116TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

S. 599

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to aliens associated with criminal gangs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

February 28, 2019

Mr. Cotton (for himself, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Grassley, and Mr. Tillis) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to aliens associated with criminal gangs, 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.
- 4 This Act may be cited as "Singh's Law".
- 5 SEC. 2. GROUNDS OF INADMISSIBILITY AND DEPORT-
- 6 ABILITY FOR ALIEN GANG MEMBERS.
- 7 (a) Definition of Gang Member.—Section 101(a)
- 8 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
- 9 1101(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1	"(53) The term 'criminal gang' means an ongoing
2	group, club, organization, or association of 5 or more per-
3	sons that has as one of its primary purposes the commis-
4	sion of 1 or more of the following criminal offenses and
5	the members of which engage, or have engaged within the
6	past 5 years, in a continuing series of such offenses, or
7	that has been designated as a criminal gang by the Sec-
8	retary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the At-
9	torney General, as meeting these criteria. The offenses de-
10	scribed, whether in violation of Federal or State law or
11	foreign law and regardless of whether the offenses oc-
12	curred before, on, or after the date of the enactment of
13	this paragraph, are the following:
14	"(A) A 'felony drug offense' (as defined in sec-
15	tion 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21
16	U.S.C. 802)).
17	"(B) An offense under section 274 (relating to
18	bringing in and harboring certain aliens), section
19	277 (relating to aiding or assisting certain aliens to
20	enter the United States), or section 278 (relating to
21	importation of alien for immoral purpose).
22	"(C)(i) A violent crime for which the term of
23	imprisonment is at least 1 year, including—
24	"(I) any offense that has, as an element,
25	the use, attempted use, or threatened use of

physical force against the person or property of another; or

"(II) any other offense in which the record of conviction establishes that the offender used physical force against the person or property of another in the course of committing the offense.

- "(ii) The entry or remaining in a building, structure or habitation, including vehicles and other movable enclosures, with the intent to commit a crime therein (commonly known as 'burglary').
- "(D) A crime relating to obstruction of justice, tampering with or retaliating against a person, victim, or informant, perjury, or subornation of perjury.

"(E) Any conduct punishable under sections 1028 and 1029 of title 18, United States Code (relating to fraud and related activity in connection with identification documents or access devices), sections 1581 through 1594 of such title (relating to peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons), section 1951 of such title (relating to interference with commerce by threats or violence), section 1952 of such title (relating to interstate and foreign travel or transportation in aid of racketeering enterprises), section 1956 of such title (relating to the laundering

1	of monetary instruments), section 1957 of such title
2	(relating to engaging in monetary transactions in
3	property derived from specified unlawful activity), or
4	sections 2312 through 2315 of such title (relating to
5	interstate transportation of stolen motor vehicles or
6	stolen property).
7	"(F) A conspiracy or attempt to commit an of-
8	fense described in subparagraphs (A) through (C),
9	or soliciting, facilitating, or aiding and abetting any
10	such offense.".
11	(b) Inadmissibility.—Section 212(a)(2) of such Act
12	(8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end
13	the following:
14	"(J) ALIENS ASSOCIATED WITH CRIMINAL
15	GANGS.—Any alien is inadmissible who a con-
16	sular officer, the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
17	rity, or the Attorney General knows or has rea-
18	son to believe—
19	"(i) to be, or to have been, a member
20	of a criminal gang or to have participated
21	in the activities of a criminal gang, know-
22	ing or having reason to know that such ac-
23	tivities will promote, further, aid, or sup-
24	port the illegal activity of the criminal
25	gang; and

1	"(ii) has been convicted of a mis-
2	demeanor or a felony in the United
3	States.".
4	(c) Deportability.—Section 237(a)(2) of such Act
5	(8 U.S.C. 1227(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end
6	the following:
7	"(G) ALIENS ASSOCIATED WITH CRIMINAL
8	GANGS.—Any alien is deportable who—
9	"(i) is, or has been, a member of a
10	criminal gang or has participated in the
11	activities of a criminal gang, knowing or
12	having reason to know that such activities
13	will promote, further, aid, or support the
14	illegal activity of the criminal gang; and
15	"(ii) has been convicted of a mis-
16	demeanor or a felony in the United
17	States.".
18	SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF CRIMINAL GANGS.
19	(a) In General.—Chapter 2 of title II of the Immi-
20	gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182) is amended
21	by inserting after section 219 the following:
22	"SEC. 220. DESIGNATION OF CRIMINAL GANG.
23	"(a) Designation.—
24	"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland
25	Security, in consultation with the Attorney General,

may designate a group, club, organization, or association of 5 or more persons as a criminal gang if the Secretary finds that their conduct is described in section 101(a)(53).

"(2) Procedure.—

"(A) NOTIFICATION.—Seven days before making a designation under this subsection, the Secretary shall, by classified communication, notify the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore, majority leader, and minority leader of the Senate, and the members of the relevant committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, in writing, of the intent to designate a group, club, organization, or association of 5 or more persons under this subsection and the factual basis therefor.

"(B) Publication in the Federal Register.—The Secretary shall publish the designation in the Federal Register seven days after providing the notification under subparagraph (A).

23 "(3) Record.—

1	"(A) IN GENERAL.—In making a designa-
2	tion under this subsection, the Secretary shall
3	create an administrative record.
4	"(B) Classified information.—The
5	Secretary may consider classified information in
6	making a designation under this subsection.
7	Classified information shall not be subject to
8	disclosure for such time as it remains classified,
9	except that such information may be disclosed
10	to a court ex parte and in camera for purposes
11	of judicial review under subsection (c).
12	"(4) Period of Designation.—
13	"(A) IN GENERAL.—A designation under
14	this subsection shall be effective for all purposes
15	until revoked under paragraph (5) or (6) or set
16	aside pursuant to subsection (c).
17	"(B) REVIEW OF DESIGNATION UPON PE-
18	TITION.—
19	"(i) In General.—The Secretary
20	shall review the designation of a criminal
21	gang under the procedures set forth in
22	clauses (iii) and (iv) if the designated
23	group, club, organization, or association of
24	5 or more persons files a petition for rev-

1	ocation within the petition period described
2	in clause (ii).
3	"(ii) Petition Period.—For pur-
4	poses of clause (i)—
5	"(I) if the designated group,
6	club, organization, or association of 5
7	or more persons has not previously
8	filed a petition for revocation under
9	this subparagraph, the petition period
10	begins 2 years after the date on which
11	the designation was made; or
12	"(II) if the designated group,
13	club, organization, or association of 5
14	or more persons has previously filed a
15	petition for revocation under this sub-
16	paragraph, the petition period begins
17	2 years after the date of the deter-
18	mination made under clause (iv) on
19	that petition.
20	"(iii) Procedures.—Any group,
21	club, organization, or association of 5 or
22	more persons that submits a petition for
23	revocation under this subparagraph of its
24	designation as a criminal gang must pro-

1	vide evidence in that petition that it is not
2	described in section 101(a)(53).
3	"(iv) Determination.—
4	"(I) In general.—Not later
5	than 180 days after receiving a peti-
6	tion for revocation submitted under
7	this subparagraph, the Secretary shall
8	make a determination as to such rev-
9	ocation.
10	"(II) Classified informa-
11	TION.—The Secretary may consider
12	classified information in making a de-
13	termination in response to a petition
14	for revocation. Classified information
15	shall not be subject to disclosure for
16	such time as it remains classified, ex-
17	cept that such information may be
18	disclosed to a court ex parte and in
19	camera for purposes of judicial review
20	under subsection (c).
21	"(III) Publication of deter-
22	MINATION.—A determination made by
23	the Secretary under this clause shall
24	be published in the Federal Register.

1	"(IV) Procedures.—Any rev-
2	ocation by the Secretary shall be
3	made in accordance with paragraph
4	(6).
5	"(C) OTHER REVIEW OF DESIGNATION.—
6	"(i) In general.—If in a 5-year pe-
7	riod no review has taken place under sub-
8	paragraph (B), the Secretary shall review
9	the designation of the criminal gang in
10	order to determine whether such designa-
11	tion should be revoked pursuant to para-
12	graph (6).
13	"(ii) Procedures.—If a review does
14	not take place pursuant to subparagraph
15	(B) in response to a petition for revocation
16	that is filed in accordance with that sub-
17	paragraph, then the review shall be con-
18	ducted pursuant to procedures established
19	by the Secretary. The results of such re-
20	view and the applicable procedures shall
21	not be reviewable in any court.
22	"(iii) Publication of results of
23	REVIEW.—The Secretary shall publish any
24	determination made pursuant to this sub-
25	paragraph in the Federal Register.

