

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7899

To limit the removal from the United States of certain recipients of temporary protected status who are essential workers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2026

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To limit the removal from the United States of certain recipients of temporary protected status who are essential workers, 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 “Respect for Essential
5 Workers Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR ESSENTIAL**
7 **WORKERS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
9 sion of law, a covered alien may not be removed from the
10 United States on the basis that the grant of temporary

1 protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and
2 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a) has been terminated.

3 (b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—Notwithstanding any
4 other provision of law, a covered alien may adjust to the
5 status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent resi-
6 dence under section 245 of the Immigration and Nation-
7 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) beginning on the date that is
8 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

9 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) The term “covered alien” means an alien
11 who—

12 (A) on the date of enactment of this Act,
13 is present in the United States pursuant to a
14 grant of temporary protected status under sec-
15 tion 244 of the Immigration and Nationality
16 Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a); and

17 (B) works in or receives training for an oc-
18 cupation in—

19 (i) an essential industry or in a region
20 with a documented labor shortage, as de-
21 termined by the Secretary of Labor; or

22 (ii) a health care-related profession in
23 a health professional shortage area, as de-
24 termined by the Administrator of the

1 Health Resources and Services Administra-
2 tion.

3 (2) The term “essential industry” means any of
4 the following:

5 (A) Health care.

6 (B) Emergency response.

7 (C) Sanitation.

8 (D) Restaurant ownership, food prepara-
9 tion, vending, catering, food packaging, food
10 services, or food delivery.

11 (E) Hotel or retail.

12 (F) Fish, poultry, and meat processing.

13 (G) Agricultural work, including labor that
14 is seasonal in nature.

15 (H) Housing, residential, or commercial
16 construction-related activities, or public works
17 construction.

18 (I) Natural disaster recovery, disaster re-
19 construction, and related construction.

20 (J) Home and community-based work, in-
21 cluding—

22 (i) home health care;

23 (ii) residential care;

24 (iii) the provision of assistance with
25 activities of daily living;

1 (iv) any service provided by a direct
2 care worker (as such term is defined in
3 section 799B of the Public Health Service
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 295p)), a personal care
5 aide, job coach, or supported employment
6 provider; and

7 (v) the provision of any other type of
8 care to an individual in their home by a di-
9 rect service provider, personal care attend-
10 ant, and home health aide.

11 (K) Family care, including the provision of
12 child care services, including in-home child care
13 services (such as nanny services), and care serv-
14 ices provided by one family member to another
15 family member.

16 (L) Transportation or logistics.

○