

Union Calendar No. 72

116TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 2821

[Report No. 116-97]

To authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain nationals of certain countries designated for temporary protected status or deferred enforced departure, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 17, 2019

Ms. Velázquez (for herself and Ms. Clarke of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

May 30, 2019

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 17, 2019]

A BILL

To authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain nationals of certain countries designated for temporary protected status or deferred enforced departure, and for other purposes.

1	Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-				
2	tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,				
3	SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.				
4	This Act may be cited as the "American Promise Act				
5	of 2019".				
6	TITLE I—TREATMENT OF CER-				
7	TAIN NATIONALS OF CERTAIN				
8	COUNTRIES DESIGNATED FOR				
9	TEMPORARY PROTECTED STA-				
10	TUS OR DEFERRED EN-				
11	FORCED DEPARTURE				
12	SEC. 101. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR CERTAIN NATION-				
13	ALS OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES DESIGNATED				
14	FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS OR DE-				
15	FERRED ENFORCED DEPARTURE.				
16	(a) In General.—Notwithstanding any other provi-				
17	sion of law, the Secretary or the Attorney General shall can-				
18	cel the removal of, and adjust to the status of an alien law-				
19	fully admitted for permanent residence, an alien described				
20	in subsection (b) if the alien—				
21	(1) applies for such adjustment, including sub-				
22	mitting any required documents under section 207,				
23	not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment				
24	of this Act;				

1	(2) has been continuously physically present in					
2	the United States for a period of not less than 3 years					
3	before the date of the enactment of this Act; and					
4	(3) is not inadmissible under paragraph (1), (2),					
5	$(3),\ (6)(D),\ (6)(E),\ (6)(F),\ (6)(G),\ (8),\ or\ (10)\ of\ sec-$					
6	tion 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act					
7	(8 U.S.C. 1182(a)).					
8	(b) Aliens Eligible for Adjustment of Sta-					
9	TUS.—An alien shall be eligible for adjustment of status					
10	under this section if the alien is an individual—					
11	(1) who—					
12	(A) is a national of a foreign state (or part					
13	thereof) (or in the case of an alien having no na-					
14	tionality, is a person who last habitually resided					
15	in such state) with a designation under sub-					
16	section (b) of section 244 of the Immigration and					
17	Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)) on January					
18	1, 2017, who had or was otherwise eligible for					
19	temporary protected status on such date notwith-					
20	standing subsections $(c)(1)(A)(iv)$ and $(c)(3)(C)$					
21	of such section; and					
22	(B) has not engaged in conduct since such					
23	date that would render the alien ineligible for					
24	temporary protected status under section					

- 244(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality
 Act (8 U.S.C. 1245a(c)(2)); or
 - (2) who was eligible for Deferred Enforced Departure as of January 1, 2017, and has not engaged in conduct since that date that would render the alien ineligible for Deferred Enforced Departure.

(c) APPLICATION.—

- (1) FEE.—The Secretary shall, subject to an exemption under section 203(c), require an alien applying for adjustment of status under this section to pay a reasonable fee that is commensurate with the cost of processing the application, but does not exceed \$1,140.
- (2) Background checks.—The Secretary may not grant an alien permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section until the requirements of section 202 are satisfied.
- (3) WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall, upon receipt of a request to withdraw an application for adjustment of status under this section, cease processing of the application and close the case. Withdrawal of the application under this subsection shall not prejudice any future application filed by the applicant for any im-

1	migration benefit under this Act or under the Immi-
2	gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq).
3	TITLE II—GENERAL PROVISIONS
4	SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.
5	(a) In General.—In this Act:
6	(1) In general.—Except as otherwise specifi-
7	cally provided, any term used in this Act that is used
8	in the immigration laws shall have the meaning given
9	such term in the immigration laws.
10	(2) DISABILITY.—The term "disability" has the
11	meaning given such term in section 3(1) of the Amer-
12	icans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
13	12102(1)).
14	(3) FEDERAL POVERTY LINE.—The term "Fed-
15	eral poverty line" has the meaning given such term
16	in section 213A(h) of the Immigration and Nation-
17	ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1183a).
18	(4) Immigration laws.—The term "immigra-
19	tion laws" has the meaning given such term in sec-
20	tion 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality
21	$Act \ (8 \ U.S.C. \ 1101(a)(17)).$
22	(5) Secretary.—Except as otherwise specifi-
23	cally provided, the term "Secretary" means the Sec-
24	retary of Homeland Security.