1	"(5) REVOCATION BY ACT OF CONGRESS.—The
2	Congress, by an Act of Congress, may block or re-
3	voke a designation made under paragraph (1).
4	"(6) REVOCATION BASED ON CHANGE IN CIR-
5	CUMSTANCES.—
6	"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may re-
7	voke a designation made under paragraph (1)
8	at any time, and shall revoke a designation
9	upon completion of a review conducted pursu-
10	ant to subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph
11	(4) if the Secretary finds that—
12	"(i) the group, club, organization, or
13	association of 5 or more persons that has
14	been designated as a criminal gang is no
15	longer described in section 101(a)(53); or
16	"(ii) the national security or the law
17	enforcement interests of the United States
18	warrants a revocation.
19	"(B) Procedure.—The procedural re-
20	quirements of paragraphs (2) and (3) shall
21	apply to a revocation under this paragraph. Any
22	revocation shall take effect on the date specified
23	in the revocation or upon publication in the
24	Federal Register if no effective date is specified.

1 "(7) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—The revocation 2 of a designation under paragraph (5) or (6) shall 3 not affect any action or proceeding based on conduct 4 committed prior to the effective date of such revoca-5 tion.

"(b) AMENDMENTS TO A DESIGNATION.—

- "(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may amend a designation under this subsection if the Secretary finds that the group, club, organization, or association of 5 or more persons has changed its name, adopted a new alias, dissolved and then reconstituted itself under a different name or names, or merged with another group, club, organization, or association of 5 or more persons.
- "(2) PROCEDURE.—Amendments made to a designation in accordance with paragraph (1) shall be effective upon publication in the Federal Register. Paragraphs (2), (4), (5), (6), (7), and (8) of subsection (a) shall also apply to an amended designation.
- "(3) Administrative record shall be corrected to include the amendments as well as any additional relevant information that supports those amendments.

"(4) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—The Sec-retary may consider classified information in amend-ing a designation in accordance with this subsection. Classified information shall not be subject to disclo-sure for such time as it remains classified, except that such information may be disclosed to a court ex parte and in camera for purposes of judicial review under subsection (c) of this section.

"(c) Judicial Review of Designation.—

- "(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after publication in the Federal Register of a designation, an amended designation, or a determination in response to a petition for revocation, the designated group, club, organization, or association of 5 or more persons may seek judicial review in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.
- "(2) Basis of Review.—Review under this subsection shall be based solely upon the administrative record, except that the Government may submit, for ex parte and in camera review, classified information used in making the designation, amended designation, or determination in response to a petition for revocation.

1	"(3) Scope of Review.—The Court shall hold
2	unlawful and set aside a designation, amended des-
3	ignation, or determination in response to a petition
4	for revocation the court finds to be—
5	"(A) arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of dis-
6	cretion, or otherwise not in accordance with
7	law;
8	"(B) contrary to constitutional right,
9	power, privilege, or immunity;
10	"(C) in excess of statutory jurisdiction, au-
11	thority, or limitation, or short of statutory
12	right;
13	"(D) lacking substantial support in the ad-
14	ministrative record taken as a whole or in clas-
15	sified information submitted to the court under
16	paragraph (2); or
17	"(E) not in accord with the procedures re-
18	quired by law.
19	"(4) Judicial review invoked.—The pend-
20	ency of an action for judicial review of a designation,
21	amended designation, or determination in response
22	to a petition for revocation shall not affect the appli-
23	cation of this section, unless the court issues a final
24	order setting aside the designation, amended des-

1	ignation, or determination in response to a petition
2	for revocation.
3	"(d) Definitions.—As used in this section—
4	"(1) the term 'classified information' has the
5	meaning given that term in section 1(a) of the Clas-
6	sified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.);
7	"(2) the term 'national security' means the na-
8	tional defense, foreign relations, or economic inter-
9	ests of the United States;
10	"(3) the term 'relevant committees' means—
11	"(A) the Committee on the Judiciary of
12	the Senate; and
13	"(B) the Committee on the Judiciary of
14	the House of Representatives; and
15	"(4) the term 'Secretary' means the Secretary
16	of Homeland Security, in consultation with the At-
17	torney General.".
18	(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
19	for such Act is amended by inserting after the item relat-
20	ing to section 219 the following:
	"Sec. 220. Designation of criminal gang.".
21	SEC. 4. MANDATORY DETENTION OF CRIMINAL GANG MEM-
22	BERS.
23	(a) In General.—Section 236(c)(1) of the Immigra-
24	tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226(c)(1)) is amend-
25	ed—

- 1 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking "or" at
- 2 the end;
- 3 (2) in subparagraph (D), by inserting "or" at
- 4 the end; and
- 5 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the fol-
- 6 lowing:
- 7 "(E) is inadmissible under section
- 8 212(a)(2)(J) or deportable under section
- 9 217(a)(2)(G),".
- 10 (b) Annual Report.—Not later than March 1 of
- 11 each year (beginning 1 year after the date of the enact-
- 12 ment of this Act), the Secretary of Homeland Security,
- 13 after consultation with the appropriate Federal agencies,
- 14 shall submit a report to the Committees on the Judiciary
- 15 of the House of Representatives and of the Senate on the
- 16 number of aliens detained under the amendments made
- 17 by subsection (a).
- 18 SEC. 5. ASYLUM CLAIMS BASED ON GANG AFFILIATION.
- 19 (a) Inapplicability of Restriction on Removal
- 20 TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES.—Section 241(b)(3)(B) of the
- 21 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
- 22 1251(b)(3)(B)) is amended, in the matter preceding
- 23 clause (i), by inserting "who is described in section
- 24 212(a)(2)(J)(i) or section 237(a)(2)(G)(i) or who is" after
- 25 "to an alien".

1	(b) Ineligibility for Asylum.—Section
2	208(b)(2)(A) of such Act (8 U.S.C. $1158(b)(2)(A)$) (as
3	amended by section 201 of this Act) is further amended—
4	(1) in clause (v), by striking "or" at the end;
5	(2) by redesignating clause (vi) as clause (vii);
6	and
7	(3) by inserting after clause (v) the following:
8	"(vi) the alien is described in section
9	212(a)(2)(J)(i) or section $237(a)(2)(G)(i)$;
10	or''.
11	SEC. 6. TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS.
12	Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act
13	(8 U.S.C. 1254a) is amended—
14	(1) by striking "Attorney General" each place
15	such term appears and inserting "Secretary of
16	Homeland Security";
17	(2) in subparagraph $(e)(2)(B)$ —
18	(A) in clause (i), by striking "or" at the
19	end;
20	(B) in clause (ii), by striking the period
21	and inserting "; or"; and
22	(C) by adding at the end the following:
23	"(iii) the alien is, or at any time has
24	been, described in section $212(a)(2)(J)$ or
25	section $237(a)(2)(G)$."; and

1	(3) in subsection (d)—
2	(A) by striking paragraph (3); and
3	(B) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end
4	the following: "The Secretary of Homeland Se-
5	curity may detain an alien provided temporary
6	protected status under this section whenever
7	appropriate under any other provision of law.".
8	SEC. 7. SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE VISAS.
9	Section 101(a)(27)(J)(iii) of the Immigration and
10	Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(J)(iii)) is amend-
11	ed—
12	(1) in subclause (I), by striking "and";
13	(2) in subclause (II), by adding "and" at the
14	end; and
15	(3) by adding at the end the following:
16	"(III) no alien who is, or at any
17	time has been, described in section
18	212(a)(2)(J) or section $237(a)(2)(G)$
19	shall be eligible for any immigration
20	benefit under this subparagraph;".
21	SEC. 8. PAROLE.
22	An alien described in section 212(a)(2)(J) of the Im-
23	migration and Nationality Act, as added by subsection (b),
24	shall not be eligible for parole under section $212(d)(5)(A)$
25	of such Act unless—

1	(1) the alien is assisting or has assisted the
2	United States Government in a law enforcement
3	matter, including a criminal investigation; and
4	(2) the alien's presence in the United States is
5	required by the Government with respect to such as-
6	sistance.
7	SEC. 9. RONIL SINGH MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE
8	GRANT PROGRAM.
9	(a) Grants Authorized.—From amounts made
10	available pursuant to subsection (g), the Attorney General,
11	acting through the Office of Justice Programs, may award
12	grants to States or units of local government to provide
13	additional personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual
14	support, training, technical assistance, and information
15	systems for—
16	(1) combating criminal and youth gangs
17	through law enforcement measures; and
18	(2) law enforcement gang-prevention activities.
19	(b) Certification.—A State or unit of local govern-
20	ment may not receive a grant under this section unless—
21	(1) the State or local government—
22	(A) consistently notifies U.S. Immigration
23	and Customs Enforcement before releasing
24	criminal aliens who are unlawfully present in
25	the United States; and

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1	(B) allows U.S. Immigration and Customs
2	Enforcement officers to access the detention fa-
3	cilities of the State or local government for the
4	purpose of interviewing or taking into custody
5	an alien described in subparagraph (A); and
6	(2) the Attorney General determines that the
7	State or local government has a cooperative relation-
8	ship with all Federal immigration authorities, in-
9	cluding U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforce-
10	ment.
11	(c) Program Assessment.—
12	(1) In general.—Each program using grant
13	funding authorized under this section shall carry out
14	a program assessment, which shall be developed con-
15	sistent with guidelines established by the Attorney
16	General, in coordination with the National Institute
17	of Justice.
18	(2) Waiver.—The Attorney General may waive
19	the application of paragraph (1) with respect to a
20	program that, in the opinion of the Attorney Gen-
21	eral, is not of sufficient size to justify a full program

(d) PROHIBITED USES.—Notwithstanding any other
provision of this Act, funds provided under this section
may not be used, directly or indirectly for—

assessment.

