

AGENT RAUL GONZALEZ OFFICER SAFETY ACT

JANUARY 25, 2024.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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

R E P O R T

together with

DISSENTING VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 5585]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 5585) to impose criminal and immigration penalties for intentionally fleeing a pursuing Federal officer while operating a motor vehicle, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

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The amendment is as follows:
Strike all that follows after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as “Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act”.

SEC. 2. CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 2 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 40B. Evading arrest or detention while operating a motor vehicle

“(a) OFFENSE.—A person commits an offense under this section by operating a motor vehicle within 100 miles of the United States border while intentionally fleeing from—

“(1) a pursuing U.S. Border Patrol agent acting pursuant to lawful authority;

or

“(2) any pursuing Federal, State, or local law enforcement officer who is actively assisting, or under the command of, U.S. Border Patrol.

“(b) PENALTIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), any person who commits an offense described in subsection (a) shall be—

“(A) imprisoned for a term of not more than 2 years;

“(B) fined under this title; or

“(C) subject to the penalties described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

“(2) SERIOUS BODILY INJURY.—If serious bodily injury results from the commission of an offense described in subsection (a), the person committing such offense shall be—

“(A) imprisoned for a term of not less than 5 years and not more than 20 years;

“(B) fined under this title; or

“(C) subject to the penalties described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

“(3) DEATH.—If the death of any person results from the commission of an offense described in subsection (a), the person committing such offense shall be—

“(A) imprisoned for a term of not less than 10 years and up to life;

“(B) fined under this title; or

“(C) subject to the penalties described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 2 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“40B. Evading arrest or detention while operating a motor vehicle.”.

SEC. 3. INADMISSIBILITY, DEPORTABILITY, AND INELIGIBILITY RELATED TO EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE.

(a) INADMISSIBILITY.—Section 212(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(J) EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE.—Any alien who has been convicted of, who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of a violation of section 40B(a) of title 18, United States Code, is inadmissible.”.

(b) DEPORTABILITY.—Section 237(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1227(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(G) EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE.—Any alien who has been convicted of, who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of a violation of section 40B(a) of title 18, United States Code, is deportable.”.

(c) INELIGIBILITY FOR RELIEF.—Chapter 2 of title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act is amended by inserting after section 208 the following:

“SEC. 208A. INELIGIBILITY FOR RELIEF RELATED TO EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE.

“Any alien who has been convicted of, who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of a violation of section 40B(a) of title 18, United States Code, shall be ineligible for relief under the immigration laws, including asylum under section 208.”.

SEC. 4. ANNUAL REPORT.

The Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that—

(1) identifies the number of people who were charged, during the reporting period, with a violation of section 40B(a) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 2(a); and

(2) summarizes—

(A) the penalties sought in the charging documents pertaining to the violations referred to in paragraph (1); and

(B) the penalties imposed for such violations.

Purpose and Summary

H.R. 5585, the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act, introduced by Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R–AZ), imposes criminal penalties on individuals who evade U.S. Border Patrol agents, or other federal, state, or local law enforcement officers assisting Border Patrol agents and makes aliens who are convicted of or admit to committing such acts inadmissible to and removable from the U.S. It also ensures such aliens are ineligible for immigration relief, including asylum.

Background and Need for the Legislation

During the Biden Administration, there have been 35 straight months in which U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has encountered more than 100,000 illegal aliens along the southwest border.¹ Since President Biden took office, more than 7 million illegal aliens have been encountered by CBP along the southwest border.² In September 2023, CBP on the southwest border encountered 269,735 illegal aliens, shattering the previous record of 252,315 encounters in December 2022.³ In December 2023, according to press reports, the Biden Administration broke the September 2023 record with a staggering 302,000 illegal alien encounters.⁴ More than 3.3 million illegal aliens have been released into the United States by the Biden Administration, and there have been at least 1.7 million known “gotaways.”⁵ In addition, an untold

