

**FAMILY REUNIFICATION REMAINS THE  
CORNERSTONE OF LEGAL IMMIGRATION**  
**“Secure Borders, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Reform Act of 2007”**

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*“The plan maintains that more than a majority of future immigration will be based on family ties. That couldn’t be more important. Family reunification has been the cornerstone of our immigration policy for decades and under this proposal it still will be.”*

For the next 8 years, family-based immigration will total 1.1 million legal immigrants, which is approximately 80% of all legal immigration.

Over these 8 years, an additional 567,000 visas will be added to the system annually to eliminate the current backlog of four million family members waiting legally in line as of May 2005. Adult children and siblings will particularly benefit from this increase as current waiting times in those categories can be as much as 22 years.

No change to the law regarding spouses and minor children of U.S. citizens, who will continue to enter the U.S. without limitation.

Parents of U.S. citizens will continue to be eligible for immigrant visas. 40,000 parent green cards will be available annually. Parents will also be eligible for special visitor visas permitting them to stay in the U.S. for a limited period of time annually.

Families of future temporary workers will also be eligible for special visitor visas.

5,000 new hardship green cards will be available to the extended families of U.S. citizens (ie, adult children and siblings). This will allow immediate family reunification for these more distant relatives if there are medical or other hardships facing the family that require the relatives’ presence.

When current backlogs are eliminated (after 8 years), the 140,000 visas allocated today to adult children and siblings will be shifted to the new point system. In the future, adult children and siblings will no longer be eligible for green cards based solely on family relationships, but can receive green cards under the new point system if they also have skills that are needed in the U.S. economy.

	<b>CURRENT LAW</b>	<b>BACKLOG REDUCTION (first 8 years after enactment)</b>	<b>POST- BACKLOG</b>
<b>FAMILY</b>	<b>980,000</b>	<b>1,100,000</b>	<b>627,000</b>
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>247,000</b>	<b>380,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,120,000</b>	<b>1, 347,000</b>	<b>1,007,000</b>