

A Petition Seeking Sponsorship and Passage in the *California State Legislature* of a
Joint Resolution Supporting the Republic of Poland Being Granted Visa Waiver Status

We, the undersigned American citizens of Polish descent along with our other American friends of varying ethnicities in the great state of California, ask for your support in our state's legislature for the sponsorship of the aforementioned proposed Joint Resolution for the following reasons:

- Poland, a loyal ally of the United States in NATO, has supported our nation's war against terrorism with its ground forces from inception of current American involvement in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.
- Citizens of Poland, however, who travel to the United States to attend family weddings, baptisms, graduations, and funerals, for example, are required by our government to have visas.
- In contrast, citizens of France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Spain and Austria, for example, are able to travel to the United States without visas.
- Poles first arrived in Jamestown in 1608; Thaddeus Kościuszko and Casimir Pulaski fought with great distinction for the "Glorious Cause" of American freedom and independence in our Revolutionary War.
- Consequently, we Americans of Polish descent in California who number 491,325 according to the 2000 U.S. Census are troubled, as are our other fellow American friends of varying ethnicities, by the apparent disregard on the part of our federal government of Poland's significant contributions to the spread of democracy and political stability in Central and Eastern Europe, despite the fact that our prior President described Poland as being one of America's best friends in Europe on several occasions.
- Accordingly, we join our fellow Americans of Polish descent, all of whom nationally number more than ten million, in this national effort to engage our state legislatures in support of the federal matter of facilitating Visa Waiver status for Poland by way of state legislative resolutions and federal action.
- To date, the state legislatures of Massachusetts (May 2004), New Jersey (October 2004), Vermont (January 2005), Pennsylvania (April 2005), Connecticut (May 2005, Senate only), Maine (May 2005), Nebraska (June 2005), and New York (June 2005), Ohio (June 2005), Michigan (June 2006), Arizona (April 2007) and Illinois (October 2007) have passed either joint resolutions or separate resolutions in one of their legislative branches, and in one case, a unicameral legislative resolution, urging the President and the Congress of the United States to grant Visa Waiver status for the Republic of Poland, thereby extending both equitable and honorable treatment to a proven friend and loyal ally of the United States of America. Fair play is the American way! The state resolutions above support that principle.
- No other Americans of European descent have had to seek the support of our nation's state legislatures.

Please help us in this national campaign to admit Poland to the Visa Waiver Program. Thank you.

First and Last Name:	Street Address:	City/Town/ZIP:	Date:
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Please send this completed petition to:

**NEWS OF POLONIA
2245 Colorado Boulevard 104-177
Pasadena, CA 91107**