VISA WAIVER PROGRAM: MAKING AMERICA MORE SECURE

The U.S. travel industry generates **$2.5 trillion** in economic output, supports **15.7 million American jobs** and generates a **$69 billion trade surplus** for the United States. **When travel thrives, so does America.**

THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM (VWP):

- ✔ Increases security standards
- ✔ Pre-screens travelers against law enforcement databases
- ✔ Advances information sharing
- ✔ Promotes legitimate travel and trade to the United States
- ✔ Strengthens international partnerships

In 2017, **23 million** travelers arrived through the VWP, whose spending generated **$190 billion** in economic activity and supported nearly **one million jobs**.

A FEW SIMPLE ACTIONS CAN STRENGTHEN THIS PROGRAM, ENSURING AMERICA PROTECTS THE HOMELAND.

In return, those traveling through the VWP experience a more efficient and seamless entry process, improving their experience while visiting the United States. **An increase in international inbound travel grows the U.S. economy, creates and supports American jobs and improves our trade deficit.**

> **PA SS** Through the VWP, pre-screened, pre-approved travelers from participating countries can travel to the U.S. once approved by elevated security measurements for stays of up to 90 days

> **1 MILLION** JOBS SUPPORTED

> **$69 BILLION** TRAVEL TRADE SURPLUS IN 2018

THE U.S. TRAVEL INDUSTRY ENCOURAGES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE JOLT ACT TO:

- ✔ Rename the Visa Waiver Program to the Secure Travel Partnership to better reflect the security parameters required to participate.
- ✔ Expand the Visa Waiver Program to qualified countries that have a commitment to meeting the strict security requirements of the program and have been taking the necessary action.

VWP PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- ✔ A **visa-refusal rate** below 3 percent
- ✔ An **overstay rate** below 3 percent
- ✔ **Compliant** electronic passports that meet international aviation security standards
- ✔ **Timely** reporting of lost or stolen passports to INTERPOL
- ✔ Agree to **information sharing with the U.S.** on risky travelers
- ✔ **Repatriation of citizens removed** from the U.S.
- ✔ Undergo initial and **continuous security reviews** by the U.S.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THOSE TRAVELING THROUGH THE VWP

- Travelers from countries in the VWP undergo advanced security screening against multiple law enforcement and security databases **BEFORE** arriving in the U.S., not at the time arrival.
- **Screening is conducted by the U.S. managed ESTA system**, where the Department of Homeland Security can review several law enforcement databases, including:
  - The Terrorist Screen Database
  - Lost and stolen passports data (including INTERPOL's STLD database)
  - Visa revocations, previous visa refusals and other immigration violations

> The U.S. routinely conducts comprehensive reviews of all VWP countries to ensure ongoing compliance. Those who do not meet the program's strict security requirements can lose membership in the program.