

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 16

To authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2023

Ms. GARCIA of Texas (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. CORREA, Ms. CHU, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. DUARTE, and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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 authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “American Dream and Promise Act of 2023”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—DREAM ACT OF 2023

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Permanent resident status on a conditional basis for certain long-term residents who entered the United States as children.

Sec. 103. Terms of permanent resident status on a conditional basis.

Sec. 104. Removal of conditional basis of permanent resident status.

Sec. 105. Restoration of State option to determine residency for purposes of higher education benefits.

TITLE II—AMERICAN PROMISE ACT OF 2023

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Adjustment of status for certain nationals of certain countries designated for temporary protected status or deferred enforced departure.

Sec. 203. Clarification.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Definitions.

Sec. 302. Submission of biometric and biographic data; background checks.

Sec. 303. Limitation on removal; application and fee exemption; and other conditions on eligible individuals.

Sec. 304. Determination of continuous presence and residence.

Sec. 305. Exemption from numerical limitations.

Sec. 306. Availability of administrative and judicial review.

Sec. 307. Documentation requirements.

Sec. 308. Rulemaking.

Sec. 309. Confidentiality of information.

Sec. 310. Grant program to assist eligible applicants.

Sec. 311. Provisions affecting eligibility for adjustment of status.

Sec. 312. Supplementary surcharge for appointed counsel.

Sec. 313. Annual report on provisional denial authority.

1 **TITLE I—DREAM ACT OF 2023**

2 **SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This title may be cited as the “Dream Act of 2023”.

4 **SEC. 102. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS ON A CONDI-** 5 **TIONAL BASIS FOR CERTAIN LONG-TERM** 6 **RESIDENTS WHO ENTERED THE UNITED** 7 **STATES AS CHILDREN.**

8 (a) **CONDITIONAL BASIS FOR STATUS.**—Notwith-
9 standing any other provision of law, and except as pro-

1 vided in section 104(c)(2), an alien shall be considered,
2 at the time of obtaining the status of an alien lawfully
3 admitted for permanent residence under this section, to
4 have obtained such status on a conditional basis subject
5 to the provisions of this title.

6 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
8 provision of law, the Secretary or the Attorney Gen-
9 eral shall adjust to the status of an alien lawfully
10 admitted for permanent residence on a conditional
11 basis, or without the conditional basis as provided in
12 section 104(c)(2), an alien who is inadmissible or de-
13 portable from the United States, is subject to a
14 grant of Deferred Enforced Departure, has tem-
15 porary protected status under section 244 of the Im-
16 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a), or
17 is the son or daughter of an alien admitted as a non-
18 immigrant under subparagraph (E)(i), (E)(ii),
19 (H)(i)(b), or (L) of section 101(a)(15) of such Act
20 (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)) if—

21 (A) the alien has been continuously phys-
22 ically present in the United States since Janu-
23 ary 1, 2021;

24 (B) the alien was 18 years of age or
25 younger on the date on which the alien entered

1 the United States and has continuously resided
2 in the United States since such entry;

3 (C) the alien—

4 (i) subject to paragraph (2), is not in-
5 admissible under paragraph (1), (6)(E),
6 (6)(G), (8), or (10) of section 212(a) of
7 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
8 U.S.C. 1182(a));

9 (ii) has not ordered, incited, assisted,
10 or otherwise participated in the persecution
11 of any person on account of race, religion,
12 nationality, membership in a particular so-
13 cial group, or political opinion; and

14 (iii) is not barred from adjustment of
15 status under this title based on the crimi-
16 nal and national security grounds de-
17 scribed under subsection (c), subject to the
18 provisions of such subsection; and

19 (D) the alien—

20 (i) has been admitted to an institution
21 of higher education;

22 (ii) has been admitted to an area ca-
23 reer and technical education school at the
24 postsecondary level;

1 (iii) in the United States, has ob-
2 tained—

3 (I) a high school diploma or a
4 commensurate alternative award from
5 a public or private high school;

6 (II) a General Education Devel-
7 opment credential, a high school
8 equivalency diploma recognized under
9 State law, or another similar State-
10 authorized credential;

11 (III) a credential or certificate
12 from an area career and technical
13 education school at the secondary
14 level; or

15 (IV) a recognized postsecondary
16 credential; or

17 (iv) is enrolled in secondary school or
18 in an education program assisting students
19 in—

20 (I) obtaining a high school di-
21 ploma or its recognized equivalent
22 under State law;

23 (II) passing the General Edu-
24 cation Development test, a high school

1 equivalence diploma examination, or
2 other similar State-authorized exam;

3 (III) obtaining a certificate or
4 credential from an area career and
5 technical education school providing
6 education at the secondary level; or

7 (IV) obtaining a recognized post-
8 secondary credential.

9 (2) WAIVER OF GROUNDS OF INADMISS-
10 SIBILITY.—With respect to any benefit under this
11 title, and in addition to the waivers under subsection
12 (c)(2), the Secretary may waive the grounds of inad-
13 missibility under paragraph (1), (6)(E), (6)(G), or
14 (10)(D) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and
15 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)) for humanitarian
16 purposes, for family unity, or because the waiver is
17 otherwise in the public interest.

18 (3) APPLICATION FEE.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may,
20 subject to an exemption under section 303(c),
21 require an alien applying under this section to
22 pay a reasonable fee that is commensurate with
23 the cost of processing the application but does
24 not exceed \$495.00.

1 (B) SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR APPLI-
2 CANTS WITH DACA.—The Secretary shall estab-
3 lish a streamlined procedure for aliens who have
4 been granted DACA and who meet the require-
5 ments for renewal (under the terms of the pro-
6 gram in effect on January 1, 2017) to apply for
7 adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully
8 admitted for permanent residence on a condi-
9 tional basis under this section, or without the
10 conditional basis as provided in section
11 104(c)(2). Such procedure shall not include a
12 requirement that the applicant pay a fee, except
13 that the Secretary may require an applicant
14 who meets the requirements for lawful perma-
15 nent residence without the conditional basis
16 under section 104(c)(2) to pay a fee that is
17 commensurate with the cost of processing the
18 application, subject to the exemption under sec-
19 tion 303(e).

20 (4) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary
21 may not grant an alien permanent resident status on
22 a conditional basis under this section until the re-
23 quirements of section 302 are satisfied.

24 (5) MILITARY SELECTIVE SERVICE.—An alien
25 applying for permanent resident status on a condi-

1 tional basis under this section, or without the condi-
2 tional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2), shall
3 establish that the alien has registered under the
4 Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3801 et
5 seq.), if the alien is subject to registration under
6 such Act.