¹ U.S. Customs and Border Prot., *Sw. Land Border Encounters*, U.S. DEP’T OF HOMELAND SEC. (last accessed Dec. 27, 2023), <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters> (reporting 6,776,255 illegal alien encounters through Nov. 2023); Bill Melugin (@BillMelugin), X (Dec. 26, 2023, 11:28 AM), <https://x.com/BillMelugin/status/1739699696585814515?s=20> (reporting 730,000 illegal alien encounters thus far in FY 2024). Under the Biden Administration, CBP has encountered at least 7,022,862 illegal aliens along the southwest border.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ Bill Melugin (@BillMelugin), X (Jan. 2, 2024 10:54 AM), <https://x.com/BillMelugin/status/1742212865803911284?s=20>; Bill Melugin (@BillMelugin), X (Dec. 19, 2023 8:33 AM), <https://x.com/BillMelugin/status/1737103946429186105?s=20>.

⁵ See H. Comm. on the Judiciary, Rep. on The Biden Border Crisis: How the Biden Admin. Opened the Sw. Border and Abandoned Interior Immigr. Enf’t at App’x 1 (Oct. 9, 2023) (“DHS released at least 2,148,738 illegal aliens into the United States” through March 2023); see also U.S. Customs and Border Prot., *CBP Releases Nov. 2023 Monthly Update*, U.S. DEP’T OF HOMELAND SEC. (Dec. 22, 2023), <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-releases-november-2023-monthly-update> (“297,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans [] were granted parole under the parole processes [through Nov. 2023]” [hereinafter Nov. 2023 Monthly Update]; U.S. Customs and Border Prot., *Custody and Transfer Statistics FY 2023*, U.S. DEP’T OF HOMELAND SEC. (last accessed Jan. 12, 2024), <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/custody-and-transfer-statistics-fy2023> (reporting that, between April 2023 and September 2023, 507,873 illegal aliens were released with a notice to appear or paroled); Bill Melugin (@BillMelugin), X (Dec. 22, 2023, 12:07 PM), <https://x.com/BillMelugin/status/1738244827475775910?s=20> (In FY 2024 thus far, “Border Patrol has released more than 386,500 illegal aliens”); Casey Harper, *Border crisis creates national security threat for U.S., observers say*, THE CENTER SQUARE (Aug. 5, 2023), <https://www.thecentersquare.com/national/article/37491ca0-32ff-11ee-945b-7f09d39f7aa0.html>. Under the Biden Administration, at least 3,340,111 illegal aliens have been released into the United States and 1.7 million known “gotaways” have evaded Border Patrol.

number of unknown “gotaways” have evaded Border Patrol agents and escaped into the interior since January 20, 2021.⁶

The Biden Administration’s lax enforcement of the immigration laws has incentivized illegal alien smuggling. Smugglers in vehicles routinely evade Border Patrol agents, and high-speed chases often ensue.⁷ The number of high-speed chases continues to increase along the southwest border.⁸ While especially prevalent in the Tucson, Arizona, area, where such chases are “resulting in deaths and injuries among innocent residents,”⁹ high-speed chases are also common in other American communities. For instance, in El Paso, Texas, in July 2023, “several people, including a child, were injured when a driver smuggling [illegal aliens] wrecked into two other vehicles while running from a Texas state trooper.”¹⁰ Nine people were taken to the hospital to receive medical attention for their injuries.¹¹

In addition to Americans who live in border communities, federal, state, and local law enforcement officers have been injured and killed as a result of high-speed chases with smugglers. On February 24, 2021, Border Patrol agents pursued a human smuggler who was attempting to transport nearly a dozen illegal aliens and who failed to stop at a checkpoint on the outskirts of San Diego, California.¹² Four agents were injured during the chase after “the [smuggler’s] SUV hit several Border Patrol vehicles before crashing into at least two civilian vehicles.”¹³ On September 30, 2023, an Arizona sheriff’s deputy was hurt after he fell 15 feet while assisting in the capture of smugglers attempting to evade authorities.¹⁴ On December 7, 2022, Border Patrol Agent Raul Gonzalez, while in pursuit of a group of illegal aliens evading Border Patrol agents in Mission, Texas, crashed his all-terrain vehicle into a gate.¹⁵ Agent Gonzalez died from his injuries just a few hours later.¹⁶