- 1 (6) Uniformed services.—The term "Uni-
- 2 formed Services" has the meaning given the term
- 3 "uniformed services" in section 101(a) of title 10,
- 4 United States Code.
- 5 (b) Treatment of Expunded Convictions.—For
- 6 purposes of adjustment of status under this Act, the terms
- 7 "convicted" and "conviction", as used in sections 212 and
- 8 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
- 9 1182, 1254a), do not include a judgment that has been ex-
- 10 punged or set aside, that resulted in a rehabilitative dis-
- 11 position, or the equivalent.
- 12 SEC. 202. SUBMISSION OF BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC
- 13 DATA; BACKGROUND CHECKS.
- 14 (a) Submission of Biometric and Biographic
- 15 Data.—The Secretary may not grant an alien adjustment
- 16 of status under this Act unless the alien submits biometric
- 17 and biographic data, in accordance with procedures estab-
- 18 lished by the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide an al-
- 19 ternative procedure for aliens who are unable to provide
- 20 such biometric or biographic data because of a physical im-
- 21 pairment.
- 22 (b) Background Checks.—The Secretary shall use
- 23 biometric, biographic, and other data that the Secretary de-
- 24 termines appropriate to conduct security and law enforce-
- 25 ment background checks and to determine whether there is

- 1 any criminal, national security, or other factor that would
- 2 render the alien ineligible for adjustment of status under
- 3 this Act. The status of an alien may not be adjusted unless
- 4 security and law enforcement background checks are com-
- 5 pleted to the satisfaction of the Secretary.
- 6 SEC. 203. LIMITATION ON REMOVAL; APPLICATION AND FEE
- 7 EXEMPTION; WAIVER OF GROUNDS FOR INAD-
- 8 MISSIBILITY AND OTHER CONDITIONS ON EL-
- 9 *IGIBLE INDIVIDUALS*.
- 10 (a) Limitation on Removal.—An alien who appears
- 11 to be prima facie eligible for relief under this Act shall be
- 12 given a reasonable opportunity to apply for such relief and
- 13 may not be removed until, subject to section 206(c), a final
- 14 decision establishing ineligibility for relief is rendered.
- 15 (b) APPLICATION.—An alien present in the United
- 16 States who has been ordered removed or has been permitted
- 17 to depart voluntarily from the United States may, notwith-
- 18 standing such order or permission to depart, apply for ad-
- 19 justment of status under this Act. Such alien shall not be
- 20 required to file a separate motion to reopen, reconsider, or
- 21 vacate the order of removal. If the Secretary approves the
- 22 application, the Secretary shall cancel the order of removal.
- 23 If the Secretary renders a final administrative decision to
- 24 deny the application, the order of removal or permission
- 25 to depart shall be effective and enforceable to the same extent

as if the application had not been made, only after all available administrative and judicial remedies have been exhausted. 3 4 (c) Fee Exemption.—An applicant may be exempted from paying an application fee required under this Act if 6 the applicant— 7 (1) is younger than 18 years of age; 8 (2) received total income, during the 12-month 9 period immediately preceding the date on which the 10 applicant files an application under this Act, that is 11 less than 150 percent of the Federal poverty line; 12 (3) is in foster care or otherwise lacks any pa-13 rental or other familial support; or 14 (4) cannot care for himself or herself because of 15 a serious, chronic disability. 16 (d) Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility.— 17 (1) In general.—Except as provided in para-18 graph (2), with respect to any benefit under this Act, 19 and in addition to any waivers that are otherwise 20 available, the Secretary may waive the grounds of in-21 admissibility under paragraph (1), subparagraphs 22 (A), (C), and (D) of paragraph (2), subparagraphs 23 (D) through (G) of paragraph (6), or paragraph (10)(D) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Na-24

tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)) for humanitarian

- purposes, for family unity, or because the waiver is
 otherwise in the public interest.
- 3 (2) Exception.—The Secretary may not waive
- 4 a ground described in paragraph (1) if such inadmis-
- 5 sibility is based on a conviction or convictions, and
- 6 such conviction or convictions would otherwise render
- 7 the alien ineligible under section 244(c)(2)(B) of the
- 8 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
- 9 1254a(c)(2)(B)).
- 10 (e) Advance Parole.—During the period beginning
- 11 on the date on which an alien applies for adjustment of
- 12 status under this Act and ending on the date on which the
- 13 Secretary makes a final decision regarding such applica-
- 14 tion, the alien shall be eligible to apply for advance parole.
- 15 Section 101(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8)
- 16 U.S.C. 1101(g)) shall not apply to an alien granted ad-
- 17 vance parole under this section.
- 18 (f) Employment.—An alien whose removal is stayed
- 19 pursuant to this Act, or who has pending an application
- 20 under this Act, shall, upon application to the Secretary,
- 21 be granted an employment authorization document.
- 22 SEC. 204. DETERMINATION OF CONTINUOUS PRESENCE.
- 23 (a) Effect of Notice to Appear.—Any period of
- 24 continuous physical presence in the United States of an
- 25 alien who applies for adjustment of status under this Act

