



It's ironic Carlson's letter was published on the same day as another mass shooting

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Once again, Ron Carlson demonstrates for all of us how he jerks his knees, calling in his letter to the editor published Nov. 5 for an end to the Diversity Visa program after the Halloween night attack in Manhattan. It is ironic that his letter appears just after a home-grown killer takes the lives of 26 people gathered for church services in a tiny Texas town.

As the Cato Institute (not a liberal bastion) points out, the Diversity Visa program is hardly an effective means for individuals planning terrorism to enter the country. It is only open to individuals from countries which have had low immigration rates to the U.S. for 5 years prior to being included in the lottery. That is precisely why it is called a Diversity Visa—and it is why it originally skewed towards white Europeans, primarily the Irish (until the Irish economy improved and Irish citizens were no longer interested in the U.S.). To plan to enter the U.S. in this manner, one would have to somehow control immigration from one's home country, then apply for the lottery (with odds of 188 to 1 against being selected), then go through standard green-card vetting procedures. Applications for the 2019 lottery were to begin in October. A would-be terrorist would have a long wait and long odds to use this system to reach the United States

Crime rates in general for people who have entered under this program are extremely low. The incarceration rate for these individuals as a group is one-eighth the rate for native-born Americans, and the rate for Diversity Visa green-card recipients for people from Uzbekistan is statistically 0.

Carlson insists that elected officials "do something"—even if what they do has no practical value whatsoever.