In October of last year, the Arizona Sheriffs Association announced it would send deputies from Apache, Coconino, Navajo, Pinal, and Yavapai County to Cochise County to assist law enforcement in combatting border-related crime, including high-speed

⁶ Harper, *supra* note 5.

⁷ See *infra* notes 93, 95, 97, & 98.

⁸ J. David Goodman, *High-Speed Police Chases Rise Near Texas Border, Leaving Locals on Edge*, N. Y. TIMES (Nov. 24, 2023), <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/24/us/texas-border-police-chases.html?searchResultPosition=1>.

⁹ Lupita Murillo, *Operation Safe Streets II in its third week*, NEWS4 TUCSON (Nov. 14, 2023), https://www.kvoa.com/news/local/operation-safe-streets-ii-in-its-third-week/article_6f3ffb18-834c-11ee-a8ea-5bc1cd972319.html.

¹⁰ Daniel Borunda, *Texas DPS pursuit of migrant smuggler vehicle ends in West El Paso crash, several injured*, EL PASO TIMES (July 31, 2023), <https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/crime/2023/07/31/el-paso-texas-dps-pursuit-migrant-smuggler-vehicle-crash-south-desert-boulevard/70499277007/>.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² City News Service, *4 Border Patrol Agents Injured in Crash During Chase of Migrant Smuggler’s SUV*, TIMES OF SAN DIEGO (Feb. 24, 2021), <https://timesofsandiego.com/crime/2021/02/24/4-border-patrol-agents-injured-in-crash-during-chase-of-migrant-smugglers-suv/>.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Sarah Rumpf-Whitten, *Arizona sheriff’s deputy near border falls 15-feet, injured in pursuit of human smuggler: ‘Enough is enough’*, FOX NEWS (Sept. 30, 2023), <https://www.foxnews.com/us/texas-sheriffs-deputy-near-border-falls-15-feet-injured-pursuit-human-smuggler-enough-enough>.

¹⁵ MaryAnn Martinez, *US Border Patrol agent killed chasing illegal immigrants in Texas*, N.Y. POST (Dec. 7, 2022), <https://nypost.com/2022/12/07/border-patrol-agent-killed-chasing-illegal-migrants-in-texas/>.

¹⁶ *Id.*

chases.¹⁷ One lifelong Cochise County resident reflected on the dangers of Highway 90, now a major smuggling route, stating, “It’s scary to the point that you don’t want to drive the highway but to get to work you have to . . . I’m actually scared about going out into the public sometimes because what if there is a high-speed chase and something goes sideways they get into a car accident, hop on a curb, and hit anybody . . .”¹⁸ In Tombstone, Arizona, U.S. Marshal Jim Adams spoke of the high-speed chases racing through his town: “This is a weekly occurrence. Sometimes daily, sometimes several times a day.”¹⁹ According to the Marshal’s office, of the 91 calls it handled last year, around 51 involved smuggler chases.²⁰

