

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 30, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2201 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

We are writing to raise concern about the United States' visa policy for Chinese nationals entering the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). According to the U.S. Department of State, "a citizen of a foreign country who wishes to enter the United States must first obtain a visa, either a nonimmigrant visa for a temporary stay, or an immigrant visa for permanent residence. Visitor visas are nonimmigrant visas for persons who want to enter the United States temporarily for business (visa category B-1), for tourism (visa category B-2), or for a combination of both purposes (B-1/B-2)".¹ Currently, certain Chinese Nationals are not required to obtain a B-1/B-2 visa to visit the CNMI - even though the islands are a United States territory.

The CNMI is the only United States territory into which Chinese nationals can enter without a visa. Under the current requirements, Chinese nationals must meet extremely low standards in order to be granted entry into the CNMI from China. While specific details of this arrangement remain hidden from the public, it has been reported that individuals must only have a Chinese passport that is valid for six months after the intended stay, as well as be able to prove one's intent to depart from the island within the 14-day window.²

This policy has made the islands vulnerable to a plethora of problems including drug trafficking, illegal immigration, and organized crime. Just this year, the Guam Department of Labor sanctioned four companies in Guam found to be using illegal labor from China.³ Elsewhere, Chinese citizens were caught entering Saipan and then using messaging apps to coordinate illegal jobs and illegal boat rides to Guam, home to highly strategic U.S. military installations.⁴ Moreover, just last month, the U.S. Department of Justice prosecuted a case in

¹ <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visitor.html>

² <https://embassies.net/northern-mariana-islands-visa-for-china-citizens>

³ https://www.mvariety.com/news/guam-6-chinese-nationals-suspected-of-illegal-work-with-local-companies/article_da58e912-80c0-11ed-aea0-afbc75e173d.html#:~:text=As%20a%20result%2C%20four%20companies,penalties%20for%20hiring%20illegal%20workers.

⁴ https://www.postguam.com/news/local/illegal-boat-arrivals-land-chinese-nationals-charges-in-local-court/article_ad92c51e-8724-11ed-be08-b7462961474c.html

which two Chinese nationals using the United States Postal Service for the distribution of methamphetamine in CNMI were sentenced to prison.⁵

We understand and applaud law enforcement officials on the islands who have been successful at capturing those who come to the CNMI for criminal reasons. However, we encourage the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to change this policy and apply the visa requirements equally across territories. It is imperative we deter Chinese Communist Party aggression, espionage, and transnational repression.

We strongly urge the implementation of a requirement to obtain a B-1/B-2 visa to enter the CNMI from China, putting the territory in line with this this basic requirement enforced throughout the rest of the United States to ensure the safety of the homeland as a whole.

Thank you for your attention to this extremely important matter.

Sincerely,



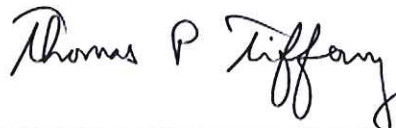
Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



James Moylan
Member of Congress



Thomas P. Tiffany
Member of Congress

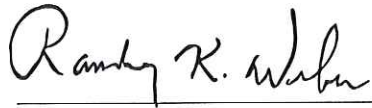


W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Chris Smith
Member of Congress

⁵ <https://www.justice.gov/usao-gu/pr/chinese-national-sentenced-51-months-prison-meth-trafficking-island-saipan>



Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress



Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Mike Ezell
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Harriet M. Hageman
Member of Congress



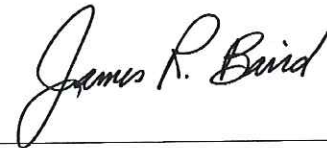
Ben Cline
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Jim Baird
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress



John Rose
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Bill Hagerty
United States Senator



Andy Ogles
Member of Congress



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Carlos Gimenez
Member of Congress