- 1 shall not terminate when the alien is served a notice to ap-
- 2 pear under section 239(a) of the Immigration and Nation-
- 3 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229(a)).

exceeding 180 days.

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- 4 (b) Treatment of Certain Breaks in Presence.—
- 5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-6 graphs (2) and (3), an alien shall be considered to 7 have failed to maintain continuous physical presence 8 in the United States under this Act if the alien has 9 departed from the United States for any period ex-10 ceeding 90 days or for any periods, in the aggregate,
 - (2) Extensions for extenuating circumstances.—The Secretary may extend the time periods described in paragraph (1) for an alien who demonstrates that the failure to timely return to the United States was due to extenuating circumstances beyond the alien's control, including the serious illness of the alien, or death or serious illness of a parent, grandparent, sibling, or child of the alien.
 - (3) Travel authorized by the Secretary.— Any period of travel outside of the United States by an alien that was authorized by the Secretary may not be counted toward any period of departure from the United States under paragraph (1).

- 1 (c) Waiver of Physical Presence.—With respect to
- 2 aliens who were removed or departed the United States on
- 3 or after January 20, 2017, and who were continuously
- 4 physically present in the United States for at least 3 years
- 5 prior to such removal or departure, the Secretary may, as
- 6 a matter of discretion, waive the physical presence require-
- 7 ment under section 101(a)(2) for humanitarian purposes,
- 8 for family unity, or because a waiver is otherwise in the
- 9 public interest. The Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-
- 10 retary of State, shall establish a procedure for such aliens
- 11 to apply for relief under section 101 from outside the United
- 12 States if they would have been eligible for relief under such
- 13 section, but for their removal or departure.
- 14 SEC. 205. EXEMPTION FROM NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.
- Nothing in this Act or in any other law may be con-
- 16 strued to apply a numerical limitation on the number of
- 17 aliens who may be granted permanent resident status under
- 18 this Act.
- 19 SEC. 206. AVAILABILITY OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL
- 20 REVIEW.
- 21 (a) Administrative Review.—Not later than 30
- 22 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
- 23 retary shall provide to aliens who have applied for adjust-
- 24 ment of status under this Act a process by which an appli-
- 25 cant may seek administrative appellate review of a denial

- 1 of an application for adjustment of status, or a revocation2 of such status.
- 3 (b) Judicial Review.—Notwithstanding any other
- 4 provision of law, an alien may seek judicial review of a
- 5 denial of an application for adjustment of status, or a rev-
- 6 ocation of such status, under this Act in the United States
- 7 district court with jurisdiction over the alien's residence.
- 8 (c) Stay of Removal.—
- 9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-10 graph (2), an alien seeking administrative or judicial 11 review under this Act may not be removed from the 12 United States until a final decision is rendered estab-13 lishing that the alien is ineligible for adjustment of 14 status under this Act.
 - (2) Exception.—The Secretary may remove an alien described in paragraph (1) pending judicial review if such removal is based on criminal or national security grounds. Such removal does not affect the alien's right to judicial review under this Act. The Secretary shall promptly return a removed alien if a decision to deny an application for adjustment of status under this Act, or to revoke such status, is reversed.

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1 SEC. 207. DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.