Human smuggling is an incredibly lucrative business. According to Border Patrol estimates, in the Del Rio Sector *alone*, cartels’ human smuggling profit is \$32 million per week, for a staggering total of \$1.6 billion per year.²¹ With a continuing demand for human smuggling because of the open southwest border, cartels are also recruiting minors to drive illegal aliens across the border. Minors are falsely told they will not face legal consequences if caught.²² According to Cochise County, Arizona, Sheriff Mark Dannels, “We have over a hundred juveniles in the last 18 months that we’ve apprehended in this county smuggling, all the way to the age of 13 and 12 years of age down here, driving grandma’s car, a friend’s car, or mom and dad’s car down here . . .”²³ In March 2022, law enforcement in Arizona started a task force to address human smuggling across the border.²⁴ The task force, called Operation Safe Streets, helped to pass a law that made human trafficking a state violation, allowing for easier prosecutions of juveniles for such crimes and deterring other potential criminals.²⁵ However, even with this state legislation, police face challenges in apprehending smugglers through high-speed chases as historic numbers of illegal alien encounters continue at the border.²⁶ Indeed, the lack of specific federal criminal and immigration consequences has incentivized criminals and aliens to evade the Border Patrol, resulting in the rising number of dangerous high-speed chases.²⁷

¹⁷ ADI Staff, *Sheriffs Send Resources To Cochise County To Combat Border Crime* ARIZONA DAILY INDEPENDENT (Oct. 26, 2023), <https://arizonadailyindependent.com/2023/10/26/sheriffs-send-resources-to-cochise-county-to-combat-border-crime/>.

¹⁸ Murillo, *supra* note 9.

¹⁹ Craig Smith, *High-speed smugglers risk your life on Tombstone streets*, ABC KGUN TUCSON (Oct. 3, 2023), <https://www.kgun9.com/news/local-news/cochise-county/on-tombstone-streets-high-speed-smugglers-risk-your-life>.

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ Stephen Dinan, *Cartels make \$32 million a week off migrants in one stretch of Texas border*, WASH. EXAMINER (Jan. 3, 2024), https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2024/jan/3/cartels-make-32-million-week-off-migrants-in-one-s/?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=SocialFlow.

²² Melissa Ford Maldonado & Zach Whiting, *Parents, beware of Mexican Drug Cartel Operatives trying to slide into your child’s DMs*, TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION (March 28, 2023), <https://www.texaspolicy.com/parents-beware-of-mexican-drug-cartel-operatives-trying-to-slide-into-your-childs-dms/#:~:text=With%20demand%20for%20human%20smugglers,apprehended%20because%20they%20are%20minors>.

²³ Kris Van Cleave, *Cochise County turning into a drug and human smuggling raceway as border crossings surge*, ARIZONA’S FAMILY (Oct. 5, 2023), <https://www.azfamily.com/2023/10/06/cochise-county-turning-into-drug-human-smuggling-raceway-border-crossings-surge/>.

²⁴ Aleix Oliveira, *Babyfaced Arizona teens suspected of working as people smugglers for a cartel in worrying new trend: cops* N.Y. POST (Nov. 13, 2023), <https://nypost.com/2023/11/13/news/arizona-teens-eli-laclaire-and-landon-vert-arrested-for-people-smuggling/>.

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ *Id.*; CBP Sw. Land Border Encounters, *supra* note 1.

²⁷ *Id.*; Goodman, *supra* note 8.

During Committee consideration of H.R. 5585, the Minority argued that to be subject to the bill’s immigration penalties, an alien should have to have been convicted of fleeing a law enforcement officer. However, under current law, not every ground of inadmissibility or removability requires a conviction.²⁸ Indeed, by requiring, at a minimum, that an alien admits to the elements of the offense, H.R. 5585 conforms to the pattern of other grounds of inadmissibility and removability.²⁹ Moreover, by ensuring an alien may be inadmissible or removable based on his own admission, this legislation guards against cases in which an activist prosecutor may decline to prosecute these offenses or allow aliens to plead down to crimes that do not render such aliens removable.

H.R.5585 gives authorities the necessary tools to fully prosecute and punish criminals who intentionally fail to yield to Border Patrol agents, and law enforcement officials assisting the Border Patrol.

