

3

URGENT MEMORANDUM

From: Khuc Minh Tho
To: Interested Parties
Re: Family Reunification

Your help is urgently needed to prevent Congress from changing a law that would create disastrous problems for former political prisoners and their families.

A bill in the House of Representatives, H.R. 2202, is sponsored by Rep. Lamar Smith of Texas. It has cleared the Judiciary Committee and will go to a vote early next year. This bill deals with both illegal and legal immigration.

The legal part would have the effect of cutting family reunification visas by 30% and eliminating three of the three categories -- brothers and sisters, adult children, and parents of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents.

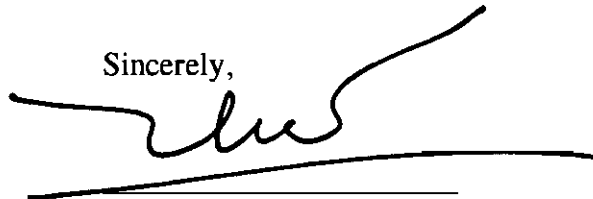
If this part of the bill becomes law, it will end forever the hopes of the families of many former political prisoners for reuniting with their families in the United States!!!

We believe the best strategy for dealing with this emergency is to get Congress to "split" the bill, so that the illegal and legal issues are separated and considered separately. But in order to do this, action by House Speaker Newt Gingrich and House Majority Leader Richard Armey are needed.

We are therefore asking you to contact both these leaders, asking them to split the bill. We are also asking you to contact your own Representative and ask her or him to ask Mr. Gingrich and Mr. Armey to split the bill. A suggested letter is enclosed for your information and possible use.

Crucial votes will be taking place in the Congress in the next few weeks. We can make a difference, but we need to act right away. Please, please, please make your views known to the Congress!!

Sincerely,



Khuc Minh Tho, President
Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners

What You Can Do

Sample letter

Dear _____:

I urge you to help American families stay together, and show US leadership in the world by helping refugees. The House Committee on the Judiciary has just voted on a bill, HR 2202, that would do just the opposite. Please contact Speaker Newt Gingrich and Majority Leader Dick Armey, as well as Members of the House Committee on Rules, asking them to split this immigration bill, so that the provisions on illegal immigration are considered separate from the unnecessary reductions proposed for refugees and legal family immigrants.

The bill now misplaces the concern over illegal immigration and targets inappropriate reductions against legal immigrants, refugees and family members of American citizens. It would radically cut refugee admissions by imposing an arbitrary cap of 50,000. Family visas would be reduced by more than 30%, eliminating three out of the four categories. Adult children of American citizens and legal permanent residents, brothers and citizens of American citizens, as well as parents of American citizens would be affected by these cuts and restrictions.

These reductions in refugee resettlement and family reunification are not needed and complicate the debate over the enforcement provisions of the bill. Legal immigration serves American interests by keeping families who play by the rules together, strengthening our communities through family reunification. The orderly admission of refugees proclaims American principles of freedom and democracy, and helps protect those who have been persecuted for their political opinion or religious beliefs.

I ask you to help split this bill before the House considers and votes on immigration reform in the coming year.

Whom to Contact

*The Honorable Newt Gingrich
Speaker of the House
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515*

*The Honorable Richard Armey
Majority Leader
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515*

Your Representative: *The Honorable _____
US House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515*
