



May 13, 2012

Dear friend of Poland,

On this Mother's Day, I'd like to ask you to take a few minutes to do something important for your motherland:

*write a letter or email in support of Poland's inclusion in the US Visa Waiver Program, being debated right now in Congress.*

There is legislation now pending before Congress which would finally remove visa restrictions for Poland. As you probably know, citizens of Poland are virtually the only members of the EU requiring a Visa to enter the US.

There is promising news to report, which would call for us Polish-Americans to mobilize in support of these bills. The Visa Waiver bill, co-authored by Senators Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Mark Kirk (R-IL), is now merged with a bill by Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY), called JOLT (Jobs Originated through Launching Travel). This Legislation has strong bi-partisan support, and it is expected to go to a vote in the Senate this month.

My colleague and co-Honorary Consul, Tad Taube and I have been working to help keep momentum building for the current legislation under review in the Senate and House of Representatives. Using his considerable stature nationally, Consul Taube has made some great progress on this issue in Washington. Consul Taube has convinced Senator Feinstein's office to reconsider her opposition to the Visa Waiver for Poland. Consul Taube has also helped mobilize a team of political professionals here and in Washington to assist with the effort to pressure the rest of the Congress to support this bill.

Unfortunately, the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee Lamar Smith (Republican-Texas), who has jurisdiction on visa issues, is opposed to this legislation. To overcome his opposition and ability to stall any action on a bill, we need to get an overwhelming number of co-sponsors in the House of Representatives, and pressure Congressman Smith to drop his threat to block the legislation.

**Since time is of the essence, Consul Taube and I are asking that Polonia collectively act in an advocacy campaign in the next few weeks. We are seeking your help in the following ways with moving this vital legislation forward:**

- Write letters or emails to Senators and Representatives (We provide here a sample letter and contact information).
- Enlist others in the community to do the same, especially organizations in Polonia
- Call Lamar Smith's office and let him know you object to his blocking of this legislation
- Write Senator Feinstein and let her know it's important to you that she support the Visa Waiver for Poland

I am attaching for your use a model letter to use, and a guide to the contact information for key Senators and Representatives on the Judiciary Committees of Congress who will vote on Poland's inclusion in the Visa Waiver program. Contact them today and let them know your views!

**If we remain silent as Polish-Americans, we will continue to be ignored on this issue.**

I am also attaching the statement made by President Obama last May 2011 supporting Poland's inclusion the Visa Waiver Program.

We need to act now in one voice to ensure that Poland will finally be added to the list of countries that enjoy the benefits of the US Visa Waiver Program.

I hope you can join me on this important effort.

***Wszystkiego Najlepszego W Dniu Matki!  
Happy Mother's Day!***

**Christopher A. Kerosky**  
**Honorary Consul**  
**Republic of Poland**  
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[www.polishconsul.com](http://www.polishconsul.com)

[YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS]

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May 13, 2012

Member of Congress  
Washington D.C.

Dear Senator / Congressperson:

I would like to respectfully ask for your support for the inclusion of Poland in the visa waiver program. Specifically, I ask you to vote for and support The Visa Waiver bill, co-authored by Senators Mikulski (D-MD) and Kirk (R-IL), now merged with a bill by Senator Schumer (D-NY), called JOLT (Jobs Originated through Launching Travel).

The visa waiver is a matter of the utmost importance to Polish-Americans. Especially given the past Polish support for the war efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the long friendship between Poland and the United States, it is appropriate that this strongly symbolic and practical barrier between U.S. and Poland be removed -- Poland should be included in the Visa Waiver program as are most other countries of the European Community.

It is also important to maintaining the unique and special relationship between Poland and the U.S. that Poles be given at least the same privilege to enter without visa by the U.S. government that they now receive from virtually every European country.

As an American citizen and someone personally acquainted with the importance of this issue to Poles, I ask you to consider supporting Poland's inclusion in the visa waiver program and specifically the JOLT bill.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Respectfully,

[your name and signature]



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San Francisco, Ca. 94103  
tel. (415) 777 4445  
e-mail: [ckerosky@polishconsul.com](mailto:ckerosky@polishconsul.com)

**KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO THE VISA WAIVER LEGISLATION  
AND THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION**

For addresses, phones and email addresses of any Member of Congress, go to:

<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/directory/congdir.tt>

**House Judiciary Committee**

**Address: 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515**  
**Phone: (202) 225-3951 Fax: (202) 225-7682**

**Website: <http://judiciary.house.gov>**

For addresses, phones and email addresses of Members of Judiciary Committee, go to:

<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/directory/committees.tt?commid=hjudi>

Chair  
Rep.  
Lamar Smith (REP-TX-21st)

Ranking Member  
Rep.  
John Conyers (DEM-MI-14th)

Republicans (22)  
Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner (REP-WI-5th)

Rep. Howard Coble (REP-NC-6th)

Rep. Elton Gallegly (REP-CA-24th)

Rep. Robert Goodlatte (REP-VA-6th)

Rep. Dan Lungren (REP-CA-3rd)

Rep. Steve Chabot (REP-OH-1st)

Rep. Darrell Issa (REP-CA-49th)

Rep. Mike Pence (REP-IN-6th)

Rep. J. Randy Forbes (REP-VA-4th)

Rep. Steve King (REP-IA-5th)

Rep. Trent Franks (REP-AZ-2nd)

Rep. Louie Gohmert (REP-TX-1st)

Rep. Jim Jordan (REP-OH-4th)

Rep. Ted Poe (REP-TX-2nd)

Rep. Jason Chaffetz (REP-UT-3rd)

Rep. Tim Griffin (REP-AR-2nd)

Rep. Tom Marino (REP-PA-10th)

Rep. Trey Gowdy (REP-SC-4th)

Rep. Dennis Ross (REP-FL-12th)

Rep. Sandy Adams (REP-FL-24th)

Rep. Ben Quayle (REP-AZ-3rd)

Rep. Mark Amodei (REP-NV-2nd)

Democrats (15)

Rep. Howard Berman (DEM-CA-28th)

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (DEM-NY-8th)

Rep. Robert Scott (DEM-VA-3rd)  
Rep. Melvin Watt (DEM-NC-12th)  
Rep. Zoe Lofgren (DEM-CA-16th)  
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (DEM-TX-18th)  
Rep. Maxine Waters (DEM-CA-35th)  
Rep. Steve Cohen (DEM-TN-9th)  
Rep. Hank Johnson (DEM-GA-4th)  
Res. Com. Pedro Pierluisi (DEM-PR-At-Large)  
Rep. Mike Quigley (DEM-IL-5th)  
Rep. Judy Chu (DEM-CA-32nd)  
Rep. Ted Deutch (DEM-FL-19th)  
Rep. Linda Sanchez (DEM-CA-39th)  
Rep. Jared Polis (DEM-CO-2nd)

### **Senate Judiciary Committee**

**Address: 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510**  
**Phone: (202) 224-7703 Fax: (202) 224-9516**

**Website: <http://judiciary.senate.gov>**

**For phones, addresses and email addresses of Members of Judiciary Committee, go to:**

<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/directory/committees.tt?commid=sjudi>

Chair  
Sen.  
Patrick Leahy (DEM-VT)

Ranking Member  
Sen.  
Charles Grassley (REP-IA)

Republicans (7)

Sen. Orrin Hatch (REP-UT)

Sen. Jon Kyl (REP-AZ)

Sen. Jeff Sessions (REP-AL)

Sen. Lindsey Graham (REP-SC)

Sen. John Cornyn (REP-TX)

Sen. Mike Lee (REP-UT)

Sen. Tom Coburn (REP-OK)

Democrats (9)

Sen. Herb Kohl (DEM-WI)

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (DEM-CA)

Sen. Charles Schumer (DEM-NY)

Sen. Richard Durbin (DEM-IL)

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (DEM-RI)

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (DEM-MN)

Sen. Al Franken (DEM-MN)

Sen. Chris Coons (DEM-DE)

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (DEM-CT)



*This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 28, 2011*

**Letter to Members of Congress on the Visa Waiver Program and United States Visa Waiver Policy With Regard to Poland**

May 27, 2011

Dear Representative: (Dear Senator:)

Thank you for your letter regarding my visit to Poland and your recent introduction of the Secure Travel and Counterterrorism Partnership Program Act of 2011 (S. 497/H.R. 959) to restructure the Visa Waiver Program (VWP).

I write to express my strong support for the Secure Travel and Counterterrorism Partnership Program Act of 2011. I share your view that our counterterrorism and security partnerships have evolved and it makes sense to pursue a restructuring of the program. Countries that are willing to cooperate with the United States on our global priorities, including on counterterrorism initiatives, information sharing, and prevention of terrorist travel, deserve the opportunity to become part of our VWP.

I also share your support for Poland and disappointment that this close NATO ally has been excluded from the VWP to date. Poland's strong and steadfast support during our missions in Iraq and Afghanistan demonstrates the deep alliance we have forged and the close partnership between our two countries.

It is my hope that my trip to Poland will help to strengthen the enduring bonds between the American and Polish people. Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue of interest to both countries.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Senator Mark Kirk, Senator Barbara Mikulski, Representative Mike Quigley, Representative Janice Schakowsky, Representative Daniel Lipinski, and Representative Brian Higgins.