

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 696

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reform temporary protected status, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 23, 2025

Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, and Mr. VAN DREW) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and Transportation and Infrastructure, 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

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reform temporary protected status, 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 the “End Unaccountable
5 Amnesty Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS.**

2 (a) POWER TO DESIGNATE A FOREIGN STATE.—Section
3 244(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
4 U.S.C. 1254a(b)) is amended—

5 (1) by striking paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) and
6 inserting the following:

7 “(1) INITIAL DESIGNATION.—For purposes of
8 this section, a foreign state may be designated upon
9 the enactment of an Act that satisfies the following
10 requirements:

11 “(A) The Act shall contain a finding—

12 “(i) that there is an ongoing armed
13 conflict within the state and, due to such
14 conflict, requiring the return of aliens who
15 are nationals of that state (or to the part
16 of the state) would pose a serious threat to
17 their personal safety;

18 “(ii) that—

19 “(I) there has been an earth-
20 quake, flood, drought, epidemic, or
21 other immediately life-threatening en-
22 vironmental disaster in the state re-
23 sulting in a substantial, but tem-
24 porary, disruption of living conditions
25 in the area affected;

8 “(iii) that there exist extraordinary
9 and temporary conditions in the foreign
10 state that prevent aliens who are nationals
11 of the state from returning to the state in
12 safety and that permitting the aliens to re-
13 main temporarily in the United States is
14 not contrary to the national interest of the
15 United States.

16 “(B) The Act shall include—

17 “(i) an estimate of the number of na-
18 tionals of the foreign state who are (or
19 within the effective period of the designa-
20 tion are likely to become) eligible for tem-
21 porary protected status under this section;

22 “(ii) such nationals’ immigration sta-
23 tus in the United States; and

1 “(iii) a time period for the effectiveness
2 of the designation that is not greater
3 than 12 months.

4 “(2) TERMINATION.—

5 “(A) TIMELY TERMINATION.—If an initial
6 designation of a foreign state is not extended
7 under paragraph (3), the initial designation
8 shall terminate at the end of the time period
9 described in paragraph (1)(B)(iii).

10 “(B) EARLY TERMINATION.—For purposes
11 of this section, the designation of a foreign
12 state shall be terminated upon the enactment of
13 an Act that contains a finding that the foreign
14 state (or part of such foreign state) no longer
15 meets the conditions for designation under
16 paragraph (1)(A).

17 “(3) EXTENSION.—For purposes of this section,
18 the time period for the effectiveness of the designation
19 of a foreign state may be extended upon the
20 enactment of an Act that includes—

21 “(A) a finding that the conditions for designation
22 under paragraph (1)(A) continue to be met; and

1 “(B) a time period for the effectiveness of
2 the extension that is not greater than 12
3 months.”; and

4 (2) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking “of the At-
5 torney General” and inserting “made in any Act”.

6 (b) ALIENS LACKING LAWFUL IMMIGRATION STA-
7 TUS.—Section 244(c)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Na-
8 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)(2)(B)) is amended—

9 (1) in clause (i), by striking “, or” at the end
10 and inserting a semicolon;

11 (2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the
12 end and inserting “; or”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(iii) the alien lacks a lawful immigra-
15 tion status.”.

16 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 244 of the
17 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a et seq.)
18 is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (d)(3), by striking “If the At-
20 torney General terminates the designation of a for-
21 eign state (or part of such foreign state) under sub-
22 section (b)(3)(B)” and inserting “If the designation
23 of a foreign state (or part of such foreign state) is
24 terminated under section 244(b)(2)”;
25 and

 (2) in subsection (i)(1)—

6 (d) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Section 244 of the
7 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a), as
8 amended by subsections (a) and (b) of this section, is fur-
9 ther amended by striking “Attorney General” each place
10 it appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Secu-
11 rity”.

