

“The final rule to allow certain visa applicants to file for family unity waivers within the U.S. is a positive step forward for our families. The Reuniting Families Act, legislation that I introduced, follows suit with DHS’s final rule by reuniting families despite bars to reentry. This bill reduces the backlog of families trying to reunite with their loved ones, by classifying lawful permanent resident spouses, including same-sex partners, and children as ‘immediate relatives’. It also exempts them from numerical caps on family immigration.

While the family unity waiver will benefit many, current immigration laws continue to tear families apart and separate American citizens from their loved ones. No family should be left out of the immigration system, and no person should be forced to choose between their spouse and their country. That is why we need a comprehensive approach to fix our broken immigration system and keep families intact.

As CAPAC Immigration Taskforce Chair, I have worked closely with President Obama and the Department of Homeland Security. I advocated for fair, effective, and humane implementation of immigration policy, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and the exercise of prosecutorial discretion with respect to same-sex, bi-national partners. I will continue to fight for family unity and inclusion as I work with my colleagues to draft comprehensive immigration reform legislation in the 113th Congress.”