Hearings

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6)(A) of House rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop H.R. 5585: “The Biden Border Crisis: Part I,” a hearing held on February 1, 2023, before the Judiciary Committee. The Committee heard testimony from the following witnesses:

- Brandon Dunn, co-founder, Forever15Project;
- The Honorable Mark J. Dannels, Sheriff, Cochise County, Arizona;
- The Honorable Dale Lynn Carruthers, County Judge, Terrell County, Texas; and
- The Honorable Ricardo Samaniego, County Judge, El Paso County, Texas.

The hearing addressed how President Biden’s open-borders policies affect Americans with rising crime and lawlessness at the southwest border and beyond. In his opening statement, Sheriff Mark Dannels of Cochise County, Arizona, testified how his deputies have been placed in life-threatening situations with aliens and how border-related crimes, including high-speed chases resulting from criminals and illegal aliens evading Border Patrol and state and local law enforcement, are at an all-time high.³⁰

Committee Consideration

On January 18, 2024, the Committee met in open session and ordered the bill, H.R. 5585, favorably reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute, by a roll call vote of 14–10, a quorum being present.

Committee Votes

In compliance with clause 3(b) of House rule XIII, the following roll call votes occurred during the Committee’s consideration of H.R. 5585:

²⁸ See INA § 212(a)(2); INA § 237(a)(1)(C); INA § 237(a)(1)(E); INA § 237(a)(1)(G).

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ *The Biden Border Crisis: Part I: Hearing Before the H. Comm. On the Judiciary*, 118th Cong. (2023) (statement of Mark J. Dannels, Sheriff, Cochise County, Arizona).

1. Vote on Amendment #1 to the H.R. 5585 ANS, offered by Ms. Escobar of Texas—failed 11 ayes to 13 nays.
2. Vote on Amendment #2 to the H.R. 5585 ANS, offered by Ms. Jackson Lee of Texas—failed 9 ayes to 13 nays.
3. Vote on favorably reporting H.R. 5585, as amended—passed 14 ayes to 10 nays.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
118th CONGRESS
25-19

Date: 1/18/24

ROLL CALL

Vote on: Escobar Amndt (H1) to HR 5585 ANS. Roll Call #5

REPUBLICANS	AYE	NO	PRESENT	DEMOCRATS	AYE	NO	PRESENT
MR. JORDAN (OH) <i>Chairman</i>				MR. NADLER (NY) <i>Ranking Member</i>	✓		
MR. ISSA (CA)		✓		MS. LOFGREN (CA)			
MR. BUCK (CO)				MS. JACKSON LEE (TX)	✓		
MR. GAETZ (FL)				MR. COHEN (TN)			
MR. BIGGS (AZ)		✓		MR. JOHNSON (GA)			
MR. McCLINTOCK (CA)		✓		MR. SCHIFF (CA)			
MR. TIFFANY (WI)				MR. SWALWELL (CA)	✓		
MR. MASSIE (KY)				MR. LIEU (CA)			
MR. ROY (TX)				MS. JAYAPAL (WA)	✓		
MR. BISHOP (NC)		✓		MR. CORREA (CA)	✓		
MS. SPARTZ (IN)		✓		MS. SCANLON (PA)	✓		
MR. FITZGERALD (WI)		✓		MR. NEGUSE (CO)			
MR. BENTZ (OR)		✓		MS. McBATH (GA)	✓		
MR. CLINE (VA)				MS. DEAN (PA)	✓		
MR. ARMSTRONG (ND)		✓		MS. ESCOBAR (TX)	✓		
MR. GOODEN (TX)				MS. ROSS (NC)	✓		
MR. VAN DREW (NJ)		✓		MS. BUSH (MO)			
MR. NEHLS (TX)				MR. IVEY (MD)			
MR. MOORE (AL)				MS. BALINT (VT)	✓		
MR. KILEY (CA)		✓					
MS. HAGEMAN (WY)							
MR. MORAN (TX)		✓					
MS. LEE (FL)		✓					
MR. HUNT (TX)							
MR. FRY (SC)		✓					