12 SEC. 3. UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

13 (a) REPATRIATION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN
14 CHILDREN.—

19 (A) in subsection (a)—

20 (i) in paragraph (2)—

21 (I) by amending the heading to
22 read as follows: "RULES FOR UNAC-
23 COMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—";

(II) in subparagraph (A)—

(bb) in clause (i), by inserting “and” at the end;

8 (cc) in clause (ii), by strik-
9 ing “; and” and inserting a pe-
0 riod; and

11 (dd) by striking clause (iii);
12 and

(III) in subparagraph (B)—

14 (aa) in the matter preceding
15 clause (i), by striking “(8 U.S.C.
16 1101 et seq.) may—” and insert-
17 ing “(8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.)—”;

18 (bb) in clause (i), by insert-
19 ing before “permit such child to
20 withdraw” the following: “may”;
21 and

22 (cc) in clause (ii), by insert-
23 ing before “return such child”
24 the following: “shall”; and

25 (ii) in paragraph (5)(D)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “, except for an unaccompanied alien child from a contiguous country subject to exceptions under subsection (a)(2),” and inserting “who does not meet the criteria listed in paragraph (2)(A)”;

(II) in clause (i), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, which shall include a hearing before an immigration judge not later than 14 days after being screened under paragraph (4)”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “believed not to meet the criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A)”; and

(II) in subparagraph (B), by inserting before the period the following:

“and does not meet the criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A)”;

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking “an unaccompanied alien child in custody shall” and all that follows, and inserting the following: “an unaccompanied alien child in custody—

“(A) in the case of a child who does not meet the criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A), shall transfer the custody of such child to the Secretary of Health and Human Services not later than 30 days after determining that such child is an unaccompanied alien child who does not meet such criteria; or

“(B) in the case of a child who meets the criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A), may transfer the custody of such child to the Secretary of Health and Human Services after determining that such child is an unaccompanied alien child who meets such criteria.”; and

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (3), by inserting at the end the following:

**“(D) INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS
WITH WHOM CHILDREN ARE PLACED.—**

“(i) INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED

1 a child with an individual, the Secretary of
2 Health and Human Services shall provide
3 to the Secretary of Homeland Security, re-
4 garding the individual with whom the child
5 will be placed, information on—

6 “(I) the name of the individual;

7 “(II) the social security number
8 of the individual;

9 “(III) the date of birth of the in-
10 dividual;

11 “(IV) the location of the individ-
12 ual’s residence where the child will be
13 placed;

14 “(V) the immigration status of
15 the individual, if known; and

16 “(VI) contact information for the
17 individual.

18 “(ii) ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARY
19 OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—Not later than
20 30 days after receiving the information
21 listed in clause (i), the Secretary of Home-
22 land Security, upon determining that an
23 individual with whom a child is placed is
24 unlawfully present in the United States
25 and not in removal proceedings pursuant

1 to chapter 4 of title II of the Immigration
2 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1221 et
3 seq.), shall initiate such removal pro-
4 ceedings.”; and

5 (ii) in paragraph (5)—

6 (I) by inserting after “to the
7 greatest extent practicable” the fol-
8 lowing: “(at no expense to the Gov-
9 ernment)”;
9 and

10 (II) by striking “have counsel to
11 represent them” and inserting “have
12 access to counsel to represent them”.

13 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
14 by this section shall apply to any unaccompanied
15 alien child (as such term is defined in section 462(g)
16 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.
17 279(g))) apprehended on or after the date that is 30
18 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

19 (b) SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS FOR IM-
20 MIGRANTS UNABLE TO REUNITE WITH EITHER PAR-
21 ENT.—Section 101(a)(27)(J) of the Immigration and Na-
22 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(J)) is amended—

23 (1) in clause (i), by striking “, and whose reuni-
24 fication with 1 or both of the immigrant’s parents

1 is not viable due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or
2 a similar basis found under State law”; and

3 (2) in clause (iii)—

4 (A) in subclause (I), by striking “and” at
5 the end;

6 (B) in subclause (II), by inserting “and”
7 after the semicolon; and

8 (C) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(III) an alien may not be grant-
10 ed special immigrant status under this
11 subparagraph if the alien’s reunifica-
12 tion with any one parent or legal
13 guardian is not precluded by abuse,
14 neglect, abandonment, or any similar
15 cause under State law;”.

