



# American Families United

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to ask for your public endorsement of the American Families United Act, H.R. 2920, to help fix an urgent problem. U.S. Citizens should not be forced to **choose** between spouse and country, yet this is what many Americans face.

Many Americans are disqualified from obtaining permanent residency for their spouse who is a foreign national. The most common reason is some infraction related to the spouse living unauthorized in the U.S.- even though this is the exact problem the couple is trying to fix. **These disqualifications often lead to years of family separation or permanent family separation.**

Currently, many of us live exiled in foreign countries in order to live with our spouse and keep our families intact. Others separate our families, often for economic reasons, thereby forcing our children into single parent homes. Still more live under the radar as second-class citizens in the U.S. with our spouse, but with no options for authorized status. Those of us in the U.S. are living under the constant stress/fear of deportation that would cause our families to exile or separate. This is an issue of marriage equality, family values, and U.S. citizen rights. A surprising **1.86 million** U.S. Citizens have faced immigration roadblocks in applying for status for their spouses; the total people affected jumps to **5.8 million** when you include our children.

The fix for this problem is simple. The American Families United Act, H.R. 2920, would give our families the option of applying for a discretionary waiver - a chance for our cases to be approved. We are optimistic for the passage of this Act; we have always garnered bipartisan support. However, we need to raise more awareness of this issue and public support from organizations such as yours can help. More information about The American Families United Act is available at [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov) by searching HR2920.

You can find more about our organization at [www.americanfamiliesunited.org](http://www.americanfamiliesunited.org). Join us in our cause and publicly support the American Families United Act by emailing us at [contact@americanfamiliesunited.org](mailto:contact@americanfamiliesunited.org).

Thank you,

Kali Pliego  
President  
American Families United