

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1958

To amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to provide for the expedited removal of unaccompanied alien children who are not victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons and who do not have a fear of returning to their country of nationality or last habitual residence, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2021

Mr. CARTER of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to provide for the expedited removal of unaccompanied alien children who are not victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons and who do not have a fear of returning to their country of nationality or last habitual residence, 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 “Protection of Children
5 Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. REPATRIATION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHIL-**
2 **DREN.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 235 of the William Wil-
4 berforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization
5 Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (2)—

8 (i) by amending the heading to read
9 as follows: “RULES FOR UNACCOMPANIED
10 ALIEN CHILDREN.”;

11 (ii) in subparagraph (A);

12 (I) in the matter preceding clause
13 (i), by striking “who is a national or
14 habitual resident of a country that is
15 contiguous with the United States”;

16 (II) in clause (i), by inserting
17 “and” at the end;

18 (III) in clause (ii), by striking “;
19 and” and inserting a period; and

20 (IV) by striking clause (iii);

21 (iii) in subparagraph (B)—

22 (I) in the matter preceding clause
23 (i), by striking “(8 U.S.C. 1101 et
24 seq.) may—” and inserting “(8
25 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.)—”;

1 (II) in clause (i), by inserting be-
2 fore “permit such child to withdraw”
3 the following: “may”; and

4 (III) in clause (ii), by inserting
5 before “return such child” the fol-
6 lowing: “shall”; and

7 (iv) in subparagraph (C)—

8 (I) by amending the heading to
9 read as follows: “AGREEMENTS WITH
10 FOREIGN COUNTRIES.”; and

11 (II) in the matter preceding
12 clause (i), by striking “The Secretary
13 of State shall negotiate agreements
14 between the United States and coun-
15 tries contiguous to the United States”
16 and inserting “The Secretary of State
17 may negotiate agreements between the
18 United States and any foreign country
19 that the Secretary determines appro-
20 priate”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (5)(D)—

22 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
23 by striking “, except for an unaccompanied
24 alien child from a contiguous country sub-
25 ject to the exceptions under subsection

1 (a)(2),” and inserting “who does not meet
2 the criteria listed in paragraph (2)(A)”;
3 and

4 (ii) in clause (i), by inserting before
5 the semicolon at the end the following: “,
6 which shall include a hearing before an im-
7 migration judge not later than 14 days
8 after being screened under paragraph (4)”;

9 (2) in subsection (b)—

10 (A) in paragraph (2)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
12 before the semicolon the following: “be-
13 lieved not to meet the criteria listed in sub-
14 section (a)(2)(A)”;

15 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
16 before the period the following: “and does
17 not meet the criteria listed in subsection
18 (a)(2)(A)”;

19 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “an un-
20 accompanied alien child in custody shall” and
21 all that follows, and inserting the following: “an
22 unaccompanied alien child in custody—

23 “(A) in the case of a child who does not
24 meet the criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A),
25 shall transfer the custody of such child to the

1 Secretary of Health and Human Services not
2 later than 30 days after determining that such
3 child is an unaccompanied alien child who does
4 not meet such criteria; or

5 “(B) in the case of a child who meets the
6 criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A), may
7 transfer the custody of such child to the Sec-
8 retary of Health and Human Services after de-
9 termining that such child is an unaccompanied
10 alien child who meets such criteria.”; and

11 (3) in subsection (c)—

12 (A) in paragraph (3), by inserting at the
13 end the following:

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

16 “(i) INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED
17 TO HOMELAND SECURITY.—Before placing
18 a child with an individual, the Secretary of
19 Health and Human Services shall provide
20 to the Secretary of Homeland Security, re-
21 garding the individual with whom the child
22 will be placed, the following information:

23 “(I) The name of the individual.

24 “(II) The social security number
25 of the individual.

1 “(III) The date of birth of the in-
2 dividual.

3 “(IV) The location of the individ-
4 ual’s residence where the child will be
5 placed.

6 “(V) The immigration status of
7 the individual, if known.

8 “(VI) Contact information for
9 the individual.

10 “(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—In the case of a
11 child who was apprehended on or after
12 June 15, 2012, and before the date of the
13 enactment of the Protection of Children
14 Act of 2021, who the Secretary of Health
15 and Human Services placed with an indi-
16 vidual, the Secretary shall provide the in-
17 formation listed in clause (i) to the Sec-
18 retary of Homeland Security not later than
19 90 days after the date of the enactment of
20 the Protection of Children Act of 2021.

21 “(iii) ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARY
22 OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—Not later than
23 30 days after receiving the information
24 listed in clause (i), the Secretary of Home-
25 land Security shall—

1 “(I) in the case that the immi-
2 gration status of an individual with
3 whom a child is placed is unknown,
4 investigate the immigration status of
5 that individual; and

6 “(II) upon determining that an
7 individual with whom a child is placed
8 is unlawfully present in the United
9 States, initiate removal proceedings
10 pursuant to chapter 4 of title II of the
11 Immigration and Nationality Act (8
12 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.)”; and

13 (B) in paragraph (5)—

14 (i) by inserting after “to the greatest
15 extent practicable” the following: “(at no
16 expense to the Government)”;

17 (ii) by striking “have counsel to rep-
18 resent them” and inserting “have access to
19 counsel to represent them”.

20 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
21 this section shall apply to any unauthorized alien child ap-
22 prehended on or after June 15, 2012.

1 **SEC. 3. SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS FOR IMMI-**
2 **GRANTS UNABLE TO REUNITE WITH EITHER**
3 **PARENT.**

4 Section 101(a)(27)(J)(i) of the Immigration and Na-
5 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(J)(i)) is amended by
6 striking “1 or both of the immigrant’s parents” and in-
7 serting “either of the immigrant’s parents”.

8 **SEC. 4. JURISDICTION OF ASYLUM APPLICATIONS.**

9 Section 208(b)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality
10 Act (8 U.S.C. 1158) is amended by striking subparagraph
11 (C).

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