



ASIAN INDIAN AMERICAN BUSINESS GROUP

(CENTRAL OHIO CHAPTER)

Addressing the needs of the Asian Indian Business community in Central Ohio and providing a Platform for members to share ideas concerns and expertise with each other and the Community at large

U.S. Senator Rob Portman
37 West Broad Street
Suite 300
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Senator Portman,

Recognizing the importance of promoting entrepreneurship and economic development in our state and across the country, we urge you to join our efforts to stimulate innovation, fill the talent gap in employment needs, and encourage entrepreneurship. To accomplish this, we ask that you support comprehensive immigration reform, since restructuring our outdated system will help achieve and satisfy these economic priorities.

Historically, America has been an incubator for innovators and creative minds. However, our nation's current policies are not inclusive to all who wish to capitalize on the entrepreneurial potential our country boasts. For instance, 75 percent of all patents granted to the top ten US universities in 2011 originated from an immigrant inventor; however, current immigration policies make it difficult for these minds to pursue their goals outside of academia. As we uphold these outdated policies, other countries will continue to reap the economic benefits from this "brain drain," and capitalize the competitive advantage it creates.

Besides turning away entrepreneurs, our current immigration system ties the hands of the businesses that employ foreign-born workers. Hard and fast quotas are used to determine the amount of immigrants granted visas and/or citizenship, and often do not align with the needs of the workplace. For instance, although our nation's unemployment rate is 7.9 percent, estimates given by the U.S. government show that there are more than 3.5 million unfilled jobs in across the country. Thus, to cultivate economic expansion, our nation needs to be able to provide businesses with the talent they need to compete in the marketplace.

Senator Portman, in the name of economic development, we urge you to join us in supporting reforms to our outdated immigration system. In doing so, we will ensure that America attracts and retains the talent that will allow our nation to continue to be the global leader in innovation and technology.

Respectfully,

Rodger Clements
President
Asian Indian American Business Group