

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 572

To establish the National Office of New Americans within the Executive Office of the President, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2021

Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COOPER, Ms. TITUS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. CARSON, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. JONES, Ms. CHU, Ms. BUSH, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. OMAR, Mr. SIRES, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. PORTER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CASE, Mr. CROW, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. CICILLINE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish the National Office of New Americans within the Executive Office of the President, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Office of New
3 Americans Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means
7 the Director of the National Office of New Ameri-
8 cans.

9 (2) **FEDERAL AGENCY.**—The term “Federal
10 agency” has the meaning given the term “agency”
11 in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

12 (3) **OFFICE.**—The term “Office” means the
13 National Office of New Americans established by
14 section 3(a).

15 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS.**

16 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established within
17 the Executive Office of the President an office to be known
18 as the “National Office of New Americans”.

19 (b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the Office are the
20 following:

21 (1) To welcome and support immigrants and
22 refugees in the United States.

23 (2) To promote and support immigrant and ref-
24 ugee integration into, and inclusion in, the social,
25 cultural, economic, and civic life of the United
26 States.

1 (3) To ensure that the Federal Government and
2 Federal agencies promote the pursuit of United
3 States citizenship among immigrants and refugees.

4 (4) To ensure access to quality English lan-
5 guage learning programs that support the successful
6 integration of immigrant adults, including by en-
7 hancing—

8 (A) employment and career prospects and
9 economic integration; and

10 (B) social integration in local communities
11 and participation in civic life, including engage-
12 ment with State and local governments, schools,
13 and private and nonprofit community institu-
14 tions.

15 (5) To improve access to workforce development
16 programs, including by ensuring that such programs
17 meet the demand and the unique language, training,
18 and educational needs of immigrants and refugees.

19 (6) To coordinate the efforts of Federal, State,
20 and local entities to support the effective social, eco-
21 nomic, linguistic, and civic integration of immi-
22 grants, refugees, and the children of immigrants and
23 refugees.

24 (7) To provide advice and leadership to the
25 President, Members of Congress, and other Federal

1 Government officials on the challenges and opportu-
2 nities facing such entities with respect to immigrant
3 and refugee integration.

4 (8) To evaluate the scale, quality, and effective-
5 ness of Federal Government efforts with respect to
6 immigrant and refugee social and economic integra-
7 tion, including access to United States citizenship,
8 English language learning, education, and workforce
9 development programs.

10 (9) To identify the anticipated effects of new
11 Federal policies on existing integration efforts and
12 advise the President on how to address potential in-
13 tegration needs and the effects of such policies.

14 (10) With respect to immigrant and refugee in-
15 tegration efforts, to consult on a biannual basis with
16 State and local government officials on challenges
17 and opportunities presented by such efforts.

18 (11) With respect to the activities described in
19 paragraphs (8) through (10), to ensure the inclusion
20 of the perspectives of immigrants and refugees.

21 (12) To submit to the President and the appro-
22 priate committees of Congress a biannual report
23 that describes the activities of the Office and the re-
24 sults of the consultation processes described in para-
25 graphs (8) through (11).

1 (c) DIRECTOR.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be headed
3 by a Director, who shall be appointed by the Presi-
4 dent, by and with the advice and consent of the Sen-
5 ate.

6 (2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director shall—

7 (A) establish policies, objectives, and prior-
8 ities for the Office with respect to immigrant
9 and refugee integration;

10 (B) with the assistance of the Deputy Di-
11 rector for Citizenship and Inclusion, the Deputy
12 Director for Workforce and the Economy, the
13 Deputy Director for Children’s Integration Suc-
14 cess, and the Associate Director of State and
15 Local Affairs, carry out the purposes of the Of-
16 fice, as described in subsection (b);

17 (C) serve as the Chair of the Federal Ini-
18 tiative for New Americans established under
19 section 4;

20 (D) make recommendations to the Presi-
21 dent on changes in the organization, manage-
22 ment, programs, and budget of the Federal
23 agencies to promote the integration of immi-
24 grants and refugees;

1 (E) with respect to efforts to promote
2 United States citizenship and the integration of
3 immigrants and refugees, consult, support, and
4 coordinate with State and local governments;
5 and

6 (F) serve as a member of the Domestic
7 Policy Council and the National Economic
8 Council.

