

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 572

To establish the National Office of New Americans within the Executive Office of the President, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2021

Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COOPER, Ms. TITUS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. CARSON, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. JONES, Ms. CHU, Ms. BUSH, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. OMAR, Mr. SIRES, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. PORTER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CASE, Mr. CROW, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. CICILLINE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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

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## A BILL

To establish the National Office of New Americans within the Executive Office of the President, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Office of New  
3 Americans Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means  
7 the Director of the National Office of New Ameri-  
8 cans.

9 (2) **FEDERAL AGENCY.**—The term “Federal  
10 agency” has the meaning given the term “agency”  
11 in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

12 (3) **OFFICE.**—The term “Office” means the  
13 National Office of New Americans established by  
14 section 3(a).

15 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS.**

16 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established within  
17 the Executive Office of the President an office to be known  
18 as the “National Office of New Americans”.

19 (b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the Office are the  
20 following:

21 (1) To welcome and support immigrants and  
22 refugees in the United States.

23 (2) To promote and support immigrant and ref-  
24 ugee integration into, and inclusion in, the social,  
25 cultural, economic, and civic life of the United  
26 States.

1           (3) To ensure that the Federal Government and  
2 Federal agencies promote the pursuit of United  
3 States citizenship among immigrants and refugees.

4           (4) To ensure access to quality English lan-  
5 guage learning programs that support the successful  
6 integration of immigrant adults, including by en-  
7 hancing—

8                 (A) employment and career prospects and  
9                 economic integration; and

10                (B) social integration in local communities  
11                and participation in civic life, including engage-  
12                ment with State and local governments, schools,  
13                and private and nonprofit community institu-  
14                tions.

15           (5) To improve access to workforce development  
16 programs, including by ensuring that such programs  
17 meet the demand and the unique language, training,  
18 and educational needs of immigrants and refugees.

19           (6) To coordinate the efforts of Federal, State,  
20 and local entities to support the effective social, eco-  
21 nomic, linguistic, and civic integration of immi-  
22 grants, refugees, and the children of immigrants and  
23 refugees.

24           (7) To provide advice and leadership to the  
25 President, Members of Congress, and other Federal

1 Government officials on the challenges and opportu-  
2 nities facing such entities with respect to immigrant  
3 and refugee integration.

4 (8) To evaluate the scale, quality, and effective-  
5 ness of Federal Government efforts with respect to  
6 immigrant and refugee social and economic integra-  
7 tion, including access to United States citizenship,  
8 English language learning, education, and workforce  
9 development programs.

10 (9) To identify the anticipated effects of new  
11 Federal policies on existing integration efforts and  
12 advise the President on how to address potential in-  
13 tegration needs and the effects of such policies.

14 (10) With respect to immigrant and refugee in-  
15 tegration efforts, to consult on a biannual basis with  
16 State and local government officials on challenges  
17 and opportunities presented by such efforts.

18 (11) With respect to the activities described in  
19 paragraphs (8) through (10), to ensure the inclusion  
20 of the perspectives of immigrants and refugees.

21 (12) To submit to the President and the appro-  
22 priate committees of Congress a biannual report  
23 that describes the activities of the Office and the re-  
24 sults of the consultation processes described in para-  
25 graphs (8) through (11).

1 (c) DIRECTOR.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be headed  
3 by a Director, who shall be appointed by the Presi-  
4 dent, by and with the advice and consent of the Sen-  
5 ate.

6 (2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director shall—

7 (A) establish policies, objectives, and prior-  
8 ities for the Office with respect to immigrant  
9 and refugee integration;

10 (B) with the assistance of the Deputy Di-  
11 rector for Citizenship and Inclusion, the Deputy  
12 Director for Workforce and the Economy, the  
13 Deputy Director for Children’s Integration Suc-  
14 cess, and the Associate Director of State and  
15 Local Affairs, carry out the purposes of the Of-  
16 fice, as described in subsection (b);

17 (C) serve as the Chair of the Federal Ini-  
18 tiative for New Americans established under  
19 section 4;

20 (D) make recommendations to the Presi-  
21 dent on changes in the organization, manage-  
22 ment, programs, and budget of the Federal  
23 agencies to promote the integration of immi-  
24 grants and refugees;

1           (E) with respect to efforts to promote  
2           United States citizenship and the integration of  
3           immigrants and refugees, consult, support, and  
4           coordinate with State and local governments;  
5           and

6           (F) serve as a member of the Domestic  
7           Policy Council and the National Economic  
8           Council.

9           (3) POWERS OF THE DIRECTOR.—In carrying  
10          out the responsibilities under paragraph (2) and the  
11          purposes under subsection (b), the Director may—

12           (A) select, appoint, employ, and fix com-  
13           pensation of such officers and employees as  
14           may be necessary to carry out such responsibil-  
15           ities and purposes;

16           (B) with the concurrence of the head of  
17           the applicable Federal agency, direct the tem-  
18           porary reassignment within the Federal Govern-  
19           ment of personnel employed by such Federal  
20           agency;

21           (C) use for administrative purposes, on a  
22           reimbursable basis, the available services, equip-  
23           ment, personnel, and facilities of Federal, State,  
24           and local agencies;

1 (D) procure the services of experts and  
2 consultants, in accordance with section 3109 of  
3 title 5, United States Code (relating to appoint-  
4 ments in the Federal service) at rates of com-  
5 pensation for individuals not to exceed the daily  
6 equivalent of the rate of pay payable for level  
7 GS-18 of the General Schedule under section  
8 5332 of title 5, United States Code;

9 (E) accept and use donations of property  
10 from Federal, State, and local government  
11 agencies;

12 (F) use the mail in the same manner as  
13 other Federal agencies; and

14 (G) monitor the implementation of immi-  
15 grant and refugee integration-related activities  
16 of the Federal Government, including by—

17 (i) conducting program and perform-  
18 ance audits and evaluations of each Fed-  
19 eral agency; and

20 (ii) requesting assistance from the In-  
21 spector General of the applicable Federal  
22 agency in such audits and evaluations.

23 (d) DEPUTY DIRECTORS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Office  
25 a Deputy Director for Citizenship and Inclusion, a

1 Deputy Director for Workforce and the Economy,  
2 and a Deputy Director for Children’s Integration  
3 and Success, each of whom shall be appointed by the  
4 President, in consultation with the Director.

5 (2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

6 (A) DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CITIZENSHIP  
7 AND INCLUSION.—The Deputy Director for  
8 Citizenship and Inclusion shall, among other  
9 duties as assigned by the Director, assist the  
10 Director in promoting—

11 (i) inclusion of immigrants and refu-  
12 gees in the social, economic, and civic life  
13 of their communities and the United  
14 States; and

15 (ii) access to United States citizen-  
16 ship.

17 (B) DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR WORKFORCE  
18 AND THE ECONOMY.—The Deputy Director for  
19 Workforce and the Economy shall, among other  
20 duties as assigned by the Director, assist the  
21 Director in—

22 (i) promoting participation of immi-  
23 grants and refugees in the United States  
24 workforce; and



1                   (ii) increasing the contributions of im-  
2                   migrants and refugees to the United States  
3                   economy.

4                   (C) DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S  
5                   INTEGRATION SUCCESS.—The Deputy Director  
6                   for Children's Integration Success shall, among  
7                   other duties as assigned by the Director, assist  
8                   the Director in ensuring that Federal policies  
9                   and programs intended to support the healthy  
10                  development and educational success of children  
11                  are effective in reaching and serving the chil-  
12                  dren of immigrant families.

13                  (e) BUREAU OF STATE AND LOCAL AFFAIRS.—

14                   (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within  
15                  the Office a Bureau of State and Local Affairs.

16                   (2) ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR.—

17                   (A) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau of State  
18                   and Local Affairs shall be headed by an Asso-  
19                   ciate Director of State and Local Affairs, who  
20                   shall be appointed by the President, in con-  
21                   sultation with the Director.

22                   (B) DUTIES.—The Associate Director of  
23                   State and Local Affairs shall, among other du-  
24                   ties as assigned by the Director, assist the Di-  
25                   rector in coordinating the efforts of State and

1 local entities to support the economic, linguistic,  
2 and civic integration of immigrants, refugees,  
3 and the children of immigrants and refugees.

4 (f) LIMITATION.—An individual may not serve as Di-  
5 rector, Deputy Director for Citizenship and Inclusion,  
6 Deputy Director for Workforce and the Economy, Deputy  
7 Director for Children’s Integration Success, or Associate  
8 Director of State and Local Affairs while serving in any  
9 other position in the Federal Government.

10 (g) ACCESS BY CONGRESS.—The establishment of  
11 the Office within the Executive Office of the President  
12 shall not affect access to the Office by a Member of Con-  
13 gress or any member of a committee of the Senate or the  
14 House of Representatives, including access to—

15 (1) any information, document, or study in the  
16 possession of, or conducted by or at the direction of,  
17 the Director; or

18 (2) personnel of the Office.

19 **SEC. 4. FEDERAL INITIATIVE ON NEW AMERICANS.**

20 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
21 the confirmation of the Director of the Office, the Director  
22 shall establish within the Office a Federal Initiative on  
23 New Americans (referred to in this section as the “Initia-  
24 tive”).

