

APRIL 2006 VISA AVAILABILITY

The bulletin issued by the Visa Office of the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the U.S. Department of State gives the following availability position for issuance of immigrant visas during April 2006:

Persons Chargeable to India

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Apr 22, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Mar 01, 2002
2B	Jul 15, 1996
3rd Preference	Jul 22, 1998
4th Preference	Apr 01, 1994

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Jan 01, 2005
2nd Preference	Jul 01, 2002
3rd Preference	Fab 01, 2001
Schedule A Workers	Current
Other Workers	Oct 01, 2001
4 th Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
5th Preference	Current
Targeted Emp Areas	Current

Persons Chargeable to Other Countries

For other chargeability areas, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, and the nations of Africa, the cut-off dates for April 2006 are:

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Apr 22, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Mar 01, 2002
2B	Jul 15, 1996
3rd Preference	Jul 22, 1998
4th Preference	Nov 08, 1994

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Current
3rd Preference	May 01, 2001
Schedule A Workers	Current
Other Workers	Oct 01, 2001
4th Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
5th Preference	Current
Targeted Emp Areas	Current

SENATE DEBATE ON CIR

The Senate Judiciary Committee has set the stage for a robust Senate debate on overhauling our broken immigration system by reporting out an impressive, COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM bill. The full range of issues to come up in the impending debate is enormously complex and the stakes for immigrants, families, national security, and economic growth are extremely high.

The Judiciary Committee discussions exposed sharply competing perspectives on the significance of immigration and the role of immigrants in our society. There are those who argue against providing a path to permanent legal status to undocumented aliens. On the other end of the spectrum are those who argue that undocumented aliens should have the opportunity to earn permanent residence without having to leave this country.

I shall continue to report developments as they occur in this very important area of legislation.