16 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
17 tion shall be construed to limit the following procedures
18 or practices relating to an unaccompanied alien child (as
19 defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act
20 of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))):

21 (1) Screening of such a child for a credible fear
22 of return to his or her country of origin.

23 (2) Screening of such a child to determine
24 whether he or she was a victim of trafficking.

5 SEC. 4. REPEAL OF CANCELLATION OF REMOVAL; ADJUST-

6 MENT OF STATUS.

7 (a) REPEAL.—Section 240A of the Immigration and
8 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229b) is repealed.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Immigration
10 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended—
11 (1) in section 101(a)—

12 (A) in paragraph

13 "or 240A(a)"; and

18 (2) by striking section 201(b)(1)(D);

19 (3) in section 240—

20 (A) in subsection (b)(7), by striking
21 “240A,”;

1 (C) in subsection (e), by striking “and sec-
2 tion 240A”;

3 (4) in section 240B(d)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking
5 “240A,”; and

6 (B) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) by striking “240A or”; and

8 (ii) by striking “under section
9 240A(b)(2), or”;

10 (5) in section 242(a)(2)(B)(i), by striking
11 “240A,”;

12 (6) by striking section 244(e);

13 (7) in section 245(l)(7), by striking
14 “240A(b)(2),” and

15 (8) by striking section 504(k)(3).

16 SEC. 5. PROHIBITED IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS FOR
17 AIR TRAVEL.

18 (a) PROHIBITED IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS AT
19 AIRPORT SECURITY CHECKPOINTS.—The Administrator
20 of the Transportation Security Administration may not
21 accept as valid proof of identification a prohibited identi-
22 fication document at an airport security checkpoint.

23 (b) PROHIBITION ON OPERATIONS FOR CERTAIN AIR
24 CARRIERS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 401 of title 49,
2 United States Code, is amended by inserting after
3 section 40130 the following:

4 **“§ 40131. Prohibition on operations for air carriers
5 allowing use of prohibited identification
6 documents”**

7 “An air carrier or foreign air carrier may not operate
8 an aircraft in foreign air transportation or land such air-
9 craft at any airport in the United States if the air carrier
10 or foreign air carrier allows the use of a prohibited identi-
11 fication document (as such term is defined in section 5
12 of the End Executive Branch Amnesty Act of 2025) as
13 identification to board such aircraft.”.

14 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
15 chapter 401 of title 49, United States Code, is
16 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
17 tion 40130 the following:

“40131. Prohibition on operations for air carriers allowing use of prohibited identification documents.”.

18 (c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “prohib-
19 ited identification document” means any of the following:

20 (1) The U.S. Customs and Border Protection
21 One Mobile App.

22 (2) A Notice to Appear issued by the Depart-
23 ment of Homeland Security.

1 (3) A Notice to Report issued by the Depart-
2 ment of Homeland Security.

3 **SEC. 6. IMMIGRATION PAROLE REFORM.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 212(d)(5) of the Immi-
5 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 “(5)(A) Except as provided in subparagraphs
8 (B) and (C) and section 214(f), the Secretary of
9 Homeland Security, in the discretion of the Sec-
10 retary, may temporarily parole into the United
11 States any alien applying for admission to the
12 United States who is not present in the United
13 States, under such conditions as the Secretary may
14 prescribe, on a case-by-case basis, and not according
15 to eligibility criteria describing an entire class of po-
16 tential parole recipients, for urgent humanitarian
17 reasons or significant public benefit. Parole granted
18 under this subparagraph may not be regarded as an
19 admission of the alien. When the purposes of such
20 parole have been served in the opinion of the Sec-
21 retary, the alien shall immediately return or be re-
22 turned to the custody from which the alien was pa-
23 roled. After such return, the case of the alien shall
24 be dealt with in the same manner as the case of any
25 other applicant for admission to the United States.

1 “(B) The Secretary of Homeland Security may
2 grant parole to any alien who—

3 “(i) is present in the United States without
4 lawful immigration status;

5 “(ii) is the beneficiary of an approved peti-
6 tion under section 203(a);

7 “(iii) is not otherwise inadmissible or re-
8 movable; and

9 “(iv) is the spouse or child of a member of
10 the Armed Forces serving on active duty.

