



*United to Secure America*

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## **United to Secure America Urges You to Co-Sponsor H.R. 5013, the SAFER Act ("Securing America's Future Through Enforcement Act")**

*United to Secure America (USA / SECURE AMERICA)* asks that you cosponsor H.R. 5013, introduced by Congressman Gekas on June 26, 2002. In brief, this bill would make necessary corrections to the Immigration and Nationality Act that would secure our nation's borders and finally help provide a safe society for all Americans.

Currently, our immigration system is overwhelmed by the massive numbers of people flowing through it with over 1 million immigrants entering legally every year and with hundreds of thousands entering illegally. Recent studies have indicated that over 8 million people are here illegally. Our immigration laws are not adequate to handle this volume. Routinely, laws are disregarded and are not properly enforced. Even when enforced, our laws and policies often contain gaping loopholes and fundamental flaws that have allowed America to become vulnerable to those who wish to do us harm. Foreign terrorists have known for years that our immigration system has major weaknesses, and they have used it to infiltrate our society. Tragically, this reality was evidenced by the unfortunate events of September 11<sup>th</sup>. More recently, we have faced an unprecedented level of continuous warnings of possible attacks. Americans will not be safe until Congress acts to reform our outdated and overburdened immigration system.

USA believes that immigration should be in the national interest and that we are at a crucial time where fundamental reforms are needed. House Immigration Subcommittee Chairman Gekas recently has offered a responsible and effective measure, H.R. 5013, that will restore integrity to America's immigration system and provide far more security to our country. Accordingly, we ask that you cosponsor this crucial measure and urge your fellow colleagues to do the same. It is time for Congress to act!

Specifically, H.R. 5013 addresses the following key areas:

- ▶ **Securing the Border** - The SAFER Act will increase the penalties against alien smugglers, will increase the Border Patrol to over 16,000 officers and will give the President the option to fully utilize the military along our borders to supplement the Border Patrol's efforts to keep out terrorists, drug smugglers and other illegal aliens.
- ▶ **Screening Aliens Seeking Admission** - The SAFER Act will increase the number of INS inspections officers, will require the State Department to conduct in-person interviews of all visa applicants, will eliminate a dangerous loophole in the visa waiver program, will prohibit entry into the U.S. of any aliens who are members of terrorist organizations, support terrorism, or solicit funds for terrorist organizations, will increase resources available to root out fraud by visa applicants, and will prohibit bogus and fly-by-night schools from sponsoring aliens for student visas.
- ▶ **Tracking Aliens in the United States** - The SAFER Act will require the tracking of all aliens entering and leaving the U.S., will require that the foreign student tracking system be fully operational by January, will require universities to report to the INS on the subject matter of each course taken by foreign students, will require all long-term alien visitors and residents to be fingerprinted and to periodically register their addresses with the INS, and will allow professional bail bondsmen to track down aliens who have violated the terms of their visas.

- ▶ **Removing Alien Terrorists, Criminals, and Human Rights Violators** – The SAFER Act will require the deportation of any aliens who are members of terrorist organizations, support terrorism, or solicit funds for terrorist organizations; will ensure that terrorists do not receive asylum; will require the deportation of all aliens who commit murder, rape, or the sexual abuse of a child; will prohibit entry into the U.S. of serious human rights violators, and will prevent aliens who are criminals or serious human rights violators from being able to avoid deportation by claiming they will be “tortured.”
- ▶ **Enhancing Enforcement of the Immigration and Nationality Act in the Interior** - The SAFER Act will increase the security and counterfeit-resistance of birth certificates, driver’s licenses and Social Security cards; will foil the ability of illegal aliens to get jobs by requiring that employers check the validity of new employees’ Social Security numbers; will increase the number of INS investigators; will make it a federal crime for an alien to overstay a visa by more than six months, will double the INS’ capacity to detain aliens; will eliminate excessive court review of deportation orders and will reduce the ability of immigration lawyers to engage in dilatory and abusive tactics in deportation proceedings.
- ▶ **Protecting the Integrity of our Electoral System** - The SAFER Act will prevent non-citizens from illegally voting in federal elections by requiring the verification of voters’ Social Security numbers.
- ▶ **Reforming Legal Immigration to More Reasonable Levels**- The SAFER Act will establish an Office of Citizenship in the INS to encourage naturalization and increase the meaning of the naturalization process; will prohibit the issuance of any visas to nationals of countries that are state sponsors of terrorism, and will modestly reduce legal immigration levels by about 20% from their current levels of over one million a year.

Cosponsor H.R. 5013, the SAFER Act, today!