



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JAN 13 2015

The Honorable
Mike Pompeo
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Pompeo:

Thank you for your letter of December 22, 2015 regarding the implementation of HR 158, “The Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015.” We share your concerns about the safety of the United States, and recognize our responsibility to take all steps necessary to ensure that visas are granted only to those individuals who are qualified for them and who pose no known risk to the United States.

The Administration will carry out the law that Congress passed and the President signed. The Department of State is working closely with the Department of Homeland Security, who has the lead for implementing the provisions, and other partners to ensure that the new amendments to the Visa Waiver Program are appropriately implemented. At this time, no determination has been made as to how the waiver provision would be implemented.

Regarding your question about linking the visa waiver program with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), we have been clear that the JCPOA is about one thing and one thing only, resolving the international community's concerns over Iran's nuclear program. In fact, in writing to Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif, the Secretary wanted to make that exact point perfectly clear – that full implementation of the new visa legislation will not affect our ability to meet our commitments under the JCPOA.

We hope this information is useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us further should you require additional information about this or any other issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Frifield".

Julia Frifield
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs