



Stony Brook University Supports the RELIEF ACT

Stony Brook University (SBU) encourages Congress to pass the **Resolving Extended Limbo for Immigrant Employees and Families (RELIEF) Act** (S.2603) introduced by U.S. Senate Democratic Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL), Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Immigration Subcommittee, and Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), former Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Close to four million future Americans are on the State Department's immigrant visa waiting list in addition to hundreds of thousands of immigrants in the U.S. who are also waiting for green cards. However, under current law only 226,000 family green cards and 140,000 employment green cards are available annually. Children and spouses of lawful permanent residents (LPRs) count against these numbers, further restricting the number of available green cards. Many valuable members of the SBU community and their families are adversely impacted by these unacceptable green card backlogs. The RELIEF Act would provide much needed solutions to these problems.

Along with eliminating the family and employment green card backlog over five years, the RELIEF Act would help keep American families together by classifying spouses and children of LPRs as immediate relatives and exempting derivative beneficiaries of employment-based petitions from annual green card limits, protect "aging out" children who qualify for LPR status based on a parent's immigration petition, and lift country caps. Additionally, the RELIEF Act increases the number of employment-based green cards temporarily during a five year period to alleviate the green card backlog problem.