9 (3) POWERS OF THE DIRECTOR.—In carrying
10 out the responsibilities under paragraph (2) and the
11 purposes under subsection (b), the Director may—

12 (A) select, appoint, employ, and fix com-
13 pensation of such officers and employees as
14 may be necessary to carry out such responsibil-
15 ities and purposes;

16 (B) with the concurrence of the head of
17 the applicable Federal agency, direct the tem-
18 porary reassignment within the Federal Govern-
19 ment of personnel employed by such Federal
20 agency;

21 (C) use for administrative purposes, on a
22 reimbursable basis, the available services, equip-
23 ment, personnel, and facilities of Federal, State,
24 and local agencies;

1 (D) procure the services of experts and
2 consultants, in accordance with section 3109 of
3 title 5, United States Code (relating to appoint-
4 ments in the Federal service) at rates of com-
5 pensation for individuals not to exceed the daily
6 equivalent of the rate of pay payable for level
7 GS-18 of the General Schedule under section
8 5332 of title 5, United States Code;

9 (E) accept and use donations of property
10 from Federal, State, and local government
11 agencies;

12 (F) use the mail in the same manner as
13 other Federal agencies; and

14 (G) monitor the implementation of immi-
15 grant and refugee integration-related activities
16 of the Federal Government, including by—

17 (i) conducting program and perform-
18 ance audits and evaluations of each Fed-
19 eral agency; and

20 (ii) requesting assistance from the In-
21 spector General of the applicable Federal
22 agency in such audits and evaluations.

23 (d) DEPUTY DIRECTORS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Office
25 a Deputy Director for Citizenship and Inclusion, a

1 Deputy Director for Workforce and the Economy,
2 and a Deputy Director for Children's Integration
3 and Success, each of whom shall be appointed by the
4 President, in consultation with the Director.

5 (2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

6 (A) DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CITIZENSHIP
7 AND INCLUSION.—The Deputy Director for
8 Citizenship and Inclusion shall, among other
9 duties as assigned by the Director, assist the
10 Director in promoting—

11 (i) inclusion of immigrants and refu-
12 gees in the social, economic, and civic life
13 of their communities and the United
14 States; and

15 (ii) access to United States citizen-
16 ship.

17 (B) DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR WORKFORCE
18 AND THE ECONOMY.—The Deputy Director for
19 Workforce and the Economy shall, among other
20 duties as assigned by the Director, assist the
21 Director in—

22 (i) promoting participation of immi-
23 grants and refugees in the United States
24 workforce; and

1 (ii) increasing the contributions of im-
2 migrants and refugees to the United States
3 economy.

4 (C) DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S
5 INTEGRATION SUCCESS.—The Deputy Director
6 for Children's Integration Success shall, among
7 other duties as assigned by the Director, assist
8 the Director in ensuring that Federal policies
9 and programs intended to support the healthy
10 development and educational success of children
11 are effective in reaching and serving the chil-
12 dren of immigrant families.

13 (e) BUREAU OF STATE AND LOCAL AFFAIRS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within
15 the Office a Bureau of State and Local Affairs.

16 (2) ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau of State
18 and Local Affairs shall be headed by an Asso-
19 ciate Director of State and Local Affairs, who
20 shall be appointed by the President, in con-
21 sultation with the Director.

22 (B) DUTIES.—The Associate Director of
23 State and Local Affairs shall, among other du-
24 ties as assigned by the Director, assist the Di-
25 rector in coordinating the efforts of State and

1 local entities to support the economic, linguistic,
2 and civic integration of immigrants, refugees,
3 and the children of immigrants and refugees.

4 (f) LIMITATION.—An individual may not serve as Di-
5 rector, Deputy Director for Citizenship and Inclusion,
6 Deputy Director for Workforce and the Economy, Deputy
7 Director for Children’s Integration Success, or Associate
8 Director of State and Local Affairs while serving in any
9 other position in the Federal Government.

10 (g) ACCESS BY CONGRESS.—The establishment of
11 the Office within the Executive Office of the President
12 shall not affect access to the Office by a Member of Con-
13 gress or any member of a committee of the Senate or the
14 House of Representatives, including access to—

15 (1) any information, document, or study in the
16 possession of, or conducted by or at the direction of,
17 the Director; or

18 (2) personnel of the Office.

19 **SEC. 4. FEDERAL INITIATIVE ON NEW AMERICANS.**

20 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
21 the confirmation of the Director of the Office, the Director
22 shall establish within the Office a Federal Initiative on
23 New Americans (referred to in this section as the “Initia-
24 tive”).

