Cotton and Perdue Introduce the Reforming American Immigration for a Strong Economy Act

August 2, 2017

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Washington, D.C. -Senator Tom Cotton (R-Arkansas) and Senator David Perdue (R-Georgia) will today introduce the Reforming American Immigration for a Strong Economy (RAISE) Act, a bill that would spur economic growth and raise working Americans' wages by giving priority to the best-skilled immigrants from around the world and reducing overall immigration by half.

"For decades our immigration system has been completely divorced from the needs of our economy, and working Americans' wages have suffered as a result. Our legislation will set things right," **said Cotton.** "We will build an immigration system that raises working wages, creates jobs, and gives every American a fair shot at creating wealth, whether your family came over on the Mayflower or just took the oath of citizenship."

"President Trump campaigned on growing our economy and fixing our immigration system," **said Senator Perdue.** "Right now, our current immigration system does not meet the needs of our economy. We want to welcome talented individuals from around the world who wish to come to the United States legally to work and make a better life for themselves. The RAISE Act will create a skills-based system that is more responsive to the needs of our economy and preserves the quality of jobs available to American workers."

Specifically the RAISE Act would:

- **Establish a Skills-Based Points System.** The RAISE Act would replace the current permanent employment-visa system with a skills-based points system, akin to the systems used by Canada and Australia. The system would prioritize those immigrants who are best positioned to succeed in the United States and expand the economy. Applicants earn points based on education, English-language ability, high-paying job offers, age, record of extraordinary achievement, and entrepreneurial initiative.
- **Prioritize Immediate Family Households.** The RAISE Act would retain immigration preferences for the spouses and minor children of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents while eliminating preferences for certain categories of extended and adult family members.
- **Eliminate the Outdated Diversity Visa Lottery.** The Diversity Lottery is plagued with fraud, advances no economic or humanitarian interest, and does not even promote diversity. The RAISE Act would eliminate the 50,000 visas arbitrarily allocated to this lottery.
- **Place a Responsible Limit on Permanent Residency for Refugees.** The RAISE Act would limit refugees offered permanent residency to 50,000 per year, in line with a 13-year average.

Click here (https://www.cotton.senate.gov/files/documents/170802_New_RAISE_Act_Bill_Text.pdf) to read the full text of the legislation. Additionally, click here (https://www.cotton.senate.gov/files/documents/170802_New_RAISE_Act_Section_by_Section.pdf) for a section by section summary and here (https://www.cotton.senate.gov/1iles/documents/170801_New_RAISE_Act_One_Pager_FINAL.pdf) for a fact sheet on the legislation.