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.

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.