25 (b) PURPOSE.—The purposes of the Initiative are—

1 (1) to welcome and support immigrants and
2 refugees in the United States;

3 (2) to establish a coordinated Federal program
4 to respond effectively to immigrant and refugee inte-
5 gration issues; and

6 (3) to advise and assist the Director in identi-
7 fying and implementing the necessary policies to
8 carry out such program.

9 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Initiative shall be composed
10 of—

11 (1) the Director, who shall serve as Chair;

12 (2) the Secretary of the Treasury;

13 (3) the Attorney General;

14 (4) the Secretary of Commerce;

15 (5) the Secretary of Labor;

16 (6) the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
17 ices;

18 (7) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-
19 opment;

20 (8) the Secretary of Education;

21 (9) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

22 (10) the Secretary of State;

23 (11) the Director of the Office of Refugee Re-
24 settlement;

1 (12) the Director of the Small Business Admin-
2 istration;

3 (13) the Director of the Office of Management
4 and Budget;

5 (14) the Director of the Bureau of Consumer
6 Financial Protection; and

7 (15) any other individual—

8 (A) invited by the Director to participate;
9 and

10 (B) who occupies a position listed under
11 level I or II of the Executive Schedule, as pro-
12 vided in sections 5312 and 5313 of title 5,
13 United States Code.

14 (d) DUTIES.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Initiative shall meet at
16 the call of the Chair and perform such duties as the
17 Chair reasonably requires.

18 (2) COORDINATED RESPONSE TO IMMIGRANT
19 AND REFUGEE ISSUES.—The Initiative shall join
20 with Federal agencies in providing a coordinated
21 Federal response to adequately address matters that
22 affect the lives of immigrant and refugee families
23 and local communities with growing immigrant and
24 refugee populations, including access to—

25 (A) English language learning;

- 1 (B) adult education and workforce train-
2 ing;
3 (C) occupational licensure;
4 (D) early childhood care and education;
5 (E) elementary, secondary, and postsec-
6 ondary education;
7 (F) health care;
8 (G) naturalization;
9 (H) civic engagement;
10 (I) immigration assistance and legal serv-
11 ices;
12 (J) economic development;
13 (K) language access services; and
14 (L) other services the Director identifies as
15 aiding the integration of immigrants and refu-
16 gees into the social, cultural, economic, and
17 civic life of the United States.

18 (3) LIAISON WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

- 19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the
20 Initiative shall serve as a liaison to the Federal
21 agency of the member to ensure that the Fed-
22 eral agency coordinates with and responds to
23 the recommendations of the Initiative in a time-
24 ly and meaningful manner.

1 (B) DUTIES OF A LIAISON.—The duties of
2 each member as a Federal agency liaison in-
3 clude—

4 (i) developing, for the applicable Fed-
5 eral agency, immigrant and refugee inte-
6 gration goals and indicators;

7 (ii) implementing the biannual con-
8 sultation process described in section
9 3(b)(10) by consulting with the State and
10 local counterparts of the Federal agency;

11 (iii) reporting to the Initiative on the
12 progress made by the Federal agency in
13 achieving the goals and indicators de-
14 scribed in clause (i); and

15 (iv) upon request by the Director and
16 subject to laws governing disclosure of in-
17 formation, providing such information as
18 may be required to carry out the respon-
19 sibilities of the Director and the functions
20 of the Office.

21 (4) RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INITIATIVE.—

22 Not later than 1 year after the date on which the
23 Initiative becomes fully operational, and every 2
24 years thereafter, the Director shall submit to Con-
25 gress a report that includes the following:

1 (A) Findings from the consultation process
2 described in section 3(b)(10), including a de-
3 scription of the immigrant and refugee integra-
4 tion opportunities offered by, and integration
5 challenges facing, State and local governments.

6 (B) An assessment of the effects of, and
7 recommendations with respect to, pending legis-
8 lation and executive branch policy proposals.

9 (C) A description of the possible effects of
10 pending legislation and executive branch policy
11 proposals on immigrant and refugee integra-
12 tion.

13 (D) An identification of any Federal pro-
14 gram or policy that has a negative impact on
15 immigrants, refugees, and local communities
16 with growing immigrant and refugee popu-
17 lations, as compared to the general population,
18 and recommendations for changes to any such
19 program or policy.

20 (E) Recommendations on legislative solu-
21 tions to better support the successful integra-
22 tion of immigrants and refugees and the chil-
23 dren of immigrants and refugees.

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