



New Zealand House of Representatives
Te Whare Māngai o Aotearoa

Education and Workforce Committee

Komiti Whiriwhiri Take Kuranga, Take Hunga Mahi

54th Parliament

October 2025

Petition of Sophie Liu: Change the Parent Resident Visa Expression of Interest (EOI) policy

Presented to the House of Representatives
by Carl Bates, Deputy Chairperson

Contents

Recommendation.....	3
Request for changes to the Parent Resident Visa	3
Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand differing view	3
Appendix.....	4

Petition of Sophie Liu

Recommendation

The Education and Workforce Committee has considered the petition of Sophie Liu—Change the Parent Resident Visa Expression of Interest (EOI) policy—and recommends that the House take note of its report.

Request for changes to the Parent Resident Visa

The Education and Workforce Committee has considered the petition of Sophie Liu, which was presented to the House on 16 July 2025 by Hon Phil Twyford, and transferred to us on 21 August 2025. The petition was signed by 11,425 people, and requests:

That the House of Representatives urge the Government to change the Parent Resident Visa EOI to: remove 2 years expiry; waive the reapplication fee; select most EOIs in order of original date of submission then run a bonus draw from the unselected EOIs each time; and increase the annual cap back to 5500 as it was between 2012 and 2016.

The petitioner made written and oral submissions. She impressed upon us the uncertainty families face not knowing whether they would have an opportunity to make a visa application. Being able to have one's parents in the same country is something Ms Liu considers a basic human need. Her written submission goes into detail about how she considers the current ballot system both costly and unfair.

We sympathise with Ms Liu's experience and acknowledge the difficulty for families awaiting the ability to make a visa application. The Minister of Immigration has a review of the Parent Resident Visa on her workplan. We support this work and encourage the Minister and her officials to consider the evidence we received on this petition as part of that timely review.

We have no further matters to bring to the attention of the House. We recommend that the House take note of our report.

Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand differing view

The Green Party supports the policy intent of the petitioner and commends her for taking the initiative on a vital issue. A humane immigration system that treats migrants as more than just economic units or as burdens to manage is something that we support and changes to the parent resident visa are part of that.

Appendix

Committee procedure

The petition was signed by 11,425 people. It was presented to the House by Hon Phil Twyford on 16 July 2025 and transferred to us on 21 August 2025. We met between 8 and 22 October 2025 to consider it. The petitioner made oral and written submissions.

Committee members

Katie Nimon (Chairperson)
Carl Bates (Deputy Chairperson)
Shanan Halbert
Francisco Hernandez
Grant McCallum
Dr Parmjeet Parmar
Hon Willow-Jean Prime
Hon Phil Twyford
Dr Vanessa Weenink

Mike Butterick participated in the consideration of this petition.

Related resources

The documents we received as evidence in relation to this petition are available on the [Parliament website](#).

A recording of our hearing can be accessed online on the [Parliament website](#).