25 (b) PURPOSE.—The purposes of the Initiative are—

1           (1) to welcome and support immigrants and  
2 refugees in the United States;

3           (2) to establish a coordinated Federal program  
4 to respond effectively to immigrant and refugee inte-  
5 gration issues; and

6           (3) to advise and assist the Director in identi-  
7 fying and implementing the necessary policies to  
8 carry out such program.

9           (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Initiative shall be composed  
10 of—

11           (1) the Director, who shall serve as Chair;

12           (2) the Secretary of the Treasury;

13           (3) the Attorney General;

14           (4) the Secretary of Commerce;

15           (5) the Secretary of Labor;

16           (6) the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
17 ices;

18           (7) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-  
19 opment;

20           (8) the Secretary of Education;

21           (9) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

22           (10) the Secretary of State;

23           (11) the Director of the Office of Refugee Re-  
24 settlement;

1           (12) the Director of the Small Business Admin-  
2           istration;

3           (13) the Director of the Office of Management  
4           and Budget;

5           (14) the Director of the Bureau of Consumer  
6           Financial Protection; and

7           (15) any other individual—

8                 (A) invited by the Director to participate;  
9                 and

10                (B) who occupies a position listed under  
11                level I or II of the Executive Schedule, as pro-  
12                vided in sections 5312 and 5313 of title 5,  
13                United States Code.

14           (d) DUTIES.—

15                (1) IN GENERAL.—The Initiative shall meet at  
16                the call of the Chair and perform such duties as the  
17                Chair reasonably requires.

18                (2) COORDINATED RESPONSE TO IMMIGRANT  
19                AND REFUGEE ISSUES.—The Initiative shall join  
20                with Federal agencies in providing a coordinated  
21                Federal response to adequately address matters that  
22                affect the lives of immigrant and refugee families  
23                and local communities with growing immigrant and  
24                refugee populations, including access to—

25                         (A) English language learning;

- 1 (B) adult education and workforce train-  
2 ing;
- 3 (C) occupational licensure;
- 4 (D) early childhood care and education;
- 5 (E) elementary, secondary, and postsec-  
6 ondary education;
- 7 (F) health care;
- 8 (G) naturalization;
- 9 (H) civic engagement;
- 10 (I) immigration assistance and legal serv-  
11 ices;
- 12 (J) economic development;
- 13 (K) language access services; and
- 14 (L) other services the Director identifies as  
15 aiding the integration of immigrants and refu-  
16 gees into the social, cultural, economic, and  
17 civic life of the United States.

18 (3) LIAISON WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the  
20 Initiative shall serve as a liaison to the Federal  
21 agency of the member to ensure that the Fed-  
22 eral agency coordinates with and responds to  
23 the recommendations of the Initiative in a time-  
24 ly and meaningful manner.

1 (B) DUTIES OF A LIAISON.—The duties of  
2 each member as a Federal agency liaison in-  
3 clude—

4 (i) developing, for the applicable Fed-  
5 eral agency, immigrant and refugee inte-  
6 gration goals and indicators;

7 (ii) implementing the biannual con-  
8 sultation process described in section  
9 3(b)(10) by consulting with the State and  
10 local counterparts of the Federal agency;

11 (iii) reporting to the Initiative on the  
12 progress made by the Federal agency in  
13 achieving the goals and indicators de-  
14 scribed in clause (i); and

15 (iv) upon request by the Director and  
16 subject to laws governing disclosure of in-  
17 formation, providing such information as  
18 may be required to carry out the respon-  
19 sibilities of the Director and the functions  
20 of the Office.

21 (4) RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INITIATIVE.—

22 Not later than 1 year after the date on which the  
23 Initiative becomes fully operational, and every 2  
24 years thereafter, the Director shall submit to Con-  
25 gress a report that includes the following:

1 (A) Findings from the consultation process  
2 described in section 3(b)(10), including a de-  
3 scription of the immigrant and refugee integra-  
4 tion opportunities offered by, and integration  
5 challenges facing, State and local governments.

6 (B) An assessment of the effects of, and  
7 recommendations with respect to, pending legis-  
8 lation and executive branch policy proposals.

9 (C) A description of the possible effects of  
10 pending legislation and executive branch policy  
11 proposals on immigrant and refugee integra-  
12 tion.

13 (D) An identification of any Federal pro-  
14 gram or policy that has a negative impact on  
15 immigrants, refugees, and local communities  
16 with growing immigrant and refugee popu-  
17 lations, as compared to the general population,  
18 and recommendations for changes to any such  
19 program or policy.

20 (E) Recommendations on legislative solu-  
21 tions to better support the successful integra-  
22 tion of immigrants and refugees and the chil-  
23 dren of immigrants and refugees.

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