Legislation Details (With Text)

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Title: Resolution calling on the United States Congress to pass and the President to sign H.R. 6412/S.3553, also known as the Attracting the Best and Brightest Act of 2012, which would allocate up to 50,000 immigrant visas for advanced graduates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Sponsors:

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Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
12/18/2012	*	City Council	Introduced by Council	
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12/31/2013	*	City Council	Filed (End of Session)	

Res. No. 1622

Resolution calling on the United States Congress to pass and the President to sign H.R. 6412/S.3553, also known as the Attracting the Best and Brightest Act of 2012, which would allocate up to 50,000 immigrant visas for advanced graduates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

By Council Members Dromm, Jackson, Barron, Comrie, Eugene, Ferreras, James, Mark-Viverito, Mendez, Palma, Williams and Rodriguez

Whereas, In an effort to promote economic growth by providing valuable immigrants with the visas they need to stay in this county, on September 18, 2012, H.R. 6429, also known as the STEM Jobs Act of 2012, was introduced in the United States Congress; and

Whereas, H.R. 6429 seeks to create 55,000 total immigrant visas for individuals who have advance degrees in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics ("STEM") field; and

Whereas, Many elected officials were opposed to such a bill because it would provide visas for only highly educated immigrants and eliminate the diversity visa program, which is awarded to immigrants from

countries with low rates of immigration; and

Whereas, Because of such opposition, on September 20, 2012, H.R. 6429 failed to pass; and

Whereas, In response to H.R. 6429, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren introduced H.R. 6412, also known as the Attracting the Best and Brightest Act of 2012, which mirrors the language dictated in H.R. 6429, but neither contains a deadline for using the visa nor eliminates the diversity lottery program; and

Whereas, In addition, according to the bill, H.R. 6429 "makes unused STEM visas available for other employment-based visa categories"; and

Whereas, Furthermore, the bill contains protections for the children of these immigrants to prevent them from aging out while their immigrant visa petitions and permanent residency applications are pending; and

Whereas, In an effort to provide more opportunities for immigrants to apply for visas, Senator Charles Schumer introduced S. 3553, also known as the Benefits to Research and American Innovation through Nationality Statutes Act of 2012, which is similar to H.R.6412; and

Whereas, Currently, according to the 2010 Census immigrants, who have made positive contributions to the city's economy, culture and society, represent 36 percent of the city's population; and

Whereas, According to the Partnership for a New American Economy, a bipartisan group of 340 mayors and CEOs from across the country co-chaired by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a 1% increase in immigrants working in advanced positions leads to a 3% increase in U.S. exports to their home countries; and

Whereas, An infusion of foreign-born graduates would be a boom for the city's efforts to become a hub for the science and technology sector; and

Whereas, Without programs specifically designed to facilitate permanent residency for immigrants and their families, they are returning home to the detriment of our country or forced to live in society's shadows;

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now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the United States Congress to pass and the President to sign H.R. 6412/S.3553, also known as the Attracting the Best and Brightest Act of 2012, which would allocate up to 50,000 immigrant visas for advanced graduates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

JSM
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