

THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM MAKES AMERICA MORE SECURE

EXPANDING THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM WILL STRENGTHEN SECURITY, GROW OUR ECONOMY, CREATE AMERICAN JOBS AND IMPROVE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH TRUSTED ALLIES.

FACT

- Travel is our nation's **number one services export**, generating a **trade surplus of \$69 billion** in 2018.
- Overseas travelers **stay longer and spend more** while here: an average of **18 nights** and about **\$4,300 per person per trip**.
- **For every 35 overseas travelers** who decide to visit the United States, **an additional American job is created**.
- In 2017 alone, **23 million travelers arrived through the VWP** (58% of overseas visitors), generating **\$190 billion in economic output** and supporting nearly **one million jobs**.

ACTION

➤ **Change the name to Secure Travel Partnership to reflect the program's strict security requirements.**

➤ **Expand the Visa Waiver Program to qualified countries.**

THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR ADMITTANCE TO THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM:

OPPORTUNITY*

Potential gains in first three years, if added to VWP

		TRAVEL TRADE BALANCE**	ARRIVALS	SPENDING	TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT	REASON FOR EXCLUSION	STEPS BEING TAKEN
PART OF EU	POLAND	-\$57M	95,750	\$308.7M	\$709.9M economic output 4,200 total jobs supported	Visa refusal rate exceeds program requirements. Have not ratified PCSC agreement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working actively to lower refusal rates • Seeking to meet security requirements • Implementing traveler education programs
	ARGENTINA	\$4.2B	558,668	\$2.1B	\$4.9B economic output 28,800 total jobs supported	In 2002, lost VWP status because it failed to meet security requirements during the country's economic crisis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining visa refusal rate below 3% • Waived reciprocal visa fees for U.S. • Admitted to CBP Global Entry • Pursuing traveler expansion opportunities with Canada
	ISRAEL	-\$761M	143,078	\$443.8M	\$1B economic output 6,000 total jobs supported	Has been kept out of the VWP for mostly political reasons. They refuse to give Palestinian-American's visa-free travel into Israel. Does not meet U.S. information-sharing requirements.	Increased lobbying efforts
	BRAZIL	\$10.5B	645,525	\$2.8B	\$6.5B economic output 38,600 total jobs supported	Absence of national criminal database.	Issues electronic visas for U.S. citizens
	COSTA RICA	-\$684M	141,620	\$428.3M	\$985.1M economic output 5,800 total jobs supported	Visa refusal rate exceeds program requirements.	U.S. citizens do not need a visa to travel to Costa Rica
PART OF EU	CYPRUS	\$16M	3,968	\$12.1M	\$27.8M economic output 200 total jobs supported	Intelligence community concerns over passports	Meets visa refusal and overstay rate
	BULGARIA	\$27M	18,057	\$61.0M	\$140.2M economic output 800 total jobs supported	Visa refusal rate exceeds program requirements.	
	CROATIA	-\$128M	12,507	\$42.1M	\$96.7M economic output 600 total jobs supported	Visa refusal rate exceeds program requirements.	
	ROMANIA	-\$7M	38,256	\$127.5M	\$300.6M economic output 1,700 total jobs supported	Visa refusal rate exceeds program requirements.	

*Additional benefits comparing to the expected growth without VWP

**BEA 2017 Data