- 1 (1) security enhancements or any equipment to 2 any nongovernmental entity that is not engaged in 3 criminal justice or public safety; or
- (2) vehicles (excluding police cruisers), vessels 5 (excluding police boats), aircraft (excluding police helicopters), luxury items, real estate, construction 6 7 projects (other than penal or correctional institu-8 tions), or similar items unless the Attorney General 9 exigent certifies that extraordinary and 10 cumstances exist that make such uses essential to the maintenance of public safety and good order.
- 12 (e) Administrative Costs.—Not more than 10 percent of any grant awarded under this section may be used 14 for costs incurred to administer such grant.

(f) Grant Accountability.—

(1) Defined term.—In this subsection the term "unresolved audit finding" means an audit report finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that the grantee has used grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved during the 12-month period beginning on the date on which the final audit report is issued.

(2) Audit requirement.—

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1	(A) In general.—Beginning on the first
2	day of the first fiscal year beginning after the
3	date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector
4	General of the Department of Justice shall—
5	(i) conduct audits of grant recipients
6	under this section to prevent waste, fraud,
7	and abuse of funds by grantees; and
8	(ii) determine the appropriate number
9	of grantees to be audited each year.
10	(B) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A grant re-
11	cipient under this section that has an unre-
12	solved audit finding shall not be eligible to re-
13	ceive grant funds under this section during the
14	first 2 fiscal years beginning after the end of
15	the 12-month period described in paragraph
16	(1).
17	(C) Reimbursement.—If an entity is
18	awarded grant funds under this section during
19	the period during which the entity is barred
20	from receiving grants under subparagraph (B),
21	the Attorney General shall—
22	(i) deposit an amount equal to the
23	amount of the grant funds that were im-
24	properly awarded to the grantee into the
25	General Fund of the Treasury; and

[(ii) seek to recoup the costs of the re-
2	payment to the fund from the grant recipi-
3	ent that was erroneously awarded grant
1	funds.

(D) Priority.—In awarding grants under this section, the Attorney General shall give priority to eligible applicants that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years before submitting an application for such a grant.

(3) Conference expenditures.—

(A) LIMITATION.—Amounts appropriated to the Department of Justice pursuant to subsection (g) may not be used by the Attorney General, or by any individual or entity awarded discretionary funds through a cooperative agreement under this section, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than \$20,000 in funds made available to the Department of Justice, unless the Deputy Attorney General or the appropriate Assistant Attorney General, Director, or principal deputy (as designated by the Deputy Attorney General) provides prior written authorization that the funds may be expended to host the conference.

1	(B) Written approval.—Written ap-
2	proval under subparagraph (A) shall include a
3	written estimate of all costs associated with the
4	conference, including the cost of all food, bev-
5	erages, audio-visual equipment, honoraria for
6	speakers, and entertainment.
7	(C) Report.—The Deputy Attorney Gen-
8	eral shall submit an annual report to the Com-
9	mittee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the
10	Committee on the Judiciary of the House of
11	Representatives that details all conference ex-
12	penditures approved under this paragraph.
13	(4) Annual Certification.—Beginning on
14	the first day of the first fiscal year after the date
15	of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General
16	shall submit an annual certification to the Com-
17	mittee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Com-
18	mittee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Com-
19	mittee on the Judiciary of the House of Representa-
20	tives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the
21	House of Representatives that—
22	(A) indicates whether—
23	(i) all audits conducted by the Office
24	of the Inspector General pursuant to para-

graph (2) have been completed and re-

1	viewed by the appropriate Assistant Attor-
2	ney General or Director;
3	(ii) all mandatory exclusions required
4	under paragraph (2)(B) have been issued;
5	and
6	(iii) all reimbursements required
7	under paragraph (2)(C) have been made;
8	and
9	(B) includes a list of any grant recipients
10	excluded under paragraph (2)(B) from the pre-
11	vious year.
12	(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
13	authorized to be appropriated \$200,000,000, for each of
14	the fiscal years 2020 through 2023, for grants under this
15	section. Amounts appropriated pursuant to this subsection
16	shall remain available until expended.
17	SEC. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE.
18	The amendments made by this Act shall take effect
19	on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply
20	to acts that occur before, on, or after the date of the enact-
21	ment of this Act.

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