

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5730

To designate Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania as program countries under the visa waiver program established under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 29, 2006

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To designate Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania as program countries under the visa waiver program established under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) Since before the fall of the Soviet Union,
6 the nations of Eastern Europe have proven their
7 steadfast dedication to the causes of freedom and

1 friendship with the United States, exemplified by the
2 brave actions of Polish patriots during the American
3 Revolution, Czech resistance to Nazi occupation and
4 Hungarian revolutions against the Soviet Union de-
5 spite overwhelming opposition.

6 (2) Eastern European history provides pio-
7 neering examples of constitutional democracy and
8 religious tolerance.

9 (3) The United States is home to over
10 15,000,000 people of Eastern European ancestry.

11 (4) Eastern European immigrants have contrib-
12 uted greatly to the success of industry and agri-
13 culture in the United States.

14 (5) Since the demise of communism, Poland,
15 Hungary and the Czech Republic have become sta-
16 ble, democratic nations.

17 (6) All of these countries have adopted eco-
18 nomic policies that promote free markets and rapid
19 economic growth.

20 (7) On April 15, 1991, Poland unilaterally re-
21 pealed the visa requirement for United States citi-
22 zens traveling to Poland for 90 days or less.

23 (8) On April 30, 2004, the Czech Republic uni-
24 laterally repealed the visa requirement for United

1 States citizens traveling to the Czech Republic for
2 90 days or less.

3 (9) On November 1, 1990, Hungary unilaterally
4 repealed the visa requirement for United States citi-
5 zens traveling to Hungary for 90 days or less.

6 (10) The Secretary of Homeland Security and
7 Secretary of State administer the visa waiver pro-
8 gram, which allows citizens from 27 countries, in-
9 cluding France and Germany, to visit the United
10 States as tourists without visas.

11 **SEC. 2. RENDERING CERTAIN EASTERN EUROPEAN**
12 **COUTRIES VISA WAIVER PROGRAM COUN-**
13 **TRIES.**

14 Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act,
15 and notwithstanding section 217(c) of the Immigration
16 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187(c)), Poland, Hungary,
17 the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania shall
18 be deemed designated program countries for purposes of
19 the visa waiver program established under section 217 of
20 such Act.

○