2	(a) Documents Establishing Identity.—An					
3	alien's application for permanent resident status under this					
4	Act may include, as evidence of identity, the following:					
5	(1) A passport or national identity document					
6	from the alien's country of origin that includes the					
7	alien's name and the alien's photograph or finger-					
8	print.					
9	(2) The alien's birth certificate and an identity					
10	card that includes the alien's name and photograph.					
11	(3) A school identification card that includes the					
12	alien's name and photograph, and school records					
13	showing the alien's name and that the alien is or was					
14	enrolled at the school.					
15	(4) A Uniformed Services identification card					
16	issued by the Department of Defense.					
17	(5) Any immigration or other document issued					
18	by the United States Government bearing the alien's					
19	name and photograph.					
20	(6) A State-issued identification card bearing the					
21	alien's name and photograph.					
22	(7) Any other evidence determined to be credible					
23	by the Secretary.					
24	(b) Documents Establishing Continuous Phys-					
25	ICAL PRESENCE.—An alien's application for permanent					
26	resident status under this Act may include, as evidence that					

1	the alien has been continuously physically present in the			
2	United States, as required under section 101(a)(2), the fol-			
3	lowing:			
4	(1) Passport entries, including admission stamps			
5	on the alien's passport.			
6	(2) Any document from the Department of Jus-			
7	tice or the Department of Homeland Security noting			
8	the alien's date of entry into the United States.			
9	(3) Records from any educational institution the			
10	alien has attended in the United States.			
11	(4) Employment records of the alien that include			
12	the employer's name and contact information.			
13	(5) Records of service from the Uniformed Serv-			
14	ices.			
15	(6) Official records from a religious entity con-			
16	firming the alien's participation in a religious cere-			
17	mony.			
18	(7) A birth certificate for a child who was born			
19	in the United States.			
20	(8) Hospital or medical records showing medical			
21	treatment or hospitalization, the name of the medical			
22	facility or physician, and the date of the treatment or			
23	hospitalization.			
24	(9) Automobile license receipts or registration.			

1	(10) Deeds, mortgages, or rental agreement con-
2	tracts.
3	(11) Rent receipts or utility bills bearing the
4	alien's name or the name of an immediate family
5	member of the alien, and the alien's address.
6	(12) Tax receipts;
7	(13) Insurance policies.
8	(14) Remittance records, including copies of
9	money order receipts sent in or out of the country.
10	(15) Travel records.
11	(16) Dated bank transactions.
12	(17) Two or more sworn affidavits from individ-
13	uals who are not related to the alien who have direct
14	knowledge of the alien's continuous physical presence
15	in the United States, that contain—
16	(A) the name, address, and telephone num-
17	ber of the affiant; and
18	(B) the nature and duration of the relation-
19	ship between the affiant and the alien.
20	(18) Any other evidence determined to be credible
21	by the Secretary.
22	(c) Documents Establishing Exemption From Ap-
23	PLICATION FEES.—An alien's application for permanent
24	resident status under this Act may include, as evidence that

1	the alien is exempt from an application fee under section			
2	203(c), the following:			
3	(1) Documents to establish age.—To estab-			
4	lish that an alien meets an age requirement, the alien			
5	may provide proof of identity, as described in sub-			
6	section (a), that establishes that the alien is younger			
7	than 18 years of age.			
8	(2) Documents to establish income.—To es-			
9	tablish the alien's income, the alien may provide—			
10	(A) employment records or other records of			
11	earned income, including records that have been			
12	maintained by the Social Security Administra-			
13	tion, the Internal Revenue Service, or any other			
14	Federal, State, or local government agency;			
15	(B) bank records; or			
16	(C) at least 2 sworn affidavits from individ-			
17	uals who are not related to the alien and who			
18	have direct knowledge of the alien's work and in-			
19	come that contain—			
20	(i) the name, address, and telephone			
21	number of the affiant; and			
22	(ii) the nature and duration of the re-			
23	lationship between the affiant and the alien.			
24	(3) Documents to establish foster care,			
25	LACK OF FAMILIAL SUPPORT. OR SERIOUS. CHRONIC			

1	DISABILITY.—To establish that the alien is in foster				
2	care, lacks parental or familial support, or has a seri-				
3	ous, chronic disability, the alien may provide at least				
4	2 sworn affidavits from individuals who are not re-				
5	lated to the alien and who have direct knowledge of				
6	the circumstances that contain—				
7	(A) a statement that the alien is in foster				
8	care, otherwise lacks any parental or other fa-				
9	miliar support, or has a serious, chronic dis-				
10	ability, as appropriate;				
11	(B) the name, address, and telephone num-				
12	ber of the affiant; and				
13	(C) the nature and duration of the relation-				
14	ship between the affiant and the alien.				
15	(d) Authority to Prohibit Use of Certain Docu-				
16	MENTS.—If the Secretary determines, after publication in				
17	the Federal Register and an opportunity for public com-				
18	ment, that any document or class of documents does not				
19	reliably establish identity or that permanent resident status				
20	under this Act is being obtained fraudulently to an unac-				
21	ceptable degree, the Secretary may prohibit or restrict the				
22	use of such document or class of documents.				
23	SEC. 208. RULE MAKING.				
24	(a) In General.—Not later than 90 days after the				
25	date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish				

