

HR 2709

Reuniting Families Act

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Jun 4, 2009

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law. (Aug 19, 2009)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/2709>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-15]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (81 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Faleomavaega, Eni F. H. [D-AS-At Large]	D · AS		Jun 4, 2009
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jun 4, 2009
Del. Sablan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho [D-MP-At Large]	D · MP		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Abercrombie, Neil [D-HI-1]	D · HI		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Ackerman, Gary L. [D-NY-5]	D · NY		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Baca, Joe [D-CA-43]	D · CA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Jun 4, 2009
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Rep. Capps, Lois [D-CA-23]	D · CA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Capuano, Michael E. [D-MA-8]	D · MA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-11]	D · NY		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]	D · IL		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Davis, Susan A. [D-CA-53]	D · CA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]	D · CO		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Delahunt, Bill [D-MA-10]	D · MA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Doyle, Michael F. [D-PA-14]	D · PA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Ellison, Keith [D-MN-5]	D · MN		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-17]	D · NY		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Fattah, Chaka [D-PA-2]	D · PA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Filner, Bob [D-CA-51]	D · CA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Frank, Barney [D-MA-4]	D · MA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-7]	D · AZ		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Hinchey, Maurice D. [D-NY-22]	D · NY		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI-2]	D · HI		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Israel, Steve [D-NY-2]	D · NY		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Jackson, Jesse L., Jr. [D-IL-2]	D · IL		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Jackson-Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30]	D · TX		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]	D · GA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Kucinich, Dennis J. [D-OH-10]	D · OH		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]	D · RI		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-9]	D · CA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-14]	D · NY		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA-7]	D · MA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-5]	D · CA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-3]	D · MA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Moran, James P. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-8]	D · NY		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-38]	D · CA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]	D · NJ		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Payne, Donald M. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Jun 4, 2009

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Richardson, Laura [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille [D-CA-34]	D · CA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Sánchez, Linda T. [D-CA-39]	D · CA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Serrano, Jose E. [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Stark, Fortney Pete [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Weiner, Anthony D. [D-NY-9]	D · NY		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Wexler, Robert [D-FL-19]	D · FL		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Woolsey, Lynn C. [D-CA-6]	D · CA		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. Wu, David [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Jun 4, 2009
Rep. McCarthy, Carolyn [D-NY-4]	D · NY		Jun 8, 2009
Rep. Meeks, Gregory W. [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Jun 8, 2009
Rep. Pastor, Ed [D-AZ-4]	D · AZ		Jun 10, 2009
Rep. Rangel, Charles B. [D-NY-15]	D · NY		Jun 10, 2009
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Jun 16, 2009
Rep. Waxman, Henry A. [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2009
Rep. Farr, Sam [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Jul 13, 2009
Rep. Harman, Jane [D-CA-36]	D · CA		Jul 15, 2009
Rep. Clay, Wm. Lacy [D-MO-1]	D · MO		Jul 17, 2009
Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]	D · CT		Jul 20, 2009
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-23]	D · FL		Jul 20, 2009
Rep. Holt, Rush [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Jul 24, 2009
Del. Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [D-GU-At Large]	D · GU		Jul 27, 2009
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Jul 31, 2009
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Sep 8, 2009
Rep. Lewis, John [D-GA-5]	D · GA		Sep 8, 2009
Rep. Miller, George [D-CA-7]	D · CA		Sep 8, 2009
Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]	D · VA		Sep 8, 2009
Rep. Towns, Edolphus [D-NY-10]	D · NY		Sep 8, 2009
Rep. Hare, Phil [D-IL-17]	D · IL		Nov 3, 2009
Rep. Edwards, Donna F. [D-MD-4]	D · MD		Nov 16, 2009
Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5]	D · IL		Dec 8, 2009
Rep. Gutierrez, Luis V. [D-IL-4]	D · IL		Dec 11, 2009
Rep. Watson, Diane E. [D-CA-33]	D · CA		Dec 11, 2009
Rep. Berman, Howard L. [D-CA-28]	D · CA		Apr 20, 2010
Rep. Levin, Sander M. [D-MI-12]	D · MI		Aug 10, 2010

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 19, 2009

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 S 1247	Related bill	Jun 11, 2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
111 S 1085	Related bill	May 20, 2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
111 HR 1024	Related bill	Mar 16, 2009: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law.
111 S 424	Related bill	Feb 12, 2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2234-2236)

Reuniting Families Act - Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to establish the fiscal year worldwide level of employment-based immigrants at 140,000 plus: (1) the previous year's unused visas; and (2) the number of unused visas from FY1992-FY2007.

Establishes the fiscal year worldwide level of family-sponsored immigrants at 480,000 plus: (1) the previous year's unused visas; and (2) the number of unused visas from FY1992-FY2007.

Revises the definition of "immediate relative" to: (1) mean a child, spouse, or parent of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident (and for each family member of a citizen or resident, such individual's accompanying spouse or child), except that in the case of parents such citizens shall be at least 21 years old; (2) permit a widow or widower of a U.S. citizen or resident to seek permanent resident status if married at least two years at the time of the citizen's or resident's death or, if married less than two years, by showing through a preponderance of the evidence that the marriage was entered into in good faith and not solely to obtain an immigration benefit; and (3) include an alien who was the child or parent of a U.S. citizen or resident at the time of the citizen's or resident's death if the alien files a petition within two years after such date or prior to reaching 21 years old.

Increases immigration visas for: (1) unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens; and (2) brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens.

Provides a 60,000 visa allocation for the unmarried sons and daughters of permanent resident aliens.

Increases annual per country (10% of annual total) and dependent area (5% of annual total) limits for employment-based and family-sponsored immigrant visas.

Expands specified family-unity exceptions to unlawful presence-based inadmissibility.

Provides specified relief for orphans and spouses regarding: (1) petitions for immediate relative status; (2) parole eligibility; (3) permanent resident status adjustment; and (4) processing of immigrant visas.

Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act - Exempts children of naturalized Filipino World War II veterans from worldwide or numerical immigrant limitations.

Makes a minor child of an alien fiancee/fiance or of an alien spouse of a U.S. citizen eligible for derivative K-visa status provided that the child's age is determined using such child's age at the date that the petition to classify such child's parent as a K-visa alien is filed with the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Authorizes the Secretary or the Attorney General to adjust the status of a fiancee/fiance or alien spouse and any minor children (K-visa) to conditional permanent resident status if such alien marries the petitioner within three months after U.S. admission.

Redefines "child" for purposes of titles I and II of the Act to include a stepchild under 21 years old. (Current law includes a stepchild who has not reached 18 years old at the time the marriage creating the status of stepchild occurred.)

Uniting American Families Act of 2009 - Amends INA to include a "permanent partner" within the scope of such Act.

Defines "permanent partner" as an individual 18 or older who: (1) is in a committed, intimate relationship with another individual 18 or older in which both individuals intend a lifelong commitment; (2) is financially interdependent with the

other individual; (3) is not married to, or in a permanent partnership with, anyone other than the individual; (4) is unable to contract with the other individual a marriage cognizable under this Act; and (5) is not a first, second, or third degree blood relation of the other individual.

Defines "permanent partnership" as the relationship existing between two permanent partners.

Defines "alien permanent partner" as the individual in a permanent partnership who is being sponsored for a visa.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 19, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law.
- **Jun 4, 2009:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 4, 2009:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.