

## **New Legislation Proposed For the Visa Waiver Program (H.R.3855/S.2046)**

As part of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), citizens of 36 foreign countries can travel to the United States for up to 90 days without a visa. Current law uses the visa refusal rate as one of the enumerators for designation in the program, and that number has held Poland outside of program.

U.S. Representative Mike Quigley (IL) introduced The Visa Waiver Program Enhanced Security and Reform Act, a bipartisan bill (H.R. 3855) that will enhance the national security benefits of the VWP while expanding the framework to welcome new countries like Poland into the program, and boost the US economy. The new provisions include criteria of overstay rate at 3%, threshold for refusal rate changing from 3% to 10% and the methodology for calculating visa refusal rate changing from counting applications to applicants.

In the Senate, the related bill number S. 2046 is sponsored by Senator Barbara Mikulski. We must convince a majority in both houses of Congress to pass this legislation before President Obama can sign it into law. But it will only become law if you and your friends call and write to your Senators and Representatives. Please show your support by going to the website: <https://www.popvox.com/bills/us/112/hr3855> clicking 'support' and typing your message, i.e. "I support H.R. 3855 ("To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the requirements of the visa waiver") because it will finally remove barriers for America's best allies such Poland to travel to US without visa..." and feel free to add your personal note as appropriate.

Thank you for supporting this important campaign to include Poland in the Visa Waiver Program.