Roll Call Totals: Ayes: 11 Nays: 13 Present: X Failed: _____

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
 118th CONGRESS
 25-19
 ROLL CALL

Date: 1/18/24

Vote on: Jackson Lee Amndt (#2) to HR 5585 ANJ Roll Call #: 6

REPUBLICANS	AYE	NO	PRESENT	DEMOCRATS	AYE	NO	PRESENT
MR. JORDAN (OH) <i>Chairman</i>		✓		MR. NADLER (NY) <i>Ranking Member</i>	✓		
MR. ISSA (CA)				MS. LOFGREN (CA)			
MR. BUCK (CO)				MS. JACKSON LEE (TX)	✓		
MR. GAETZ (FL)				MR. COHEN (TN)			
MR. BIGGS (AZ)				MR. JOHNSON (GA)			
MR. McCLINTOCK (CA)		✓		MR. SCHIFF (CA)			
MR. TIFFANY (WI)		✓		MR. SWALWELL (CA)			
MR. MASSIE (KY)				MR. LIEU (CA)			
MR. ROY (TX)		✓		MS. JAYAPAL (WA)			
MR. BISHOP (NC)		✓		MR. CORREA (CA)	✓		
MS. SPARTZ (IN)				MS. SCANLON (PA)			
MR. FITZGERALD (WI)				MR. NEGUSE (CO)			
MR. BENTZ (OR)		✓		MS. McBATH (GA)	✓		
MR. CLINE (VA)		✓		MS. DEAN (PA)	✓		
MR. ARMSTRONG (ND)		✓		MS. ESCOBAR (TX)	✓		
MR. GOODEN (TX)				MS. ROSS (NC)	✓		
MR. VAN DREW (NJ)		✓		MS. BUSH (MO)			
MR. NEHLS (TX)				MR. IVEY (MD)	✓		
MR. MOORE (AL)		✓		MS. BALINT (VT)	✓		
MR. KILEY (CA)		✓					
MS. HAGEMAN (WY)							
MR. MORAN (TX)		✓					
MS. LEE (FL)							
MR. HUNT (TX)							
MR. FRY (SC)		✓					

Roll Call Totals: Ayes: 9 Nays: 13 Present: X
 Passed: _____ Failed: _____

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
118th CONGRESS
25-19

Date: 1/18/24

ROLL CALL

Vote on: Final passage of HR 5585, as amended Roll Call #: 7

REPUBLICANS	AYE	NO	PRESENT	DEMOCRATS	AYE	NO	PRESENT
MR. JORDAN (OH) <i>Chairman</i>	✓			MR. NADLER (NY) <i>Ranking Member</i>		✓	
MR. ISSA (CA)				MS. LOFGREN (CA)			
MR. BUCK (CO)				MS. JACKSON LEE (TX)		✓	
MR. GAETZ (FL)				MR. COHEN (TN)			
MR. BIGGS (AZ)	✓			MR. JOHNSON (GA)			
MR. McCLINTOCK (CA)	✓			MR. SCHIFF (CA)			
MR. TIFFANY (WI)	✓			MR. SWALWELL (CA)			
MR. MASSIE (KY)				MR. LIEU (CA)			
MR. ROY (TX)	✓			MS. JAYAPAL (WA)		✓	
MR. BISHOP (NC)	✓			MR. CORREA (CA)		✓	
MS. SPARTZ (IN)				MS. SCANLON (PA)			
MR. FITZGERALD (WI)				MR. NEGUSE (CO)			
MR. BENTZ (OR)	✓			MS. McBATH (GA)		✓	
MR. CLINE (VA)	✓			MS. DEAN (PA)		✓	
MR. ARMSTRONG (ND)	✓			MS. ESCOBAR (TX)		✓	
MR. GOODEN (TX)				MS. ROSS (NC)		✓	
MR. VAN DREW (NJ)	✓			MS. BUSH (MO)			
MR. NEHLS (TX)				MR. IVEY (MD)		✓	
MR. MOORE (AL)	✓			MS. BALINT (VT)		✓	
MR. KILEY (CA)	✓						
MS. HAGEMAN (WY)							
MR. MORAN (TX)	✓						
MS. LEE (FL)							
MR. HUNT (TX)							
MR. FRY (SC)	✓						

