



Eliminate Visa Loopholes that Allow Child Marriages in the U.S.

Sample Subject: Protect Children in the U.S.: Support S.742/H.R.1738

Sample Text:

I am writing to urge you to support the Protecting Children Through Eliminating Visa Loopholes Act, originally introduced by Senator Ron Johnson (S.742), and its companion bill (H.R.1738) introduced by Representative James Sensenbrenner. These bills will protect thousands of children from exploitation through visa loopholes.

Child marriage is the marriage of a minor below the legal age of majority, which in most countries is 18. Even though the U.S. Department of State recognizes all marriages before 18 as a human rights abuse and condemns child marriage in the rest of the world, child marriage is widespread and legal in 48 states in the U.S.

Between the years 2007 to 2017, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the agency that oversees the country's immigration system, approved 8,686 spousal or fiancé(e) visa petitions that involved a minor. Among these minors, girls were the younger party 95 percent of the time.

Child marriage severely jeopardizes girls' health and robs them of education and economic freedom. It also increases their risk of domestic violence. Given these factors, one case of child marriage is one too many.

I therefore urge you to support S.742/H.R.1738 and protect all minors from child marriage.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,