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Happy 237 birthday America Happy & Safe Independence Day

USPAK EVENTS

Tomorrow's Leaders at Youth Leadership Conference

Rising Leaders of College and High school students from many States participated in the 4th Annual Youth Leadership Conference. The four day conference took place at the American University Campus in Washington DC. This conference is a part of a series of steps that young Pakistani Americans will undertake to shape their future, chart their career, improve their citizenship values, and be a strong resource for our community. This was a unique opportunity for Pakistani American youth to come together and strengthen their influence on society.

Conference Participants were updated on the status of "Gun Violence" legislation by Emily Sussman and Eryn Sepp who are subject matter experts at a Washington based think tank. The youth then met individually in small groups with twelve US Senators and Congressmen to share their position on the issue with their elected leaders. This is the first such public policy involvement by Pakistani American Youth. For many of conference participants this was their first visit to an office, let alone a Congressman Office. Congressman Van Hollen asked the students to keep up the pressure on US Congress to bring to vote legislation on Gun Violence, especially in States where there is opposition to such legislation. Congressman Elijah Cummings boosted the morale of the students by advising them to become leaders of tomorrow, and to give back to community, and helping others.

A large number of Young Professionals shared their educational and professional experiences with students. They provided career and educational guidance to students; they also shared their family life and family pressures with students. The young professional offered to be mentors and role models for the students, and repeatedly reminded students how fortunate these students are to be part of this conference, and they wished such resources were available to them when they were growing up.

A fully day of the conference was dedicated to social conflict and challenges. Students were trained by social conflict specialists [Mehalga Samdani](#) and [Rina Hafiz](#). Students participated in workshop activities on the subject. Two social challenges emerged from the workshop activity, namely parental pressure on career choices, and marriage.

Local Pakistani American Philanthropist [Muslim Lakhani](#) in a keynote speech shared his experiences on how to succeed in life, and not to be afraid to risk taking. He stressed to students that a persistent and focused approach can be rewarding. He asked the students to be patient and stay hopeful and confident of their future, and have a can-do attitude.

Pakistan Embassy Staff welcomed the students at the Embassy. Charge D Affairs Asad Khan engaged in a meaningful discussion on the youth role in improving US-Pakistan relations. For a large number of students, this was their first visit to Embassy of Pakistan or its Consulate office.

At the Salvation Army help center in Washington DC, students helped their fellow Americans who are less fortunate, by packaging food for the homeless, washing food delivery van, doing landscaping at the center, etc. The students got a hands-on experience on helping others. More [pictures](#) of students at Salvation Army are at their Facebook page.

Lastly, students made many new friends, they had fun with them at the conference, they learned a lot about each other, and about the social environment they all live in.

USPAK will soon post pictures and videos about the conference.



NEWS

Civil Rights Organizations call for end to enforcement of Immigration laws by local police

On June 20, USPAK Foundation and 165 other organizations sent a [letter](#) to the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and ICE Director John Morton calling for an end to the 287(g) agreements currently in operation and to reject any new applications for these programs. The 287(g) program is active in 19 states with 39 law enforcement agencies. . The 287(g) program deputizes state and local police to enforce federal immigration law. These programs destroy community trust in law enforcement, result in racial profiling and are wasteful and inefficient. The letter was sent in advance of ICE's expected decision at the end of June about whether to renew current agreements and enter into any new agreements.

Immigration Bill clears US Senate

US Senate has passed S. 744, the "Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act," with a strong bipartisan vote, [68-32](#). As amended in the Judiciary Committee and on the [floor of the Senate](#), the bill is a strategic overhaul of our nation's immigration laws.

Here are the top five things the Senate immigration reform bill accomplishes:

1. Record-breaking build up at the border

The Senate immigration reform bill makes unprecedented investments in border security, [including](#) raising the number of Border Patrol agents from just more than [21,000](#) to 38,405; building an additional 350 miles of fencing (to bring the total miles of fencing to 700); and deploying a litany of specific technology resources in the various sectors of the southern border.

2. An achievable path to citizenship

The provisions creating a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants currently in the United States remain unaltered from those that passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Anyone without status who entered the United States prior to December 31, 2011, and is not ineligible due to criminal or other restrictions, can apply for a temporary RPI status. Obtaining this status requires that an immigrant pay a \$500 fine and application fees, pass a background check, and submit biometric identification data. This status is good for six years, at which time it can be renewed, with an additional \$500 fine and another background check, and requires the immigrant to show that he or she has either been working throughout their time in RPI status, or can demonstrate resources of at least 100 percent of the federal poverty line. After 10 years in RPI status, an immigrant can apply for legal permanent resident, or LPR, status by paying an additional \$1,000 fine and application fees, passing additional background checks, and by showing that he or she has either worked throughout their time in RPI status, or can demonstrate resources equal to 125 percent of the federal poverty line. Finally, three years after achieving LPR status, the individual can apply for citizenship.

