

Police Chiefs Sold U Visa Certifications – Tell Congress to End the Program!

“When Congress created the U visa in 2000, it built in one safeguard: law enforcement must certify that the applicant is a genuine victim who helped a real investigation. Five guilty pleas in Louisiana have now established, in federal court, that **the safeguard was for sale**.

Business owner Chandrakant Patel and four law enforcement officials – three police chiefs and a ward marshal – pleaded guilty in a scheme that ran for nearly a decade. Officers took **\$5,000 per name** to write up armed robberies that never happened. Patel had obtained a U visa for himself in 2023 on a claimed robbery of his own. More than 650 applications went through the scheme; roughly 300 people received visas.

Nothing in the certification process caught it. The case opened only because federal immigration officers noticed an unusual volume of U visa petitions backed by police reports from a thinly populated stretch of rural Louisiana – a paper crime wave in one of the state’s quietest parishes.

Massachusetts produced the same playbook: eleven people charged for staging armed robberies of convenience stores so clerks could claim victim status. The organizer collected roughly \$850,000; one participant paid \$20,000 for the privilege of being robbed. The tell was that the “victims” waited five minutes before calling police so the “robber” could get clear.

More than 416,000 U visa petitions are pending against an annual cap of 10,000.

Prosecutions punish the people who got caught; they do not close the program that makes the fraud worth committing. H.R. 8628, the End U Visa Abuse Act, would repeal the U visa category outright, and the Senate should move on the same track.

Send your Members of Congress a message: ending the U visa program can't wait. Ask your U.S. Representative to support and pass H.R. 8628, the End U Visa Abuse Act, and your U.S. Senators to take up the same cause."

Source: <https://www.numbersusa.org/message-action/?vsrc=%2fCampaigns%2f138885%2fRespond>

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