

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 531

To designate El Salvador under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to render nationals of such foreign state eligible for temporary protected status under such section.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 8, 2001

Mr. BERMAN (for himself, Mr. THOMAS M. DAVIS of Virginia, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. FRANK, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To designate El Salvador under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to render nationals of such foreign state eligible for temporary protected status under such section.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) On January 13, 2001, an earthquake with
6 a magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale and a depth
7 of 60 kilometers occurred in El Salvador. The epi-

1 center was located 65 miles southwest of San
2 Miguel.—

3 (2) The earthquake affected more than 1.1 mil-
4 lion Salvadorans, causing more than 700 deaths and
5 4,500 injuries.

6 (3) As a result of the earthquake, more than
7 70,000 homes were destroyed and many thousands
8 of people are homeless and living in temporary shel-
9 ters.—

10 (4) The earthquake and subsequent aftershocks
11 and landslides have blocked many roads, destroyed
12 numerous hospitals, health clinics, and schools, and
13 caused more than \$1,000,000,000 in damage.

14 (5) The earthquake occurred at a time when
15 the Salvadorans were still struggling to recover from
16 the devastating effects of Hurricane Mitch, which hit
17 in 1998.

18 (6) Salvadoran nationals living in the United
19 States send more than \$1,700,000,000 annually in
20 remittances to the people of El Salvador, helping
21 them to recover from this and previous natural dis-
22 asters, civil unrest, and economic disruptions.

23 (7) These remittances have had a stabilizing ef-
24 fect on El Salvador's economic and social well-being.

1 (8) These remittances have augmented the as-
2 sistance that the Government of the United States
3 sends to El Salvador, reducing the need to expend
4 taxpayers' dollars to help stabilize an important
5 neighbor to the south.

6 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION FOR PURPOSES OF GRANTING TEM-**
7 **PORARY PROTECTED STATUS TO SALVA-**
8 **DORANS.**

9 (a) DESIGNATION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 244
11 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
12 1254a), El Salvador shall be treated as if it had
13 been designated under subsection (b) of such sec-
14 tion, subject to the provisions of this section.

15 (2) PERIOD OF DESIGNATION.—The initial pe-
16 riod of such designation shall begin on the date of
17 the enactment of this Act and shall remain in effect
18 for 1 year. During such initial period, subparagraph
19 (A) of section 244(b)(3) of the Immigration and Na-
20 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(A)) shall apply
21 to the Attorney General with respect to such des-
22 ignation, but subparagraph (B) of such section shall
23 not. After the termination of such initial period, sub-
24 paragraphs (A), (B), and (C) of such section shall

1 govern periodic review, termination, and extensions
2 of such designation.

3 (b) ALIENS ELIGIBLE.—In applying section 244 of
4 the Immigration and Nationality Act pursuant to the des-
5 ignation under this Act, subject to section 244(e)(3) of
6 such Act, an alien who is a national of El Salvador meets
7 the requirement of section 244(e)(1) of such Act only if—

8 (1) the alien has been continuously physically
9 present in the United States since January 13,
10 2001;

11 (2) the alien is admissible as an immigrant, ex-
12 cept as otherwise provided under section
13 244(c)(2)(A) of such Act, and is not ineligible for
14 temporary protected status under section
15 244(c)(2)(B) of such Act; and

16 (3) the alien registers for temporary protected
17 status in a manner which the Attorney General shall
18 establish.

19 (c) CONSENT TO TRAVEL ABROAD.—The Attorney
20 General shall give the prior consent to travel abroad de-
21 scribed in section 244(f)(3) of the Immigration and Na-
22 tionality Act to an alien who is granted temporary pro-
23 tected status pursuant to the designation under this Act,
24 if the alien establishes to the satisfaction of the Attorney
25 General that emergency and extenuating circumstances

1 beyond the control of the alien require the alien to depart
2 for a brief, temporary trip abroad. An alien returning to
3 the United States in accordance with such an authoriza-
4 tion shall be treated the same as any other returning alien
5 provided temporary protected status under section 244 of
6 such Act.

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