3. The most generous DREAM Act ever

The Senate immigration reform bill [allows](#) anyone who entered the country before the age of 16, who has completed high school and some college or military service, and who has been in RPI status for at least five years to apply for permanent residence *and* citizenship. According to the Migration Policy Institute, at least [2.1 million](#) DREAMers may be eligible for this status.

4. Unprecedented family reunification

The Senate immigration reform bill ensures that the [4.4 million](#) people who have been approved for a green card—but have

been waiting for years, even decades, to come to the United States because of the long backlogs in the system—can finally reunite with their family members. [Section 2302](#) of the bill clears out this long backlog over a period of nine years by dividing up the number of people waiting each year and granting that many additional visas each year. In addition, Section 2101 allows even those people that have been deported for noncriminal reasons—but who are the parent, spouse, or child of a citizen or green card holder, or are a DREAMer—to apply for RPI status from abroad, ensuring that these families are not kept apart.

5. Economic growth

Perhaps most importantly, the Senate immigration reform bill is an economic boost to the nation. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, which provides the official accounting or scoring of legislation, [found](#) that S. 744 would reduce the deficit by [\\$197 billion](#) in the first decade, and by an additional \$700 billion in the second decade—not counting the additional border security spending added on the Senate floor. The research also concludes that immigration reform will provide a significant boost to the solvency of the Social Security system: Over the next three-and-a-half decades, the very time when Social Security will be under the biggest strain from the retirement of the Baby Boom generation, legalized immigrants will add a net of more than [\\$606 billion](#) to the system, enabling support of 2.4 million American retirees.

[Viewpoint](#)

How to Make the Most of Your Internship – Susan Adams

All manner of bad things happen to summer interns, even here at Forbes. We like to think we've learned from our mistakes, and this season's group seems to be busy and happy, but I've heard tales of past wrongs. One young woman was excluded from office socializing some years ago by a former colleague, a frat boy type who managed a group of mostly male interns. She was so upset she cried every day after work. This same editor organized a poker club that didn't include a Pakistan-born intern for whom poker was culturally alien. That young man didn't resort to tears, but he did spend the summer feeling left out and alone. [Read More](#)

Pakistan's influence – Moeed Yusuf

For long, many have talked of successful political reconciliation in Afghanistan as the last hope to prevent prolonged instability in the country post-2014.

One significant part of the reconciliation process is the effort to bring the Afghan Taliban 'in' — ideally into the current political system. The recent announcement and acknowledgement of formal talks between the US and Qatar-based Taliban interlocutors was therefore rightly welcomed.

The hype didn't last, however; it ended as abruptly as it was created. Even before the talks have taken off in earnest, pundits are busy telling us that they are dead in the water. [Read More](#)

Who Are The Terrorists? - Madiha Afzal

The last week has seen some of the worst violence in Pakistan's recent past, a worrisome beginning for our new government. In Quetta on June 15, at a funeral in Mardan on June 18, at a Shia madrasa in Peshawar and across Karachi on June 21, Pakistani terrorists killed dozens. At least one of the terrorists, the Quetta bomber, was a woman. Our media bravely reports on the details of these incidents, showing footage from each attack site. Our leaders never fail to condemn the attacks. When a militant group claims responsibility for an attack, we are told its name. We know the [Balochistan Liberation Army](#) (BLA) destroyed the beautiful Ziarat residency, so significant to our country's history, and that the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) was responsible for the set of attacks in Quetta, in the female students' bus and in the Bolan Medical complex. When the attackers are unknown, the media refers to them correctly as *dehshatgard*. We are also told they are *namaaloom afraad*, unidentified gunmen, a suicide bomber, and so on. [Read More](#)

Help Us Help You

USPAK is a volunteer organization working for the betterment of Pakistani Americans. Our efforts are focused on developing future leaders of our country from within our community. We also work to address issues of concern of our community, ranging from immigration, civil liberties, religious freedom, and socio-economic development of Pakistani American community.

It is through help of supporters like you that we are able carry on our vision promoting the ambitions and aspirations of Pakistani Americans. Your support today can ensure that Pakistani Americans have a place at the table, as we shape the policies on immigration, the economy and civil rights. You can help build a more vibrant and inclusive democracy.

Can we count on you to help? Can you donate \$500, \$250 or \$150 today? [Click here](#) and use **Donate** button. USPAK is a 501 c3 non-profit organization; your donation qualifies for tax deduction.