- 1 in the Federal Register interim final rules implementing
- 2 this Act, which shall allow eligible individuals to imme-
- 3 diately apply for relief under section 101. Notwithstanding
- 4 section 553 of title 5, United States Code, the regulation
- 5 shall be effective, on an interim basis, immediately upon
- 6 publication, but may be subject to change and revision after
- 7 public notice and opportunity for a period of public com-
- 8 ment. The Secretary shall finalize such rules not later than
- 9 180 days after the date of publication.
- 10 (b) Paperwork Reduction Act.—The requirements
- 11 under chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, (commonly
- 12 known as the "Paperwork Reduction Act") shall not apply
- 13 to any action to implement this Act.
- 14 SEC. 209. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.
- 15 (a) In General.—The Secretary may not disclose or
- 16 use information provided in applications filed under this
- 17 Act (including information provided during administrative
- 18 or judicial review) for the purpose of immigration enforce-
- 19 *ment*.
- 20 (b) Referrals Prohibited.—The Secretary, based
- 21 solely on information provided in an application for adjust-
- 22 ment of status under this Act (including information pro-
- 23 vided during administrative or judicial review), may not
- 24 refer an applicant to U.S. Immigration and Customs En-

1 forcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or any designee of either such entity. 3 Exception.—Notwithstanding LIMITED sections (a) and (b), information provided in an applica-5 tion for adjustment of status under this Act may be shared 6 with Federal security and law enforcement agencies— 7 (1) for assistance in the consideration of an ap-8 plication for adjustment of status under this Act; 9 (2) to identify or prevent fraudulent claims; 10 (3) for national security purposes; or 11 (4) for the investigation or prosecution of any 12 felony not related to immigration status. 13 (d) PENALTY.—Any person who knowingly uses, publishes, or permits information to be examined in violation 14 15 of this section shall be fined not more than \$10,000. SEC. 210. GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST ELIGIBLE APPLI-17 CANTS. 18 (a) Establishment.—The Secretary of Homeland 19 Security shall establish, within U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, a program to award grants, on a competi-21 tive basis, to eligible nonprofit organizations that will use the funding to assist eligible applicants under this Act by

providing them with the services described in subsection (b).

1	(b) Use of Funds.—Grant funds awarded under this
2	section shall be used for the design and implementation of
3	programs that provide—
4	(1) information to the public regarding the eligi-
5	bility and benefits of permanent resident status under
6	this Act, particularly to individuals potentially eligi-
7	ble for such status;
8	(2) assistance, within the scope of authorized
9	practice of immigration law, to individuals submit-
10	ting applications for adjustment of status under this
11	Act, including—
12	(A) screening prospective applicants to as-
13	sess their eligibility for such status;
14	(B) completing applications and petitions,
15	including providing assistance in obtaining the
16	requisite documents and supporting evidence;
17	and
18	(C) providing any other assistance that the
19	Secretary or grantee considers useful or nec-
20	essary to apply for adjustment of status under
21	this Act; and
22	(3) assistance, within the scope of authorized
23	practice of immigration law, and instruction, to indi-
24	viduals—

1	(A) on the rights and responsibilities of
2	$United\ States\ citizenship;$
3	(B) in civics and English as a second lan-
4	guage;
5	(C) in preparation for the General Edu-
6	cation Development test; and
7	(D) in applying for adjustment of status
8	and United States citizenship.
9	(c) Authorization of Appropriations.—
10	(1) Amounts authorized.—There are author-
11	ized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
12	essary for each of the fiscal years 2020 through 2030
13	to carry out this section.
14	(2) AVAILABILITY.—Any amounts appropriated
15	pursuant to paragraph (1) shall remain available
16	until expended.
17	SEC. 211. PROVISIONS AFFECTING ELIGIBILITY FOR AD-
18	JUSTMENT OF STATUS.
19	An alien's eligibility to be lawfully admitted for per-
20	manent residence under this Act shall not preclude the alien
21	from seeking any status under any other provision of law
22	for which the alien may otherwise be eligible.

Union Calendar No. 72

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[Report No. 116-97]

BILL

To authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain nationals of certain countries designated for temporary protected status or deferred enforced departure, and for other purposes.

May 30, 2019

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed