

Broad Overview of Immigration Reform Bills

117th Congress Bills that Passed in the House:

In the 117th Congress, House Democrats used their majority to pass bipartisan immigration legislation that would have provided legal status for over 5 million immigrants:

H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act: Would provide a roadmap to citizenship for up to 4.4 million Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients, and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) recipients. Passed the House 228-197 with 9 Republican votes. (118th Congress: HR 16.)

H.R. 1603, Farm Workforce Modernization Act: Would provide a roadmap to citizenship for 1.5 million farmworkers and reform the H-2A visa program. Passed the House 247-174 with 30 Republican votes. (118th Congress: H.R. 4319)

H.R. 7946, the Veteran Service Recognition Act: Would allow deported veterans a way to return to the United States and obtain lawful permanent residence status; prevent the deportation of veterans; and allow immigrant servicemembers to naturalize during basic training. Passed the House 220-208 with 3 Republican votes. (118th Congress: H.R. 4569.)

H.R. 1573, Access to Counsel Act: Would ensure access to counsel for individuals with lawful status in the United States who are held in secondary inspection for over an hour. Passed the House 217-207. (118th Congress: H.R. 666.)

H.R. 1333, NO BAN Act: Would restrict the President's authority to suspend or restrict individuals from entering the United States based on their religion or country of origin and prohibit religious discrimination in various immigration-related decisions. Passed the House 218-208 with 1 Republican vote.

118th Congress Bills (list pulled from congress.gov):

Legalization:

H.R. 16. American Dream and Promise. Rep. Garcia (D-TX) (109 Co-sponsors, 105 Ds, 4 Rs). Dream and TPS Holders legalization.

H.R. 717. Repatriate Our Patriots Act. Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX) (21 Co-sponsors, 19 Ds, 2 Rs). Protects certain veterans of the Armed Forces from removal and expedites their naturalization.

H.R. 1386. Equal Citizenship for Children Act of 2023. Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY) (24 Co-sponsors, all Ds). Provides automatic citizenship for certain children born outside the United States.

H.R. 1451. Fight for the American Dream Act. Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ) (1 D Cosponsor). Allows DACA recipients to enlist in the armed forces and gain a pathway to permanent resident status.

H.R. 1511. Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929. Rep. Lofgren (D-CA) (75 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Expands eligibility to the registry program – providing a pathway to lawful permanent resident status to undocumented individuals who have resided in the United States for at least 7 years.

H.R. 1698. American Families United Act. Rep. Escobar (D – TX) (41 Co-sponsors, 39 Ds and 2 Rs). Legislation to legalize spouses of U.S. citizens.

H.R. 3043. Citizenship for Essential Workers Act. Rep. Castro (D-TX) (18 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Legalizes all essential workers.

H.R. 3194. U.S. Citizenship Act. Rep. Sanchez (D-CA) (114 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Biden immigration bill including a path to citizenship for undocumented, expands legal pathways, addresses root causes etc.

H.R. 3599. DIGNIDAD (Dignity) Act. Rep. Salazar (R-FL) (29 Co-sponsors, 21 Ds, 8 Rs). Bipartisan border security/legalization bill.

H.R.3911 - Ukrainian Adjustment Act of 2023. Rep. Keating (D-MA) (4 Co-sponsors, 3 Ds, 1 R). Provides a pathway to legal permanent resident status for certain Ukrainian nationals.

H.R.4048 - Venezuelan Adjustment Act. Rep. Soto (D-FL) (4 Co-sponsors, 2 Ds, 2 Rs). Provides a pathway to legal permanent resident status for certain Venezuelan nationals.

H.R. 4319. Farm Workforce Modernization Act. Rep. Lofgren (D-CA) (14 Co-sponsors, 10 Ds and 4 Rs). Legalization for farm workers.

H.R. 4569. Veteran Service Recognition Act. Rep. Takano (D-CA) (47 Co-sponsors, 45 Ds, 2 Rs) Allows noncitizen servicemembers to apply for naturalization during basic training and deported veterans to obtain green cards.

H.R. 4627. Afghan Adjustment Act. Rep. Miller-Meeks (R-IA) (45 Co-sponsors. 23 Dems and 22 Rs). Provides a pathway to legal permanent resident status for the Afghans brought to the United States under Operation Allies Welcome and creates a path for others leaving Afghanistan.

H.R.4694 - Protect Patriot Parents Act. Rep. Carbajal (D-CA) (2 Co-sponsors, 1 D, 1 R). Provides a pathway to legal permanent resident status for certain parents of servicemembers.

H.R.4722 - Protect Patriot Spouses Act. Rep. Soto (D-FL) (2 Co-sponsors, 1 D, 1 R). Provides a pathway to legal permanent resident status for certain military spouses.

H.R.6381 - Veterans Visa and Protection Act of 2023. Rep. Grijalva (D-AZ) (17 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Creates a visa to allow previously removed veterans to return to the United States and creates a pathway to legal permanent resident status for certain veterans in removal proceedings.

H.R.6480 – Strengthening our Workforce Act of 2023. Rep. Vasquez (D-NM) (3 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Provides a pathway to legal permanent resident status for individuals in certain professions.

Legal Immigration:

H.R. 560. Northern Marianas Population Stabilization Act. Del. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP-At Large) (3 Cosponsors, 2 Ds, 1 R). Provides Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Resident status to certain otherwise qualifying non-U.S. nationals.

H.R. 1033. Virgin Islands Visa Waiver Act of 2023. Del. Stacey Plaskett (Del. D-VI-At Large). Establishes a visa waiver program for the Virgin Islands.

H.R. 1420. To modify the requirement to remain outside of the United States for Commonwealth Only Transitional Workers, and for other purposes. Del. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP-At Large).

H.R. 1787. Carnivals are Real Entertainment Act. Rep. Zoe Lofgren (7 Co-sponsors, 4 Ds, 3 Rs). Makes workers with a traveling carnival or circus eligible for P visas.

H.R. 1832. Special Immigrant Visas for Afghan Fullbright Scholars Act of 2023. Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) (15 Co-sponsors, 14 Ds, 1 R). Amends the Afghan Allies Protection Act to provide special immigrant visas to certain Fullbright Scholars.

H.R. 2823. Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act of 2023. Rep. Ed Case (D-HI) (20 Co-sponsors, 19 Ds, 1 R). Exempts children of certain Filipino World War II veterans from the numerical limitations on immigrant visas.

H.R. 3274 - Ensuring Security for Military Spouses Act. Rep. Strickland (D-WA) (1 R Co-Sponsor) Streamlines naturalization timeline for spouses of active duty servicemembers.

H.R. 3442. Protecting Children of Long-Term Visa Holders. Rep. Ross (D-NC) (33 Co-sponsors 17 Rs and 16 Ds). Bill to protect and allow “Documented Dreamers” a path to adjust status.

H.R. 3544 - Remote Naturalization Act Rep. Torres (D-CA) (8 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Bill to allow for remote naturalization ceremonies.

H.R. 3808 - Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2023. Rep. Crow (D-CO) (17 Co-sponsors, 13 Ds, 4 Rs). Authorizes additional special immigrant visas for Afghan allies and makes additional improvements to the program.

H.R. 5155 - Temporary Family Visitation Act. Rep. Peters (D-CA) (16 Co-sponsors, 12 D, 4 R). Bill to create a family visitor visa.

H.R. 5560 - Reuniting Families Act. Rep. Chu (D-CA) (40 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Reforms the family-sponsored immigration system.

H.R. 5982 - GRATEFUL Act. Rep. Kamlanger-Dove (D-CA) (1 R Co-sponsor). Makes otherwise unused visas available to foreign national US embassy employees. Incorporated into NDAA and became Public Law No 118-31.

High Skilled Immigration:

H.R. 2827. Partner with Korea Act. Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-VA) (25 Co-sponsors, 20 Ds, 5 Rs). Establishes a high-skilled visa category for nationals of the Republic of Korea.

H.R. 3735 - Expanding Health Care Providers for Veterans Act. Rep. Tlaib (D-MI) (1 D Co-sponsor). Makes all employees of the VA exempt from the H-1B numerical cap.

H.R. 3986 - ICELAND Act. Rep. Pingree (D-ME) (5 Co-sponsors, 2 Ds, 3 Rs). Creates an E non-immigrant employment visa for Icelandic nationals.

H.R. 4358 - PHDs First Act. Rep. Thanedar (D-MI) (1 R Co-sponsor). Provides a streamlined path to permanent residence to certain Ph.D. holders and allows dual intent for Ph.D. F-1 students.

H.R. 4647 - High-skilled Immigration Reform for Employment Act. Rep. Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) (1 D Co-sponsor). Increases H-1B cap and exemptions and makes additional complementary changes.

H.R. 4942. Conrad 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act. Rep. Schneider (D-IL) (78 Co-sponsors, 62 Ds, 16 Rs). Reforms the Conrad 30 and Physician National Interest Waiver programs, which place foreign-born doctors in rural and medically underserved areas and give them a path to a green card. This bill makes the Conrad program permanent and expands and improves both programs.

H.R. 5477 - Keep STEM Talent Act of 2023. Rep. Foster (D-IL) (6 Co-sponsors, 5 D, 1 R). Provides a streamlined path to permanent residence to certain advanced STEM degree holders.

H.R. 6205 - Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act. Rep. Schneider (D-IL) (35 Co-sponsors, 31 Ds, 4 Rs). Recaptures unused immigrant visas for physicians and nurses.

Humanitarian:

H.R. 1325. Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act. Rep. Pingree (D-ME) (24 Co-sponsors, 23 D, 1 R). Provides employment authorization to asylum seekers.

H.R. 1381. American Dream Employment Act of 2023. Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-CA) (3 Co-sponsors, all Ds). Allows beneficiaries of DACA, DED, and TPS to serve as officers or employees of Congress.

H.R. 2913 - Lebanon TPS Act of 2023. Rep. Tlaib (D-MI) (2 Co-sponsors, both Ds). Designates Lebanon for Temporary Protected Status.

H.R. 2946 - Safe Zones Act of 2023. Rep. Gonzalez (D-TX). Revises credible fear standard and creates "safe zones" in Mexico and Guatemala for individuals to utilize seek protection within the United States without traveling to the border.

H.R. 3259 - RIDE for Ukraine Act. Rep. Quigley (D-IL) (9 Co-sponsors, 6 Ds, 3 Rs). Makes Ukrainian parolees eligible for REAL IDs.

H.R. 3934 - Uyghur Human Rights Protection Act. Rep. Wexton (D-VA) (17 Co-sponsors, 14 Ds, 3 Rs). Creates a Priority-2 refugee category for Uyghurs.

H.R. 4156 - Lady Liberty Act of 2023 Rep. Connolly (D-VA) (25 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Sets a floor for the number of refugees that must be allowed into the United States each fiscal year.

H.R. 4285. Protecting Vulnerable Immigrant Youth Act. Rep. Gomez (D-CA) (36 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Makes Special Immigrant Juveniles an uncapped category, allowing them to get green cards immediately.

H.R. 4309 - ASPIRE Act. Rep. Torres (D-NY) (2 Co-sponsors, both Ds). Provides expedited access to employment authorization to asylum seekers.

Detention & Enforcement:

H.R. 2374. New Way Forward Act. Rep. Garcia (D-IL) (32 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Reforms interior enforcement within the United States.

H.R. 2760. Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act. Rep. Jayapal (D-WA) (120 co-sponsors, all Democrats). Bill on detention reform.

H.R. 3050 - Fair Adjudications for Immigrants Act. Rep. Espaillat (D-NY) (21 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Amends the definition of “conviction” in the Immigration and Nationality Act.

H.R. 4954 - Immigrants’ Mental Health Act of 2023. Rep. Napolitano (C-CA) (10 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Bill to improve access to mental healthcare for immigrants detained by CBP as well as CBP officers and to provide mental health training to CBP officers.

H.R. 5166. Protecting Sensitive Locations Act. Rep. Espaillat (D-NY) (13 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Bill to prohibit immigration enforcement in certain “sensitive locations.”

H.R. 5605 - Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection Custody Act. Rep. Ruiz (D-CA). Bill to require CPB to perform an initial health screening on detainees and provides minimum standards for CBP detention facilities.

H.R. 6282 - Humane Accountability Act. Rep. Vasquez (D-NM) (8 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Bill requiring a report on assault, abuse, sexual assault, and deaths occurring in DHS and ORR facilities as well as providing a summary of complaints filed about those facilities.

Protection & Integration

H.R. 63. GRACE Act. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX). Establishes family separation as an exceptional and extremely unusual hardship for cancellation of removal.

H.R. 1571. Compact Impact Fairness Act of 2023. Rep. Ed Case (D-HI) (6 Co-sponsors, 3 Ds and 3 Rs). Allows citizens of the Freely Associated States lawfully residing in the U.S. to access certain federal public benefits.

H.R. 1643. New Deal for New Americans. Rep. Meng (D-NY) (31 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Legislation to establish an office of New Americans and fund real immigrant integration.

H.R. 1828. POWER Act. Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA) (24 Co-sponsors, all Ds). Protects certain victims of crime or serious labor violations from removal.

H.R. 4170. Lifting Immigrant Families Through Benefits Access Restoration (LIFT the BAR) Act. Rep. Jayapal (D-WA). (103 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Bill to eliminate the five-year bar on access to benefits for lawfully present immigrants.

H.R. 5008. Health Equity and Access under the Law (HEAL) for Immigrant Families Act. Rep. Jayapal (D-WA) (73 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Bill to eliminate barriers to health care for immigrants.

H.R.5025 - National Office of New Americans Act. Rep. Meng (D-NY) (33 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Bill to create an office within the Executive Office of the President to welcome and integrate immigrants and refugees in the United States.

H.R. 5145. WISE Act. Rep. Jayapal (D-WA) (37 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Bill to protect victims of violence.

H.R. 5248. Southeast Asian Deportation Relief Act. Rep. Chu (D-CA) (15 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Bill to end deportations of Southeast Asian American refugees.

H.R. 5471 - Honor Our Commitment Act of 2023. Rep. Correa (D-CA) (1 R Co-sponsor) Bill to end deportations of certain Vietnamese nationals.

H.R. 5797 - Protecting Immigrants From Legal Exploitation Act of 2023. Rep. Foster (D-IL) (20 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Bill to provide punishments for immigration-related fraud and provide relief to victims of fraud.

Court Reform/Legal Counsel Bills

H.R. 666. Access to Counsel Act. Rep. Jayapal (D-WA) (62 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Bill to ensure access to counsel for those in CBP custody.

H.R. 2697. Fairness to Freedom Act of 2023. Rep. Torres (D-CA) (33 Co-sponsors, all Democrats). Appointed counsel bill.

H.R. 6145 - Immigration Court Efficiency and Children's Court Act of 2023. Rep. Goldman (D-NY) (3 Co-sponsors, 1 D, 2 Rs). Establishes a Children's Court to exclusively handle immigration cases of unaccompanied children.