

FOR THE RELIEF OF MARIA ISABEL BUESO BARRERA,  
ALBERTO BUESO MENDOZA, AND KARLA MARIA  
BARRERA DE BUESO

—————  
JUNE 3, 2022.—Ordered to be printed  
—————

Mr. NADLER, from the Committee on the Judiciary,  
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 785]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 785) for the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

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**Purpose and Summary**

H.R. 785, “For the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso” would provide the beneficiaries of this private bill with an opportunity to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the United States.

## Background and Need for the Legislation

### A. IMMIGRATION BACKGROUND

In 2004, the Bueso family arrived in the United States from Guatemala on B-2 visitor visas so that Maria Isabel could participate in a clinical trial and receive treatment for a rare medical disorder, mucopolysaccharidosis type VI (MPS VI). The family maintained lawful nonimmigrant status in the United States through August 2009, at which time they were granted deferred action by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), based on Maria Isabel's medical condition. USCIS extended the family's deferred action until August 13, 2019, when it abruptly announced that it would no longer consider deferred action requests except those involving members of the U.S. military and their families. On September 2, 2019, USCIS announced that it would reopen and reconsider non-military deferred action requests that were pending on August 7, 2020.<sup>1</sup> On September 9, 2021, the family was granted deferred action until September 6, 2023.

### B. MEDICAL CONDITION

Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera has a rare genetic disorder, MPS VI, a life-threatening condition that causes dwarfism, blindness, hearing impairment, spinal cord compression, and bone abnormalities. Most people with MPS VI die before age 20. The treatment tested in the clinical trial in which Maria Isabel participated was ultimately approved by the Federal Drug Administration, and the Bueso family has remained in the United States so that Maria Isabel can continue receiving it. The Pan-American Health Organization and Maria Isabel's doctors confirm that the treatment is not available in Guatemala and Maria Isabel will likely die in weeks if she is forced to return there. As such, the family requires a permanent solution to remain in the United States.

Maria Isabel's father, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, has been employed since 2007 and provides the necessary financial support for the family. Maria Isabel's mother, Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso, is her daughter's full-time caregiver. The family has private insurance coverage to pay for Maria Isabel's treatment. Despite her physical limitations, Maria Isabel earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, graduating Summa Cum Laude in 2018 from California State University, East Bay.

### C. HOUSE PRECEDENT FOR CONSIDERATION OF PRIVATE IMMIGRATION BILLS

In the modern era, Congress has passed numerous private bills for similarly situated individuals, including in cases where the beneficiary, or the U.S. citizen spouse or child of a beneficiary, suffered from a serious illness or medical condition and could not receive proper treatment in the beneficiary's home country.

For example, in the 106th Congress, the House passed a private bill for Marina Khalina and her son Albert Miftakhov, the latter of whom had cerebral palsy and would require lifelong medical

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Alert: *USCIS Re-Opens Previously Pending Deferral Requests* (Sep. 2, 2019), <https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-re-opens-previously-pending-deferral-requests>.

treatment that was unavailable in their home country of Russia.<sup>2</sup> Also in the 106th Congress, the House passed a private bill for the relief of Jacqueline Salinas—who was paralyzed from the waist down—and her children, one of whom was afflicted with bone cancer.<sup>3</sup>

In the 104th Congress, the House passed a private bill for Oscar Salas-Velazquez, whose U.S. citizen child and wife were carriers of an antigen that predisposes them to developing Reiter’s syndrome—a severe, disabling, incurable arthritic disease which can be triggered by an intestinal infection from organisms widespread in Mexico.<sup>4</sup> Requiring Mr. Salas-Velazquez’s wife and child to join him in Mexico would very likely result in the development of Reiter’s syndrome.<sup>5</sup> In the 106th Congress, the House also passed a private bill for Saeed Rezai, whose U.S. citizen wife was stricken with multiple sclerosis.<sup>6</sup> Medical professionals indicated that her condition would likely deteriorate rapidly from the severe stress resulting from her husband’s removal.

Similarly, the specialized treatment that Maria Isabel receives in the United States to manage and treat her MPS VI is unavailable in her home country of Guatemala. Without such treatment, doctors have confirmed that her condition would rapidly deteriorate, and she would likely die within weeks. As such, the Committee has determined that H.R. 785 meets the medical condition precedent.

