



Secure Travel Partnership Act of 2019

Congressional Bill Numbers: H.R. 1996; there is no bill in the Senate.

Status as of May 2020: No new action since [Exhibitions Day 2019](#).

Why this matters to you:

- Making it easier for international buyers or exhibitors to enter the country helps expand the shows marketplace.
- Less staff time dealing with international buyers and visitors travel needs.

Praise for co-sponsors: Check to see if your legislators are among the co-sponsors we praise for support of H.R. 1996. Better yet, [reach out to them in writing](#) to show your support (and [let us know](#) when you do)!

- Sponsor: Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL)
- Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ)
- Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH)
- Rep. Dan Crenshaw (R-TX)
- Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL)
- Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL)
- Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-AZ)
- Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV)
- Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA)
- Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA)
- Rep. Tom Rice (R-SC)
- Rep. Jefferson Van Drew (D-NJ)
- Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC)

Our Call to Action: We urge Congress to sign on to H.R. 1996 to rename the Visa Waiver Program to Secure Travel Partnership, to support secure and better travel for international travelers and to oppose any measures that could further erode North America's market share of international business travelers.

Overview: In 2017, 23 million travelers arrived in the United States from Visa Waiver Program countries and generated \$190 billion in economic activity. Visitors from the 38 countries that participate help generate a \$77 billion trade surplus for the U.S.



Our Message: We believe it's important to rename the program to more accurately depict its security enhancements and demonstrate strong support for secure and better travel for international travelers who have already been highly vetted. Embracing policies that enhance the global business travel market will enable growth that is crucial to achieving nation's economic goals.

- In 2019, the House introduced H.R. 1996 to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to rename the Visa Waiver Program to Secure Travel Partnership.
- The Visa Waiver Program does not waive Visa requirements, it simply creates a streamlined uniform process in exchange for mutually enhanced security standards between the U.S. and its partner countries.
- The Visa Waiver Program is the gold standard in travel security because it requires heightened security operations, increased information sharing and travelers from all 38 participating countries are prescreened before boarding their inbound flights.
- Travel between the U.S. and 38 participating countries can use the online application for travel called ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) instead of the formal VISA process.

Additional resources:

- [Track this bill or sign up for alerts](#) on Congress.gov
- [Visit U.S. Coalition press release](#) in support of bill
- [U.S. Travel website, resources, fact sheets](#) on Visa waiver/Visa reform