination of the visa lottery program would save the federal government \$118 million in Food Stamp payments and \$59 million in Medicaid payments, for a total of \$177 million over a ten year period. CBO has also estimated this legislation would save the states \$45 million in Medicaid payments over the same ten year period.

Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted: Each year there is a national immigration ‘lottery’ called the Immigrant Visa Lottery program. This program provides an avenue by which 50,000 aliens may become legal permanent residents of the U.S.

Why This Program or Item Is Wasteful: The visa lottery program poses a national security threat. Under the program, each successful applicant is chosen at random and given the status of permanent resident based on pure luck. Usually, immigrant visas are issued to foreign nationals who have an existing connection with a family member lawfully residing in the United States or with a U.S. employer. However, under the visa lottery program, visas are awarded to immigrants at random without meeting these criteria. The visa lottery program is unfair to immigrants who comply with United States immigration laws as it does not prohibit illegal aliens from applying to receive a visa through the program. This sends the wrong message to those desiring entry into United States.

Legislative Steps Taken So Far: Representative Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) introduced H.R. 2305, the SAFE for America Act, on May 7, 2009. To cosponsor, contact Branden Ritchie at Branden.Ritchie@mail.house.gov.

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail brad.watson@mail.house.gov.

If you have a bill or amendment to highlight in the next Waste Action Alert please contact ryan.tronovitch@mail.house.gov.

Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

*“The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it,
working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn’t be paying for.”*

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