

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2165

To provide Nicaraguan political prisoners who arrived in the United States on February 9, 2023, and their immediate family members with certain benefits available to refugees.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 22, 2023

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KAINÉ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide Nicaraguan political prisoners who arrived in the United States on February 9, 2023, and their immediate family members with certain benefits available to refugees.

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 the “Nicaragua Political
5 Prisoner Support Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINED TERM.**

7 In this section, the term “eligible Nicaraguan na-
8 tional” means an alien—

1 (1)(A)(i) who is a citizen or national of Nica-
2 ragua; or

3 (ii) in the case of an alien having no nation-
4 ality, whose former or last habitual residence was in
5 Nicaragua; and

6 (B) who arrived in the United States on Feb-
7 ruary 9, 2023, as part of a political prisoner release,
8 and was granted a 2-year humanitarian parole by
9 the United States Government; or

10 (2) who is the parent, spouse, or child of an in-
11 dividual described in paragraph (1).

12 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**

13 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an eligi-
14 ble Nicaraguan national is eligible for the benefits de-
15 scribed in section 4 if—

16 (1) such individual has completed security and
17 law enforcement background checks to the satisfac-
18 tion of the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

19 (2) such individual's parole—

20 (A) has not been terminated by the Sec-
21 retary of Homeland Security; or

22 (B) was terminated while a renewal appli-
23 cation was pending for such parole and the sole
24 reason for such termination was that the re-
25 newal application had not yet been processed.

1 **SEC. 4. BENEFITS.**

2 An individual described in section 3 is eligible for—

3 (1) resettlement assistance, entitlement pro-
4 grams, and other benefits that are available to refu-
5 gees admitted under section 207 of the Immigration
6 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) to the same ex-
7 tent as such refugees;

8 (2) child welfare services described in section
9 412(d)(2) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(d)(2)); and

10 (3) a driver’s license or identification card
11 under section 202 of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (di-
12 vision B of Public Law 109–13; 49 U.S.C. 30301
13 note), notwithstanding subsection (c)(2)(B) of such
14 Act.

15 **SEC. 5. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

16 Nothing in this Act may be construed—

17 (1) to preclude an eligible Nicaraguan national
18 from applying for or receiving any immigration bene-
19 fits to which such individual is otherwise eligible; or

20 (2) to entitle an eligible Nicaraguan national to
21 lawful permanent resident status.

22 **SEC. 6. EXEMPTION FROM THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION**
23 **ACT.**

24 The requirements under chapter 35 of title 44,
25 United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Paper-
26 work Reduction Act”) shall not apply to any action taken

- 1 to implement this section involving the translation of an
- 2 approved collection of information into a new language.