### **Hearings**

The Committee on the Judiciary held no hearings on H.R. 785.

### **Committee Consideration**

On September 29, 2021, the Committee met in open session and ordered the bill, H.R. 785, favorably reported without an amendment, by a voice vote, a quorum being present.

### **Committee Votes**

In compliance with clause 3(b) of House rule XIII, the Committee advises that there were no recorded votes during the Committee’s consideration of H.R. 785.

### **Committee Oversight Findings**

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of House rule XIII, the Committee advises that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of House Rule X, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

### **Committee Estimate of Budgetary Effects**

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of House rule XIII, the Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

<sup>2</sup>See H.R. Rep. No. 106–956 (2000); *See also* S.150, 106th Cong. (1999).

<sup>3</sup>See H.R. Rep. No. 106–962 (2000); *See also* S.1513, 106th Cong. (1999).

<sup>4</sup>See H.R. Rep. No. 104–810 (1996); *See also* H.R. 1031, 104th Cong. (1995).

<sup>5</sup>*Id.*

<sup>6</sup>See H.R. Rep. No. 106–905 (2000); *See also* H.R. 5266, 106th Cong. (2000).

**New Budget Authority and Congressional Budget Office  
Cost Estimate**

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of House rule XIII and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and pursuant to clause (3)(c)(3) of House rule XIII and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee sets forth, with respect to the bill, H.R. 187, the following analysis and estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
*Washington, DC, January 11, 2022.*

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for these five bills:

- H.R. 187, For the relief of Victoria Galindo Lopez;
- H.R. 680, For the relief of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar;
- H.R. 681, For the relief of Rebecca Trimble;
- H.R. 739, For the relief of Median El-Moustrah; and
- H.R. 785, For the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is David Rafferty.

Sincerely,

MARK P. HOELLER  
(For Phillip L. Swagel).

Enclosure.

<b>Immigration-Relief Legislation</b>			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on September 29, 2021			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2026	2022-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	*	*	*
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	0	0
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2032?	< \$5 billion	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

On September 29, 2021, the House Committee on the Judiciary ordered reported five bills that would allow the people named in each bill to become lawful permanent residents:

- H.R. 187, For the relief of Victoria Galindo Lopez;

- H.R. 680, For the relief of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar;
- H.R. 681, For the relief of Rebecca Trimble;
- H.R. 739, For the relief of Median El-Moustrah; and
- H.R. 785, For the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso.

Enacting each of those five bills could increase direct spending and reduce revenues because lawful permanent residents are eligible for certain federal benefits, such as Medicaid and premium tax credits for health insurance purchased through the marketplaces established by the Affordable Care Act, if they otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for those benefits. CBO estimates that those effects would not be significant because of the small number of people who would be affected by each bill.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is David Rafferty. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis

### **Duplication of Federal Programs**

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of House rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 785 establishes or reauthorizes a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another federal program.

### **Performance Goals and Objectives**

The Committee states that pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of House rule XIII, H.R. 785 would provide Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso with an opportunity to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the United States.

### **Advisory on Earmarks**

In accordance with clause 9 of House rule XXI, H.R. 785 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of House Rule XXI.

### **Section-by-Section Analysis**

The following discussion describes the bill as reported by the Committee.

*Sec. 1. Permanent Resident Status for Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera de Bueso.* Subsection (a) provides that Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso shall each be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent residence upon filing the appropriate application.

Subsection (b) provides that if Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, or Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (d), they shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall be eligible for adjustment of status as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subsection (c)(1) provides that Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso may

not be removed from the United States, denied admission, or considered ineligible for lawful permanent residence by reason of any ground for removal or inadmissibility that is reflected in the records of the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of State as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subsection (c)(2) provides that the Secretary of Homeland Security shall rescind any outstanding orders of removal or deportation, or any finding of inadmissibility or deportability, that has been entered against Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso.

Subsection (d) requires Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso to apply for an immigrant visa or adjustment of status within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subsection (e) provides that upon granting an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso, the Secretary of State shall reduce by three, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of their birth.

Subsection (f) provides that the natural parents, brothers, and sisters of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

*Sec. 2. Determination of Budgetary Effects.* This section provides that any budgetary effect for this Act for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO) shall be determined by the latest statement submitted for the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee entitled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act.