



Dear GMAC Primary and Alternate Representatives,

We wanted to update you concerning our recent efforts on U.S. Immigration Reform. As you may recall, we reached out to you on June 11, 2013 asking you to send letters to your Senators regarding the *Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act* (S. 744 - Comprehensive Immigration Reform). As you may already know, this bill was recently passed by the Senate. The bill represents a true compromise and, as such, has both positive and negative implications for international students and Graduate Management Education (see link to a summary below). However, it is important to remember that this bill is **not** yet law and the House of Representatives will be developing their own bill(s) going forward.

At present, the House is approaching immigration reform piecemeal. Now that the Senate has passed S. 744, the House has three options: (1) It can take S. 744 through committee and/or for a vote on the House floor (Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH) has stated they won't); (2) It can move immigration bills separately and seek to bundle them on the House floor so that they have one bill which could then be conferenced with S. 744 (assuming it passes the House); or (3) The bipartisan group of members who have been working behind closed doors on a comprehensive immigration measure may introduce legislation. The latter group has been working on a bipartisan measure for several years, and although the legislation appears largely to be written, they cannot seem to come to a final agreement.

Regarding the separate bills from the House, the *SKILLS Visa Act* (HR 2131) is one of four bills moving through regular order in the House and the one most relevant to you. This bill affects high-skilled workers (including international graduates of U.S. based GME programs) and has been approved by the House Judiciary Committee. This bill is concerning because it includes even more restrictive STEM limitations. The positive and negative implications are summarized below.

Given other pressing matters, the timing of House action is uncertain at this time. July is still a possibility, but September appears most likely given that both chambers are in recess for the month of August.

Request for Action

We strongly encourage you to contact your Congressional Representatives to inform them of the value of graduate business and management education programs to the US economy and the importance of international students to your programs; and how limitations in the SKILLS Visa Act and other potential bills will hamper immigration benefits that are currently available to your international students. Your Congressional Representatives need to hear directly from your school!

As well, if you would like to help GMAC do more regarding this issue please reply with contact information for your University Government Relations Office and/or government relations. Our coordinated efforts could lead to greater positive results for GME programs.

[Summary of implications for Comprehensive Immigration Reform as passed by the Senate](#)

[Summary of implications for SKILLS Visa Act \(HR 2131\) proposed in the House](#)

Available Resources

You can always contact me or Donna (our contact information is below) if you have questions or need assistance with crafting your communication. We have also created a [Government Relations](#) webpage where you can find a template letter to use when contacting your Representative, periodic updates, and other information regarding Immigration Reform and international students.

We also encourage you to join our International Student Immigration Advisory Group made of representatives from our schools. This group meets once per quarter by teleconference and develops strategies to impact current government immigration efforts that may impact international students and our schools.

Thank you again for your time and assistance with this effort.

Kind Regards,

Sherri Sampson, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
sampson@gmac.com
(703) 668-9721

Donna McPartland, Corporate Counsel and Compliance Director
dmcpartland@gmac.com
(703) 668-9764

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