

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 635

To designate Poland as a program country under the visa waiver program established under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 8, 2005

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut (for herself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. WEINER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To designate Poland as a program country 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 the founding of the United States,
6 Poland has proven its steadfast dedication to the
7 causes of freedom and friendship with the United
8 States, exemplified by the brave actions of Polish pa-

1 triots such as Casimir Pulaski and Tadeusz
2 Kosciuszko during the American Revolution.

3 (2) Polish history provides pioneering examples
4 of constitutional democracy and religious tolerance.

5 (3) The United States is home to nearly
6 9,000,000 people of Polish ancestry.

7 (4) Polish immigrants have contributed greatly
8 to the success of industry and agriculture in the
9 United States.

10 (5) Since the demise of communism, Poland has
11 become a stable, democratic nation.

12 (6) Poland has adopted economic policies that
13 promote free markets and rapid economic growth.

14 (7) On March 12, 1999, Poland demonstrated
15 its commitment to global security by becoming a
16 member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

17 (8) On May 1, 2004, Poland will become a
18 member State of the European Union.

19 (9) Poland was a staunch ally to the United
20 States during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

21 (10) Poland has committed 2,300 soldiers to
22 help with ongoing peacekeeping efforts in Iraq.

23 (11) The Secretary of Homeland Security and
24 Secretary of State administer the visa waiver pro-
25 gram, which allows citizens from 27 countries, in-

1 cluding France and Germany, to visit the United
2 States as tourists without visas.

3 (12) On April 15, 1991, Poland unilaterally re-
4 pealed the visa requirement for United States citi-
5 zens traveling to Poland for 90 days or less.

6 (13) More than 100,000 Polish citizens visit the
7 United States each year.

8 **SEC. 2. RENDERING POLAND VISA WAIVER PROGRAM**
9 **COUNTRY.**

10 Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act,
11 and notwithstanding section 217(c) of the Immigration
12 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187(c)), Poland shall be
13 deemed a designated program country for purposes of the
14 visa waiver program established under section 217 of such
15 Act.

○