7 (c) CRIMINAL AND NATIONAL SECURITY BARS.—

8 (1) GROUNDS OF INELIGIBILITY.—Except as
9 provided in paragraph (2), an alien is ineligible for
10 adjustment of status under this title (whether on a
11 conditional basis or without the conditional basis as
12 provided in section 104(c)(2)) if any of the following
13 apply:

14 (A) The alien is inadmissible under para-
15 graph (2) or (3) of section 212(a) of the Immi-
16 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)).

17 (B) Excluding any offense under State law
18 for which an essential element is the alien's im-
19 migration status, and any minor traffic offense,
20 the alien has been convicted of—

21 (i) any felony offense;

22 (ii) three or more misdemeanor of-
23 fenses (excluding simple possession of can-
24 nabis or cannabis-related paraphernalia,
25 any offense involving cannabis or cannabis-

1 related paraphernalia which is no longer
2 prosecutable in the State in which the con-
3 viction was entered, and any offense involv-
4 ing civil disobedience without violence) not
5 occurring on the same date, and not aris-
6 ing out of the same act, omission, or
7 scheme of misconduct; or

8 (iii) a misdemeanor offense of domes-
9 tic violence, unless the alien demonstrates
10 that such crime is related to the alien hav-
11 ing been—

12 (I) a victim of domestic violence,
13 sexual assault, stalking, child abuse or
14 neglect, abuse or neglect in later life,
15 or human trafficking;

16 (II) battered or subjected to ex-
17 treme cruelty; or

18 (III) a victim of criminal activity
19 described in section 101(a)(15)(U)(iii)
20 of the Immigration and Nationality
21 Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(U)(iii)).

22 (2) WAIVERS FOR CERTAIN MISDEMEANORS.—

23 For humanitarian purposes, family unity, or if oth-
24 erwise in the public interest, the Secretary may—

1 (A) waive the grounds of inadmissibility
2 under subparagraphs (A), (C), and (D) of sec-
3 tion 212(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nation-
4 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)), unless the con-
5 viction forming the basis for inadmissibility
6 would otherwise render the alien ineligible
7 under paragraph (1)(B) (subject to subpara-
8 graph (B)); and

9 (B) for purposes of clauses (ii) and (iii) of
10 paragraph (1)(B), waive consideration of—

11 (i) one misdemeanor offense if the
12 alien has not been convicted of any offense
13 in the 5-year period preceding the date on
14 which the alien applies for adjustment of
15 status under this title; or

16 (ii) up to two misdemeanor offenses if
17 the alien has not been convicted of any of-
18 fense in the 10-year period preceding the
19 date on which the alien applies for adjust-
20 ment of status under this title.

21 (3) AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT SECONDARY RE-
22 VIEW.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding an
24 alien's eligibility for adjustment of status under
25 this title, and subject to the procedures de-

1 scribed in this paragraph, the Secretary may,
2 as a matter of non-delegable discretion, provi-
3 sionally deny an application for adjustment of
4 status (whether on a conditional basis or with-
5 out the conditional basis as provided in section
6 104(c)(2)) if the Secretary, based on clear and
7 convincing evidence, which shall include credible
8 law enforcement information, determines that
9 the alien is described in subparagraph (B) or
10 (D).

11 (B) PUBLIC SAFETY.—An alien is de-
12 scribed in this subparagraph if—

13 (i) excluding simple possession of can-
14 nabis or cannabis-related paraphernalia,
15 any offense involving cannabis or cannabis-
16 related paraphernalia which is no longer
17 prosecutable in the State in which the con-
18 viction was entered, any offense under
19 State law for which an essential element is
20 the alien’s immigration status, any offense
21 involving civil disobedience without vio-
22 lence, and any minor traffic offense, the
23 alien—

24 (I) has been convicted of a mis-
25 demeanor offense punishable by a

1 term of imprisonment of more than
2 30 days; or

3 (II) has been adjudicated delin-
4 quent in a State or local juvenile court
5 proceeding that resulted in a disposi-
6 tion ordering placement in a secure
7 facility; and

8 (ii) the alien poses a significant and
9 continuing threat to public safety related
10 to such conviction or adjudication.

11 (C) PUBLIC SAFETY DETERMINATION.—

12 For purposes of subparagraph (B)(ii), the Sec-
13 retary shall consider the recency of the convic-
14 tion or adjudication; the length of any imposed
15 sentence or placement; the nature and serious-
16 ness of the conviction or adjudication, including
17 whether the elements of the offense include the
18 unlawful possession or use of a deadly weapon
19 to commit an offense or other conduct intended
20 to cause serious bodily injury; and any miti-
21 gating factors pertaining to the alien's role in
22 the commission of the offense.

23 (D) GANG PARTICIPATION.—An alien is
24 described in this subparagraph if the alien has,
25 within the 5 years immediately preceding the

1 date of the application, knowingly, willfully, and
2 voluntarily participated in offenses committed
3 by a criminal street gang (as described in sub-
4 sections (a) and (c) of section 521 of title 18,
5 United States Code) with the intent to promote
6 or further the commission of such offenses.

7 (E) EVIDENTIARY LIMITATION.—For pur-
8 poses of subparagraph (D), allegations of gang
9 membership obtained from a State or Federal
10 in-house or local database, or a network of
11 databases used for the purpose of recording and
12 sharing activities of alleged gang members
13 across law enforcement agencies, shall not es-
14 tablish the participation described in such para-
15 graph.

16 (F) NOTICE.—

17 (i) IN GENERAL.—Prior to rendering
18 a discretionary decision under this para-
19 graph, the Secretary shall provide written
20 notice of the intent to provisionally deny
21 the application to the alien (or the alien's
22 counsel of record, if any) by certified mail
23 and, if an electronic mail address is pro-
24 vided, by electronic mail (or other form of

1 electronic communication). Such notice
2 shall—

3 (I) articulate with specificity all
4 grounds for the preliminary deter-
5 mination, including the evidence relied
6 upon to support the determination;
7 and

8 (II) provide the alien with not
9 less than 90 days to respond.

10 (ii) SECOND NOTICE.—Not more than
11 30 days after the issuance of the notice
12 under clause (i), the Secretary shall pro-
13 vide a second written notice that meets the
14 requirements of such clause.

15 (iii) NOTICE NOT RECEIVED.—Not-
16 withstanding any other provision of law, if
17 an applicant provides good cause for not
18 contesting a provisional denial under this
19 paragraph, including a failure to receive
20 notice as required under this subpara-
21 graph, the Secretary shall, upon a motion
22 filed by the alien, reopen an application for
23 adjustment of status under this title and
24 allow the applicant an opportunity to re-
25 spond, consistent with clause (i)(II).

1 (G) JUDICIAL REVIEW OF A PROVISIONAL
2 DENIAL.—

3 (i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
4 any other provision of law, if, after notice
5 and the opportunity to respond under sub-
6 paragraph (F), the Secretary provisionally
7 denies an application for adjustment of
8 status under this Act, the alien shall have
9 60 days from the date of the Secretary’s
10 determination to seek review of such deter-
11 mination in an appropriate United States
12 district court.

13 (ii) SCOPE OF REVIEW AND DECI-
14 SION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
15 sion of law, review under paragraph (1)
16 shall be de novo and based solely on the
17 administrative record, except that the ap-
18 plicant shall be given the opportunity to
19 supplement the administrative record and
20 the Secretary shall be given the oppor-
21 tunity to rebut the evidence and arguments
22 raised in such submission. Upon issuing its
23 decision, the court shall remand the mat-
24 ter, with appropriate instructions, to the

1 Department of Homeland Security to
2 render a final decision on the application.

3 (iii) APPOINTED COUNSEL.—Notwith-
4 standing any other provision of law, an ap-
5 plicant seeking judicial review under clause
6 (i) shall be represented by counsel. Upon
7 the request of the applicant, counsel shall
8 be appointed for the applicant, in accord-
9 ance with procedures to be established by
10 the Attorney General within 90 days of the
11 date of the enactment of this Act, and
12 shall be funded in accordance with fees col-
13 lected and deposited in the Immigration
14 Counsel Account under section 312.

15 (4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
16 section—

17 (A) the term “felony offense” means an of-
18 fense under Federal or State law that is pun-
19 ishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of
20 more than 1 year;

21 (B) the term “misdemeanor offense”
22 means an offense under Federal or State law
23 that is punishable by a term of imprisonment of
24 more than 5 days but not more than 1 year;
25 and

1 (C) the term “crime of domestic violence”
2 means any offense that has as an element the
3 use, attempted use, or threatened use of phys-
4 ical force against a person committed by a cur-
5 rent or former spouse of the person, by an indi-
6 vidual with whom the person shares a child in
7 common, by an individual who is cohabiting
8 with or has cohabited with the person as a
9 spouse, by an individual similarly situated to a
10 spouse of the person under the domestic or
11 family violence laws of the jurisdiction where
12 the offense occurs, or by any other individual
13 against a person who is protected from that in-
14 dividual’s acts under the domestic or family vio-
15 lence laws of the United States or any State,
16 Indian Tribal government, or unit of local gov-
17 ernment.

18 (d) LIMITATION ON REMOVAL OF CERTAIN ALIEN
19 MINORS.—An alien who is 18 years of age or younger and
20 meets the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B),
21 and (C) of subsection (b)(1) shall be provided a reasonable
22 opportunity to meet the educational requirements under
23 subparagraph (D) of such subsection. The Attorney Gen-
24 eral or the Secretary may not commence or continue with
25 removal proceedings against such an alien.

1 (e) WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION.—The Secretary
2 shall, upon receipt of a request to withdraw an application
3 for adjustment of status under this section, cease proc-
4 essing of the application, and close the case. Withdrawal
5 of the application under this subsection shall not prejudice
6 any future application filed by the applicant for any immi-
7 gration benefit under this title or under the Immigration
8 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

9 **SEC. 103. TERMS OF PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS ON A**
10 **CONDITIONAL BASIS.**

11 (a) PERIOD OF STATUS.—Permanent resident status
12 on a conditional basis is—

13 (1) valid for a period of 10 years, unless such
14 period is extended by the Secretary; and

15 (2) subject to revocation under subsection (c).

16 (b) NOTICE OF REQUIREMENTS.—At the time an
17 alien obtains permanent resident status on a conditional
18 basis, the Secretary shall provide notice to the alien re-
19 garding the provisions of this title and the requirements
20 to have the conditional basis of such status removed.

21 (c) REVOCATION OF STATUS.—The Secretary may
22 revoke the permanent resident status on a conditional
23 basis of an alien only if the Secretary—

24 (1) determines that the alien ceases to meet the
25 requirements under section 102(b)(1)(C); and

1 (2) prior to the revocation, provides the alien—
2 (A) notice of the proposed revocation; and
3 (B) the opportunity for a hearing to pro-
4 vide evidence that the alien meets such require-
5 ments or otherwise to contest the proposed rev-
6 ocation.

7 (d) **RETURN TO PREVIOUS IMMIGRATION STATUS.**—
8 An alien whose permanent resident status on a conditional
9 basis expires under subsection (a)(1) or is revoked under
10 subsection (c), shall return to the immigration status that
11 the alien had immediately before receiving permanent resi-
12 dent status on a conditional basis.

13 **SEC. 104. REMOVAL OF CONDITIONAL BASIS OF PERMA-**
14 **NENT RESIDENT STATUS.**

15 (a) **ELIGIBILITY FOR REMOVAL OF CONDITIONAL**
16 **BASIS.**—

17 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2),
18 the Secretary shall remove the conditional basis of
19 an alien’s permanent resident status granted under
20 this title and grant the alien status as an alien law-
21 fully admitted for permanent residence if the alien—

22 (A) is described in section 102(b)(1)(C);

23 (B) has not abandoned the alien’s resi-
24 dence in the United States during the period in

1 which the alien has permanent resident status
2 on a conditional basis; and

3 (C)(i) has obtained a degree from an insti-
4 tution of higher education, or has completed at
5 least 2 years, in good standing, of a program in
6 the United States leading to a bachelor's degree
7 or higher degree or a recognized postsecondary
8 credential from an area career and technical
9 education school providing education at the
10 postsecondary level;

11 (ii) has served in the Uniformed Services
12 for at least 2 years and, if discharged, received
13 an honorable discharge; or

14 (iii) demonstrates earned income for peri-
15 ods totaling at least 3 years and at least 75
16 percent of the time that the alien has had a
17 valid employment authorization, except that, in
18 the case of an alien who was enrolled in an in-
19 stitution of higher education, an area career
20 and technical education school to obtain a rec-
21 ognized postsecondary credential, or an edu-
22 cation program described in section
23 102(b)(1)(D)(iii), the Secretary shall reduce
24 such total 3-year requirement by the total of
25 such periods of enrollment.

1 (2) **HARDSHIP EXCEPTION.**—The Secretary
2 shall remove the conditional basis of an alien’s per-
3 manent resident status and grant the alien status as
4 an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence
5 if the alien—

6 (A) satisfies the requirements under sub-
7 paragraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1);

8 (B) demonstrates compelling circumstances
9 for the inability to satisfy the requirements
10 under subparagraph (C) of such paragraph; and

11 (C) demonstrates that—

12 (i) the alien has a disability;

13 (ii) the alien is a full-time caregiver;

14 or

15 (iii) the removal of the alien from the
16 United States would result in hardship to
17 the alien or the alien’s spouse, parent, or
18 child who is a national of the United
19 States or is lawfully admitted for perma-
20 nent residence.

21 (3) **CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT.**—

22 (A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in
23 subparagraph (B), the conditional basis of an
24 alien’s permanent resident status granted under
25 this title may not be removed unless the alien

1 demonstrates that the alien satisfies the re-
2 quirements under section 312(a) of the Immi-
3 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1423(a)).

4 (B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall
5 not apply to an alien who is unable to meet the
6 requirements under such section 312(a) due to
7 disability.

8 (4) APPLICATION FEE.—The Secretary may,
9 subject to an exemption under section 303(c), re-
10 quire aliens applying for removal of the conditional
11 basis of an alien’s permanent resident status under
12 this section to pay a reasonable fee that is commen-
13 surate with the cost of processing the application.

14 (5) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary
15 may not remove the conditional basis of an alien’s
16 permanent resident status until the requirements of
17 section 302 are satisfied.

18 (b) TREATMENT FOR PURPOSES OF NATURALIZA-
19 TION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of title III of
21 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1401
22 et seq.), an alien granted permanent resident status
23 on a conditional basis shall be considered to have
24 been admitted to the United States, and be present

1 in the United States, as an alien lawfully admitted
2 for permanent residence.

3 (2) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION FOR NATU-
4 RALIZATION.—An alien may not apply for natu-
5 ralization while the alien is in permanent resident
6 status on a conditional basis.

7 (c) TIMING OF APPROVAL OF LAWFUL PERMANENT
8 RESIDENT STATUS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—An alien granted permanent
10 resident status on a conditional basis under this title
11 may apply to have such conditional basis removed at
12 any time after such alien has met the eligibility re-
13 quirements set forth in subsection (a).

14 (2) APPROVAL WITH REGARD TO INITIAL APPLI-
15 CATIONS.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any
17 other provision of law, the Secretary or the At-
18 torney General shall adjust to the status of an
19 alien lawfully admitted for permanent resident
20 status without conditional basis, any alien
21 who—

22 (i) demonstrates eligibility for lawful
23 permanent residence status on a condi-
24 tional basis under section 102(b); and

1 (ii) subject to the exceptions described
2 in subsections (a)(2) and (a)(3)(B) of this
3 section, already has fulfilled the require-
4 ments of paragraphs (1) and (3) of sub-
5 section (a) of this section at the time such
6 alien first submits an application for bene-
7 fits under this title.

8 (B) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—Subsection
9 (a)(5) shall apply to an alien seeking lawful
10 permanent resident status without conditional
11 basis in an initial application in the same man-
12 ner as it applies to an alien seeking removal of
13 the conditional basis of an alien’s permanent
14 resident status. Section 102(b)(4) shall not be
15 construed to require the Secretary to conduct
16 more than one identical security or law enforce-
17 ment background check on such an alien.

18 (C) APPLICATION FEES.—In the case of an
19 alien seeking lawful permanent resident status
20 without conditional basis in an initial applica-
21 tion, the alien shall pay the fee required under
22 subsection (a)(4), subject to the exemption al-
23 lowed under section 303(c), but shall not be re-
24 quired to pay the application fee under section
25 102(b)(3).

1 **SEC. 105. RESTORATION OF STATE OPTION TO DETERMINE**
2 **RESIDENCY FOR PURPOSES OF HIGHER EDU-**
3 **CATION BENEFITS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505 of the Illegal Immi-
5 gration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996
6 (8 U.S.C. 1623) is repealed.

7 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The repeal under subsection
8 (a) shall take effect as if included in the original enact-
9 ment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant
10 Responsibility Act of 1996 (division C of Public Law 104–
11 208; 110 Stat. 3009–546).

12 **TITLE II—AMERICAN PROMISE**
13 **ACT OF 2023**

14 **SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

15 This title may be cited as the “American Promise Act
16 of 2023”.

17 **SEC. 202. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR CERTAIN NATION-**
18 **ALS OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES DESIGNATED**
19 **FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS OR**
20 **DEFERRED ENFORCED DEPARTURE.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
22 sion of law, the Secretary or the Attorney General shall
23 adjust to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for per-
24 manent residence, an alien described in subsection (b) if
25 the alien—

1 (1) applies for such adjustment, including sub-
2 mitting any required documents under section 307,
3 not later than 3 years after the date of the enact-
4 ment of this Act;

5 (2) has been continuously physically present in
6 the United States for a period of not less than 3
7 years; and

8 (3) subject to subsection (c), is not inadmissible
9 under paragraph (1), (2), (3), (6)(D), (6)(E),
10 (6)(F), (6)(G), (8), or (10) of section 212(a) of the
11 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
12 1182(a)).

13 (b) ALIENS ELIGIBLE FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STA-
14 TUS.—An alien shall be eligible for adjustment of status
15 under this section if the alien is an individual—

16 (1) who—

17 (A) is a national of a foreign state (or part
18 thereof) (or in the case of an alien having no
19 nationality, is a person who last habitually re-
20 sided in such state) with a designation under
21 subsection (b) of section 244 of the Immigra-
22 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(b))
23 on January 1, 2017, who had or was otherwise
24 eligible for temporary protected status on such

1 date notwithstanding subsections (c)(1)(A)(iv)
2 and (c)(3)(C) of such section; and

3 (B) has not engaged in conduct since such
4 date that would render the alien ineligible for
5 temporary protected status under section
6 244(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality
7 Act (8 U.S.C. 1245a(c)(2)); or

8 (2) who was eligible for Deferred Enforced De-
9 parture as of January 20, 2021, and has not en-
10 gaged in conduct since that date that would render
11 the alien ineligible for Deferred Enforced Departure.

12 (c) WAIVER OF GROUNDS OF INADMISSIBILITY.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
14 graph (2), with respect to any benefit under this
15 title, and in addition to any waivers that are other-
16 wise available, the Secretary may waive the grounds
17 of inadmissibility under paragraph (1), subpara-
18 graphs (A), (C), and (D) of paragraph (2), subpara-
19 graphs (D) through (G) of paragraph (6), or para-
20 graph (10)(D) of section 212(a) of the Immigration
21 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)) for humani-
22 tarian purposes, for family unity, or because the
23 waiver is otherwise in the public interest.

24 (2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may not waive
25 a ground described in paragraph (1) if such inad-

1 missibility is based on a conviction or convictions,
2 and such conviction or convictions would otherwise
3 render the alien ineligible under section
4 244(c)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality
5 Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)(2)(B)).

6 (d) APPLICATION.—

7 (1) FEE.—The Secretary shall, subject to an
8 exemption under section 303(c), require an alien ap-
9 plying for adjustment of status under this section to
10 pay a reasonable fee that is commensurate with the
11 cost of processing the application, but does not ex-
12 ceed \$1,140.

13 (2) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary
14 may not grant an alien permanent resident status on
15 a conditional basis under this section until the re-
16 quirements of section 302 are satisfied.

17 (3) WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION.—The Sec-
18 retary of Homeland Security shall, upon receipt of
19 a request to withdraw an application for adjustment
20 of status under this section, cease processing of the
21 application and close the case. Withdrawal of the ap-
22 plication under this subsection shall not prejudice
23 any future application filed by the applicant for any
24 immigration benefit under this title or under the Im-

1 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et
2 seq.).

3 **SEC. 203. CLARIFICATION.**

4 Section 244(f)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality
5 Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(f)(4)) is amended by inserting after
6 “considered” the following: “as having been inspected and
7 admitted into the United States, and”.

8 **TITLE III—GENERAL**
9 **PROVISIONS**

10 **SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—In this Act:

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise specifi-
13 cally provided, any term used in this Act that is
14 used in the immigration laws shall have the meaning
15 given such term in the immigration laws.

16 (2) APPROPRIATE UNITED STATES DISTRICT
17 COURT.—The term “appropriate United States dis-
18 trict court” means the United States District Court
19 for the District of Columbia or the United States
20 district court with jurisdiction over the alien’s prin-
21 cipal place of residence.

22 (3) AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
23 SCHOOL.—The term “area career and technical edu-
24 cation school” has the meaning given such term in

1 section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Tech-
2 nical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

3 (4) DACA.—The term “DACA” means de-
4 ferred action granted to an alien pursuant to the
5 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy an-
6 nounced by the Secretary of Homeland Security on
7 June 15, 2012.

8 (5) DISABILITY.—The term “disability” has the
9 meaning given such term in section 3(1) of the
10 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
11 12102(1)).

12 (6) FEDERAL POVERTY LINE.—The term “Fed-
13 eral poverty line” has the meaning given such term
14 in section 213A(h) of the Immigration and Nation-
15 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1183a).

16 (7) HIGH SCHOOL; SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The
17 terms “high school” and “secondary school” have
18 the meanings given such terms in section 8101 of
19 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
20 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

21 (8) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term “immigra-
22 tion laws” has the meaning given such term in sec-
23 tion 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality
24 Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)).

1 (9) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
2 term “institution of higher education”—

3 (A) except as provided in subparagraph
4 (B), has the meaning given such term in section
5 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
6 U.S.C. 1002); and

7 (B) does not include an institution of high-
8 er education outside of the United States.

9 (10) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDEN-
10 TIAL.—The term “recognized postsecondary creden-
11 tial” has the meaning given such term in section 3
12 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
13 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

14 (11) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise specifi-
15 cally provided, the term “Secretary” means the Sec-
16 retary of Homeland Security.

17 (12) UNIFORMED SERVICES.—The term “Uni-
18 formed Services” has the meaning given the term
19 “uniformed services” in section 101(a) of title 10,
20 United States Code.

21 (b) TREATMENT OF EXPUNGED CONVICTIONS.—For
22 purposes of adjustment of status under this Act, the terms
23 “convicted” and “conviction”, as used in this Act and in
24 sections 212 and 244 of the Immigration and Nationality
25 Act (8 U.S.C. 1182, 1254a), do not include a judgment

1 that has been expunged or set aside, that resulted in a
2 rehabilitative disposition, or the equivalent.

3 **SEC. 302. SUBMISSION OF BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC**
4 **DATA; BACKGROUND CHECKS.**

5 (a) SUBMISSION OF BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC
6 DATA.—The Secretary may not grant an alien adjustment
7 of status under this Act, on either a conditional or perma-
8 nent basis, unless the alien submits biometric and bio-
9 graphic data, in accordance with procedures established
10 by the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide an alter-
11 native procedure for aliens who are unable to provide such
12 biometric or biographic data because of a physical impair-
13 ment.

14 (b) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary shall use
15 biometric, biographic, and other data that the Secretary
16 determines appropriate to conduct security and law en-
17 forcement background checks and to determine whether
18 there is any criminal, national security, or other factor
19 that would render the alien ineligible for adjustment of
20 status under this Act, on either a conditional or perma-
21 nent basis. The status of an alien may not be adjusted,
22 on either a conditional or permanent basis, unless security
23 and law enforcement background checks are completed to
24 the satisfaction of the Secretary.

1 **SEC. 303. LIMITATION ON REMOVAL; APPLICATION AND**
2 **FEE EXEMPTION; AND OTHER CONDITIONS**
3 **ON ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.**

4 (a) **LIMITATION ON REMOVAL.**—An alien who ap-
5 pears to be prima facie eligible for relief under this Act
6 shall be given a reasonable opportunity to apply for such
7 relief and may not be removed until, subject to section
8 306(c)(2), a final decision establishing ineligibility for re-
9 lief is rendered.

10 (b) **APPLICATION.**—An alien present in the United
11 States who has been ordered removed or has been per-
12 mitted to depart voluntarily from the United States may,
13 notwithstanding such order or permission to depart, apply
14 for adjustment of status under this Act. Such alien shall
15 not be required to file a separate motion to reopen, recon-
16 sider, or vacate the order of removal. If the Secretary ap-
17 proves the application, the Secretary shall cancel the order
18 of removal. If the Secretary renders a final administrative
19 decision to deny the application, the order of removal or
20 permission to depart shall be effective and enforceable to
21 the same extent as if the application had not been made,
22 only after all available administrative and judicial rem-
23 edies have been exhausted.

24 (c) **FEE EXEMPTION.**—An applicant may be exempt-
25 ed from paying an application fee required under this Act
26 if the applicant—

1 (1) is 18 years of age or younger;

2 (2) received total income, during the 12-month
3 period immediately preceding the date on which the
4 applicant files an application under this Act, that is
5 less than 150 percent of the Federal poverty line;

6 (3) is in foster care or otherwise lacks any pa-
7 rental or other familial support; or

8 (4) cannot care for himself or herself because of
9 a serious, chronic disability.

10 (d) **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
13 the Secretary makes a final decision regarding such appli-
14 cation, the alien shall be eligible to apply for advance pa-
15 role. Section 101(g) of the Immigration and Nationality
16 Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(g)) shall not apply to an alien granted
17 advance parole under this Act.

18 (e) **EMPLOYMENT.**—An alien whose removal is stayed
19 pursuant to this Act, who may not be placed in removal
20 proceedings pursuant to this Act, or who has pending an
21 application under this Act, shall, upon application to the
22 Secretary, be granted an employment authorization docu-
23 ment.

1 **SEC. 304. DETERMINATION OF CONTINUOUS PRESENCE**
2 **AND RESIDENCE.**

3 (a) EFFECT OF NOTICE TO APPEAR.—Any period of
4 continuous physical presence or continuous residence in
5 the United States of an alien who applies for permanent
6 resident status under this Act (whether on a conditional
7 basis or without the conditional basis as provided in sec-
8 tion 104(c)(2)) shall not terminate when the alien is
9 served a notice to appear under section 239(a) of the Im-
10 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229(a)).

11 (b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN BREAKS IN PRESENCE
12 OR RESIDENCE.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
14 graphs (2) and (3), an alien shall be considered to
15 have failed to maintain—

16 (A) continuous physical presence in the
17 United States under this Act if the alien has
18 departed from the United States for any period
19 exceeding 90 days or for any periods, in the ag-
20 gregate, exceeding 180 days; and

21 (B) continuous residence in the United
22 States under this Act if the alien has departed
23 from the United States for any period exceeding
24 180 days, unless the alien establishes to the
25 satisfaction of the Secretary of Homeland Secu-

1 rity that the alien did not in fact abandon resi-
2 dence in the United States during such period.

3 (2) EXTENSIONS FOR EXTENUATING CIR-
4 CUMSTANCES.—The Secretary may extend the time
5 periods described in paragraph (1) for an alien who
6 demonstrates that the failure to timely return to the
7 United States was due to extenuating circumstances
8 beyond the alien’s control, including—

9 (A) the serious illness of the alien;

10 (B) death or serious illness of a parent,
11 grandparent, sibling, or child of the alien;

12 (C) processing delays associated with the
13 application process for a visa or other travel
14 document; or

15 (D) restrictions on international travel due
16 to the public health emergency declared by the
17 Secretary of Health and Human Services under
18 section 319 of the Public Health Service Act
19 (42 U.S.C. 247d) with respect to COVID–19.

20 (3) TRAVEL AUTHORIZED BY THE SEC-
21 RETARY.—Any period of travel outside of the United
22 States by an alien that was authorized by the Sec-
23 retary may not be counted toward any period of de-
24 parture from the United States under paragraph
25 (1).

1 (c) WAIVER OF PHYSICAL PRESENCE.—With respect
2 to aliens who were removed or departed the United States
3 on or after January 20, 2017, and who were continuously
4 physically present in the United States for at least 4 years
5 prior to such removal or departure, the Secretary may,
6 as a matter of discretion, waive the physical presence re-
7 quirement under section 102(b)(1)(A) or section
8 202(a)(2) for humanitarian purposes, for family unity, or
9 because a waiver is otherwise in the public interest. The
10 Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State,
11 shall establish a procedure for such aliens to apply for re-
12 lief under section 102 or 202 from outside the United
13 States if they would have been eligible for relief under
14 such section, but for their removal or departure.

15 **SEC. 305. EXEMPTION FROM NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.**

16 Nothing in this Act or in any other law may be con-
17 strued to apply a numerical limitation on the number of
18 aliens who may be granted permanent resident status
19 under this Act (whether on a conditional basis, or without
20 the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)).

21 **SEC. 306. AVAILABILITY OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDI-**
22 **CIAL REVIEW.**

23 (a) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—Not later than 30
24 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
25 retary shall provide to aliens who have applied for adjust-

1 ment of status under this Act a process by which an appli-
2 cant may seek administrative appellate review of a denial
3 of an application for adjustment of status, or a revocation
4 of such status.

5 (b) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Except as provided in sub-
6 section (c), and notwithstanding any other provision of
7 law, an alien may seek judicial review of a denial of an
8 application for adjustment of status, or a revocation of
9 such status, under this Act in an appropriate United
10 States district court.

11 (c) STAY OF REMOVAL.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
13 graph (2), an alien seeking administrative or judicial
14 review under this Act may not be removed from the
15 United States until a final decision is rendered es-
16 tablishing that the alien is ineligible for adjustment
17 of status under this Act.

18 (2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may remove
19 an alien described in paragraph (1) pending judicial
20 review if such removal is based on criminal or na-
21 tional security grounds described in this Act. Such
22 removal shall not affect the alien's right to judicial
23 review under this Act. The Secretary shall promptly
24 return a removed alien if a decision to deny an ap-

1 plication for adjustment of status under this Act, or
2 to revoke such status, is reversed.

3 **SEC. 307. DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.**

4 (a) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING IDENTITY.—An
5 alien’s application for permanent resident status under
6 this Act (whether on a conditional basis, or without the
7 conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)) may in-
8 clude, as evidence of identity, the following:

9 (1) A passport or national identity document
10 from the alien’s country of origin that includes the
11 alien’s name and the alien’s photograph or finger-
12 print.

13 (2) The alien’s birth certificate and an identity
14 card that includes the alien’s name and photograph.

15 (3) A school identification card that includes
16 the alien’s name and photograph, and school records
17 showing the alien’s name and that the alien is or
18 was enrolled at the school.

19 (4) A Uniformed Services identification card
20 issued by the Department of Defense.

21 (5) Any immigration or other document issued
22 by the United States Government bearing the alien’s
23 name and photograph.

24 (6) A State-issued identification card bearing
25 the alien’s name and photograph.

1 (7) Any other evidence determined to be cred-
2 ible by the Secretary.

3 (b) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING ENTRY, CONTIN-
4 UOUS PHYSICAL PRESENCE, LACK OF ABANDONMENT OF
5 RESIDENCE.—To establish that an alien was 18 years of
6 age or younger on the date on which the alien entered
7 the United States, and has continuously resided in the
8 United States since such entry, as required under section
9 102(b)(1)(B), that an alien has been continuously phys-
10 ically present in the United States, as required under sec-
11 tion 102(b)(1)(A) or 202(a)(2), or that an alien has not
12 abandoned residence in the United States, as required
13 under section 104(a)(1)(B), the alien may submit the fol-
14 lowing forms of evidence:

15 (1) Passport entries, including admission
16 stamps on the alien’s passport.

17 (2) Any document from the Department of Jus-
18 tice or the Department of Homeland Security noting
19 the alien’s date of entry into the United States.

20 (3) Records from any educational institution
21 the alien has attended in the United States.

22 (4) Employment records of the alien that in-
23 clude the employer’s name and contact information,
24 or other records demonstrating earned income.

1 (5) Records of service from the Uniformed
2 Services.

3 (6) Official records from a religious entity con-
4 firming the alien's participation in a religious cere-
5 mony.

6 (7) A birth certificate for a child who was born
7 in the United States.

8 (8) Hospital or medical records showing med-
9 ical treatment or hospitalization, the name of the
10 medical facility or physician, and the date of the
11 treatment or hospitalization.

12 (9) Automobile license receipts or registration.

13 (10) Deeds, mortgages, or rental agreement
14 contracts.

15 (11) Rent receipts or utility bills bearing the
16 alien's name or the name of an immediate family
17 member of the alien, and the alien's address.

18 (12) Tax receipts.

19 (13) Insurance policies.

20 (14) Remittance records, including copies of
21 money order receipts sent in or out of the country.

22 (15) Travel records.

23 (16) Dated bank transactions.

24 (17) Two or more sworn affidavits from individ-
25 uals who are not related to the alien who have direct

1 knowledge of the alien's continuous physical pres-
2 ence in the United States, that contain—

3 (A) the name, address, and telephone num-
4 ber of the affiant; and

5 (B) the nature and duration of the rela-
6 tionship between the affiant and the alien.

7 (18) Any other evidence determined to be cred-
8 ible by the Secretary.

9 (c) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING ADMISSION TO AN
10 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—To establish that
11 an alien has been admitted to an institution of higher edu-
12 cation, the alien may submit to the Secretary a document
13 from the institution of higher education certifying that the
14 alien—

15 (1) has been admitted to the institution; or

16 (2) is currently enrolled in the institution as a
17 student.

18 (d) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING RECEIPT OF A DE-
19 GREE FROM AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
20 To establish that an alien has acquired a degree from an
21 institution of higher education in the United States, the
22 alien may submit to the Secretary a diploma or other doc-
23 ument from the institution stating that the alien has re-
24 ceived such a degree.

1 (e) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING RECEIPT OF A HIGH
2 SCHOOL DIPLOMA, GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOP-
3 MENT CREDENTIAL, OR A RECOGNIZED EQUIVALENT.—

4 To establish that in the United States an alien has earned
5 a high school diploma or a commensurate alternative
6 award from a public or private high school, has obtained
7 the General Education Development credential, or other-
8 wise has satisfied section 102(b)(1)(D)(iii), the alien may
9 submit to the Secretary the following:

10 (1) A high school diploma, certificate of comple-
11 tion, or other alternate award.

12 (2) A high school equivalency diploma or certifi-
13 cate recognized under State law.

14 (3) Evidence that the alien passed a State-au-
15 thorized exam, including the General Education De-
16 velopment test, in the United States.

17 (4) Evidence that the alien successfully com-
18 pleted an area career and technical education pro-
19 gram, such as a certification, certificate, or similar
20 alternate award.

21 (5) Evidence that the alien obtained a recog-
22 nized postsecondary credential.

23 (6) Any other evidence determined to be cred-
24 ible by the Secretary.

1 (f) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING ENROLLMENT IN AN
2 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.—To establish that an alien is
3 enrolled in any school or education program described in
4 section 102(b)(1)(D)(iv) or 104(a)(1)(C), the alien may
5 submit school records from the United States school that
6 the alien is currently attending that include—

- 7 (1) the name of the school; and
8 (2) the alien’s name, periods of attendance, and
9 current grade or educational level.

10 (g) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING EXEMPTION FROM
11 APPLICATION FEES.—To establish that an alien is exempt
12 from an application fee under this Act, the alien may sub-
13 mit to the Secretary the following relevant documents:

14 (1) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH AGE.—To es-
15 tablish that an alien meets an age requirement, the
16 alien may provide proof of identity, as described in
17 subsection (a), that establishes that the alien is 18
18 years of age or younger.

19 (2) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH INCOME.—To
20 establish the alien’s income, the alien may provide—

21 (A) employment records or other records of
22 earned income, including records that have been
23 maintained by the Social Security Administra-
24 tion, the Internal Revenue Service, or any other
25 Federal, State, or local government agency;

1 (B) bank records; or

2 (C) at least two sworn affidavits from indi-
3 viduals who are not related to the alien and
4 who have direct knowledge of the alien's work
5 and income that contain—

6 (i) the name, address, and telephone
7 number of the affiant; and

8 (ii) the nature and duration of the re-
9 lationship between the affiant and the
10 alien.

11 (3) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH FOSTER CARE,
12 LACK OF FAMILIAL SUPPORT, OR SERIOUS, CHRONIC
13 DISABILITY.—To establish that the alien is in foster
14 care, lacks parental or familial support, or has a se-
15 rious, chronic disability, the alien may provide at
16 least two sworn affidavits from individuals who are
17 not related to the alien and who have direct knowl-
18 edge of the circumstances that contain—

19 (A) a statement that the alien is in foster
20 care, otherwise lacks any parental or other fa-
21 miliar support, or has a serious, chronic dis-
22 ability, as appropriate;

23 (B) the name, address, and telephone num-
24 ber of the affiant; and

1 (C) the nature and duration of the rela-
2 tionship between the affiant and the alien.

3 (h) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING QUALIFICATION FOR
4 HARDSHIP EXEMPTION.—To establish that an alien satis-
5 fies one of the criteria for the hardship exemption set forth
6 in section 104(a)(2)(C), the alien may submit to the Sec-
7 retary at least two sworn affidavits from individuals who
8 are not related to the alien and who have direct knowledge
9 of the circumstances that warrant the exemption, that
10 contain—

11 (1) the name, address, and telephone number of
12 the affiant; and

13 (2) the nature and duration of the relationship
14 between the affiant and the alien.

15 (i) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING SERVICE IN THE
16 UNIFORMED SERVICES.—To establish that an alien has
17 served in the Uniformed Services for at least 2 years and,
18 if discharged, received an honorable discharge, the alien
19 may submit to the Secretary—

20 (1) a Department of Defense form DD-214;

21 (2) a National Guard Report of Separation and
22 Record of Service form 22;

23 (3) personnel records for such service from the
24 appropriate Uniformed Service; or

1 (4) health records from the appropriate Uni-
2 formed Service.

3 (j) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING EARNED INCOME.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—An alien may satisfy the
5 earned income requirement under section
6 104(a)(1)(C)(iii) by submitting records that—

7 (A) establish compliance with such require-
8 ment; and

9 (B) have been maintained by the Social Se-
10 curity Administration, the Internal Revenue
11 Service, or any other Federal, State, or local
12 government agency.

13 (2) OTHER DOCUMENTS.—An alien who is un-
14 able to submit the records described in paragraph
15 (1) may satisfy the earned income requirement by
16 submitting at least two types of reliable documents
17 that provide evidence of employment or other forms
18 of earned income, including—

19 (A) bank records;

20 (B) business records;

21 (C) employer or contractor records;

22 (D) records of a labor union, day labor
23 center, or organization that assists workers in
24 employment;

1 (E) sworn affidavits from individuals who
2 are not related to the alien and who have direct
3 knowledge of the alien’s work, that contain—

4 (i) the name, address, and telephone
5 number of the affiant; and

6 (ii) the nature and duration of the re-
7 lationship between the affiant and the
8 alien;

9 (F) remittance records; or

10 (G) any other evidence determined to be
11 credible by the Secretary.

12 (k) **AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT USE OF CERTAIN**
13 **DOCUMENTS.**—If the Secretary determines, after publica-
14 tion in the Federal Register and an opportunity for public
15 comment, that any document or class of documents does
16 not reliably establish identity or that permanent resident
17 status under this Act (whether on a conditional basis, or
18 without the conditional basis as provided in section
19 104(c)(2)) is being obtained fraudulently to an unaccept-
20 able degree, the Secretary may prohibit or restrict the use
21 of such document or class of documents.

22 **SEC. 308. RULEMAKING.**

23 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the
24 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall pub-
25 lish in the Federal Register interim final rules imple-

1 menting this Act, which shall allow eligible individuals to
2 immediately apply for relief under this Act. Notwith-
3 standing section 553 of title 5, United States Code, the
4 regulation shall be effective, on an interim basis, imme-
5 diately upon publication, but may be subject to change and
6 revision after public notice and opportunity for a period
7 of public comment. The Secretary shall finalize such rules
8 not later than 180 days after the date of publication.

9 (b) PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—The require-
10 ments under chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code,
11 (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”)
12 shall not apply to any action to implement this Act.

13 **SEC. 309. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not disclose
15 or use information (including information provided during
16 administrative or judicial review) provided in applications
17 filed under this Act or in requests for DACA for the pur-
18 pose of immigration enforcement.

19 (b) REFERRALS PROHIBITED.—The Secretary, based
20 solely on information provided in an application for adjust-
21 ment of status under this Act (including information pro-
22 vided during administrative or judicial review) or an appli-
23 cation for DACA, may not refer an applicant to U.S. Im-
24 migration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and
25 Border Protection, or any designee of either such entity.

1 (c) LIMITED EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding sub-
2 sections (a) and (b), information provided in an applica-
3 tion for adjustment of status under this Act may be
4 shared with Federal security and law enforcement agen-
5 cies—

6 (1) for assistance in the consideration of an ap-
7 plication for adjustment of status under this Act;

8 (2) to identify or prevent fraudulent claims;

9 (3) for national security purposes; or

10 (4) for the investigation or prosecution of any
11 felony offense not related to immigration status.

12 (d) PENALTY.—Any person who knowingly uses, pub-
13 lishes, or permits information to be examined in violation
14 of this section shall be fined not more than \$10,000.

15 **SEC. 310. GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST ELIGIBLE APPLI-**
16 **CANTS.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish,
18 within U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, a pro-
19 gram to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible
20 nonprofit organizations that will use the funding to assist
21 eligible applicants under this Act by providing them with
22 the services described in subsection (b).

23 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded under
24 this section shall be used for the design and implementa-
25 tion of programs that provide—

1 (1) information to the public regarding the eli-
2 gibility and benefits of permanent resident status
3 under this Act (whether on a conditional basis, or
4 without the conditional basis as provided in section
5 104(c)(2)), particularly to individuals potentially eli-
6 gible for such status;

7 (2) assistance, within the scope of authorized
8 practice of immigration law, to individuals submit-
9 ting applications for adjustment of status under this
10 Act (whether on a conditional basis, or without the
11 conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)),
12 including—

13 (A) screening prospective applicants to as-
14 sess their eligibility for such status;

15 (B) completing applications and petitions,
16 including providing assistance in obtaining the
17 requisite documents and supporting evidence;
18 and

19 (C) providing any other assistance that the
20 Secretary or grantee considers useful or nec-
21 essary to apply for adjustment of status under
22 this Act (whether on a conditional basis, or
23 without the conditional basis as provided in sec-
24 tion 104(c)(2)); and

1 any status under any other provision of law for which the
2 alien may otherwise be eligible.

3 **SEC. 312. SUPPLEMENTARY SURCHARGE FOR APPOINTED**
4 **COUNSEL.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in section 302
6 and in cases where the applicant is exempt from paying
7 a fee under section 303(c), in any case in which a fee is
8 charged pursuant to this Act, an additional surcharge of
9 \$25 shall be imposed and collected for the purpose of pro-
10 viding appointed counsel to applicants seeking judicial re-
11 view of the Secretary’s decision to provisionally deny an
12 application under this Act.

13 (b) IMMIGRATION COUNSEL ACCOUNT.—There is es-
14 tablished in the general fund of the Treasury a separate
15 account which shall be known as the “Immigration Coun-
16 sel Account”. Fees collected under subsection (a) shall be
17 deposited into the Immigration Counsel Account and shall
18 remain available until expended for purposes of providing
19 appointed counsel as required under this Act.

20 (c) REPORT.—At the end of each 2-year period, be-
21 ginning with the establishment of this account, the Sec-
22 retary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the
23 Congress concerning the status of the account, including
24 any balances therein, and recommend any adjustment in
25 the prescribed fee that may be required to ensure that the

1 receipts collected from the fee charged for the succeeding
2 two years equal, as closely as possible, the cost of pro-
3 viding appointed counsel as required under this Act.

4 **SEC. 313. ANNUAL REPORT ON PROVISIONAL DENIAL AU-**
5 **THORITY.**

6 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
7 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of
8 Homeland Security shall submit to the Congress a report
9 detailing the number of applicants that receive—

- 10 (1) a provisional denial under this Act;
- 11 (2) a final denial under this Act without seek-
12 ing judicial review;
- 13 (3) a final denial under this Act after seeking
14 judicial review; and
- 15 (4) an approval under this Act after seeking ju-
16 dicial review.

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