11 “(C) The Secretary of Homeland Security may
12 grant parole to any alien—

13 “(i) who is a national of the Republic of
14 Cuba and is living in the Republic of Cuba;

15 “(ii) who is the beneficiary of an approved
16 petition under section 203(a);

17 “(iii) for whom an immigrant visa is not
18 immediately available;

19 “(iv) who meets all eligibility requirements
20 for an immigrant visa;

21 “(v) who is not otherwise inadmissible; and

22 “(vi) who is receiving a grant of parole in
23 furtherance of the commitment of the United
24 States to the minimum level of annual legal mi-
25 gration of Cuban nationals to the United States

1 specified in the U.S.-Cuba Joint Communiqué
2 on Migration, done at New York September 9,
3 1994, and reaffirmed in the Cuba-United
4 States: Joint Statement on Normalization of
5 Migration, Building on the Agreement of Sep-
6 tember 9, 1994, done at New York May 2,
7 1995.

8 “(D) The Secretary of Homeland Security may
9 grant parole to an alien who is returned to a contig-
10 uous country under section 235(b)(2)(C) to allow
11 the alien to attend the alien’s immigration hearing.
12 The grant of parole shall not exceed the time re-
13 quired for the alien to be escorted to, and attend,
14 the alien’s immigration hearing scheduled on the
15 same calendar day as the grant, and to immediately
16 thereafter be escorted back to the contiguous coun-
17 try. A grant of parole under this subparagraph shall
18 not be considered for purposes of determining
19 whether the alien is inadmissible under this Act.

20 “(E) For purposes of determining an alien’s eli-
21 gibility for parole under subparagraph (A), an ur-
22 gent humanitarian reason shall be limited to cir-
23 cumstances in which the alien establishes that—

24 “(i)(I) the alien has a medical emergency;
25 and

1 “(II)(aa) the alien cannot obtain necessary
2 treatment in the foreign state in which the alien
3 is residing; or

4 “(bb) the medical emergency is life-threat-
5 ening and there is insufficient time for the alien
6 to be admitted through the normal visa process;

7 “(ii) the alien is the parent or legal guard-
8 ian of an alien described in clause (i) and the
9 alien described in clause (i) is a minor;

10 “(iii) the alien is needed in the United
11 States in order to donate an organ or other tis-
12 sue for transplant and there is insufficient time
13 for the alien to be admitted through the normal
14 visa process;

15 “(iv) the alien has a close family member
16 in the United States whose death is imminent
17 and the alien could not arrive in the United
18 States in time to see such family member alive
19 if the alien were to be admitted through the
20 normal visa process;

21 “(v) the alien is seeking to attend the fu-
22 neral of a close family member and the alien
23 could not arrive in the United States in time to
24 attend such funeral if the alien were to be ad-
25 mitted through the normal visa process;

1 “(vi) the alien is an adopted child with an
2 urgent medical condition who is in the legal
3 custody of the petitioner for a final adoption-re-
4 lated visa and whose medical treatment is re-
5 quired before the expected award of a final
6 adoption-related visa; or

7 “(vii) the alien is a lawful applicant for ad-
8 justment of status under section 245 and is re-
9 turning to the United States after temporary
10 travel abroad.

11 “(F) For purposes of determining an alien’s eli-
12 gibility for parole under subparagraph (A), a signifi-
13 cant public benefit may be determined to result from
14 the parole of an alien only if—

15 “(i) the alien has assisted (or will assist,
16 whether knowingly or not) the United States
17 Government in a law enforcement matter;

18 “(ii) the alien’s presence is required by the
19 Government in furtherance of such law enforce-
20 ment matter; and

21 “(iii) the alien is inadmissible, does not
22 satisfy the eligibility requirements for admission
23 as a nonimmigrant, or there is insufficient time
24 for the alien to be admitted through the normal
25 visa process.

1 “(G) For purposes of determining an alien’s eli-
2 gibility for parole under subparagraph (A), the term
3 ‘case-by-case basis’ means that the facts in each in-
4 dividual case are considered and parole is not grant-
5 ed based on membership in a defined class of aliens
6 to be granted parole. The fact that aliens are consid-
7 ered for or granted parole one-by-one and not as a
8 group is not sufficient to establish that the parole
9 decision is made on a ‘case-by-case basis’.

10 “(H) The Secretary of Homeland Security may
11 not use the parole authority under this paragraph to
12 parole an alien into the United States for any reason
13 or purpose other than those described in subpara-
14 graphs (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F).

15 “(I) An alien granted parole may not accept
16 employment, except that an alien granted parole
17 pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) is authorized
18 to accept employment for the duration of the parole,
19 as evidenced by an employment authorization docu-
20 ment issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

21 “(J) Parole granted after a departure from the
22 United States shall not be regarded as an admission
23 of the alien. An alien granted parole, whether as an
24 initial grant of parole or parole upon reentry into
25 the United States, is not eligible to adjust status to

1 lawful permanent residence or for any other immi-
2 gration benefit if the immigration status the alien
3 had at the time of departure did not authorize the
4 alien to adjust status or to be eligible for such ben-
5 efit.

6 “(K)(i) Except as provided in clauses (ii) and
7 (iii), parole shall be granted to an alien under this
8 paragraph for the shorter of—

9 “(I) a period of sufficient length to accom-
10 plish the activity described in subparagraph
11 (D), (E), or (F) for which the alien was grant-
12 ed parole; or

13 “(II) 1 year.

14 “(ii) Grants of parole pursuant to subparagraph
15 (A) may be extended once, in the discretion of the
16 Secretary, for an additional period that is the short-
17 er of—

18 “(I) the period that is necessary to accom-
19 plish the activity described in subparagraph (E)
20 or (F) for which the alien was granted parole;
21 or

22 “(II) 1 year.

23 “(iii) Aliens who have a pending application to
24 adjust status to permanent residence under section
25 245 may request extensions of parole under this

1 paragraph, in 1-year increments, until the applica-
2 tion for adjustment has been adjudicated. Such pa-
3 role shall terminate immediately upon the denial of
4 such adjustment application.

5 “(L) The total number of aliens granted parole
6 under this paragraph during any fiscal year may not
7 exceed 1,000.

8 “(M) Not later than 90 days after the last day
9 of each fiscal year, the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
10 rity shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary
11 of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary
12 of the House of Representatives and make available
13 to the public, a report—

14 “(i) identifying the total number of aliens
15 paroled into the United States under this para-
16 graph during the previous fiscal year; and

17 “(ii) containing information and data re-
18 garding all aliens paroled during such fiscal
19 year, including—

20 “(I) the duration of parole;

21 “(II) the type of parole; and

22 “(III) the current status of the aliens
23 so paroled.”.

24 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
2 graph (2), this section and the amendments made by
3 this section shall take effect on the date that is 30
4 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

5 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding paragraph
6 (1), each of the following exceptions apply:

7 (A) Any application for parole or advance
8 parole filed by an alien before the date of the
9 enactment of this Act shall be adjudicated
10 under the law that was in effect on the date on
11 which the application was properly filed and
12 any approved advance parole shall remain valid
13 under the law that was in effect on the date on
14 which the advance parole was approved.

15 (B) Section 212(d)(5)(J) of the Immigration
16 and Nationality Act, as added by sub-
17 section (a), shall take effect on the date of the
18 enactment of this Act.

19 (C) Aliens who were paroled into the
20 United States pursuant to section 212(d)(5)(A)
21 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
22 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)(A)) before January 1, 2023,
23 shall continue to be subject to the terms of pa-
24 role that were in effect on the date on which
25 their respective parole was approved.

1 (c) CAUSE OF ACTION.—Any person, State, or local
2 government that experiences financial harm in excess of
3 \$1,000 due to a failure of the Federal Government to law-
4 fully apply the provisions of this section or the amend-
5 ments made by this section shall have standing to bring
6 a civil action against the Federal Government in an appro-
7 priate district court of the United States for appropriate
8 relief.

9 (d) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this section
10 or any amendment by this section, or the application of
11 such provision or amendment to any person or cir-
12 cumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder
13 of this section and the application of such provision or
14 amendment to any other person or circumstance shall not
15 be affected.

