

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2944

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for in-State tuition rates for refugees and asylees.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 20, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. EVANS, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. VELA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. MCNERNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

---

## A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for in-State tuition rates for refugees and asylees.

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 “To Offer Refugees Col-  
3 lege Help (TORCH) Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. IN-STATE TUITION RATES FOR REFUGEES, ASYLEES,**  
5 **AND CERTAIN SPECIAL IMMIGRANTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Higher Education Act of  
7 1965 is amended by inserting after section 135 (20 U.S.C.  
8 1015d) the following:

9 **“SEC. 135A. IN-STATE TUITION RATES FOR REFUGEES,**  
10 **ASYLEES, AND CERTAIN SPECIAL IMMI-**  
11 **GRANTS.**

12 “(a) REQUIREMENT.—In the case of an alien de-  
13 scribed in subsection (b) whose domicile is in a State that  
14 receives assistance under this Act, such State shall not  
15 charge such alien tuition for attendance at a public insti-  
16 tution of higher education in the State at a rate that is  
17 greater than the rate charged for residents of the State.

18 “(b) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—An alien is described in  
19 this subsection if the alien was granted—

20 “(1) refugee status and admitted to the United  
21 States under section 207 of the Immigration and  
22 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157);

23 “(2) asylum under section 208 of such Act (8  
24 U.S.C. 1158); or

1           “(3) special immigrant status under section  
2           101(a)(27) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) pur-  
3           suant to—

4                   “(A) section 1244 of the National Defense  
5                   Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (8  
6                   U.S.C. 1157 note);

7                   “(B) section 1059 of the National Defense  
8                   Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (8  
9                   U.S.C. 1101 note); or

10                   “(C) section 602 of the Afghan Allies Pro-  
11                   tection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note).

12           “(c) LIMITATIONS.—The requirement under sub-  
13           section (a) shall apply with respect to an alien only until  
14           the alien has established residency in the State, and only  
15           with respect to the first State in which the alien was first  
16           domiciled after being admitted into the United States as  
17           a refugee or special immigrant or being granted asylum.

18           “(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take ef-  
19           fect at each public institution of higher education in a  
20           State that receives assistance under this Act for the first  
21           period of enrollment at such institution that begins after  
22           July 1, 2017.”.

23           (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
24           tents for the Higher Education Act of 1965 is amended

- 1 by inserting after the item relating to section 135 the fol-
- 2 lowing:

“Sec. 135A. In-State tuition rates for refugees, asylees, and certain special im-  
migrants.”.

○