Roll Call Totals: Ayes: 14 Nays: 10 Present: _____
Passed: X Failed: _____

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 rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

New Budget Authority and Tax Expenditures

Clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives does not apply where a cost estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974* has been timely submitted prior to filing of the report and is included in the report. Such a cost estimate is included in this report.

Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate

With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974*, the Committee has received the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 5585 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

H.R. 5585, Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on January 18, 2024			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2024	2024-2028	2024-2033
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	*	*	*
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	*	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? Yes	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Mandate Effects	
		Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

H.R. 5585 would create new criminal penalties for using a motor vehicle to flee a border patrol agent within 100 miles of the United States border. Those penalties would increase if the offense resulted in death or serious injury. H.R. 5585 also would make an alien (a non-U.S. national) inadmissible to or deportable from the United States if that person admitted to or was convicted of such an offense. Lastly, the bill would require the Department of Justice to report annually to the Congress on the number of people charged with the offense specified in the bill and the sentencing outcome for each offense.

Based on data from the U.S. Sentencing Commission, a small number of people who are convicted of immigration offenses pay criminal fines. Criminal fines are recorded in the budget as revenues, deposited in the Crime Victims Fund, and later spent without

further appropriation. Using data on fines collected for other immigration offenses, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 5585 would increase revenues and direct spending from fines by less than \$500,000 over the 2024–2033 period.

Under current law, driving recklessly to evade police is deemed to be a crime involving moral turpitude; the admission of or conviction for such crimes makes an alien inadmissible. Further, a conviction for high-speed flight from an immigration checkpoint renders an alien deportable. Therefore, CBO expects that only a few people would be deported based solely on enacting this bill.

Enacting H.R. 5585 would reduce direct spending and spending subject to appropriation because aliens are eligible for certain federal benefits, such as emergency Medicaid, if they otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for those benefits. Removing aliens under the bill would reduce spending for those benefits. Because few people would be affected by the bill, CBO estimates that those effects would not be significant in any year and over the 2024–2033 period.

Finally, based on the costs of similar activities, CBO estimates that implementing the reporting requirement would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2024–2028 period. That spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Jeremy Crimm (for the Department of Justice) and David Rafferty (for immigration). The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, Congressional Budget Office.

Committee Estimate of Budgetary Effects

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, 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*.

Duplication of Federal Programs

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of House rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 5585 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. 5585 imposes criminal penalties on individuals who evade U.S. Border Patrol agents, or other federal, state, or local law enforcement officers assisting Border Patrol agents, makes aliens who are convicted of or admit to committing such acts inadmissible to and removable from the U.S., and ensures such aliens are ineligible for immigration relief, including asylum.

Advisory on Earmarks

In accordance with clause 9 of House rule XXI, H.R. 5585 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or

limited tariff benefits as defined in clauses 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of House rule XXI.

Federal Mandates Statement

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the *Unfunded Mandates Reform Act*.

Advisory Committee Statement

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the *Federal Advisory Committee Act* were created by this legislation.

Applicability to Legislative Branch

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the *Congressional Accountability Act* (Pub. L. 104–1).

Section-by-Section Analysis

Sec. 1: Short Title: This section states the title of H.R. 5585 as the “Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act.”

Sec. 2(a): This section amends title 18 of the U.S. Code by adding a new offense of evading arrest or detention while operating a motor vehicle. Specifically, a person commits an offense by operating a vehicle within 100 miles of the border while intentionally fleeing from border patrol, state or local law enforcement, or other federal law enforcement.

Sec. 2(b): Penalties. A person committing this offense will be imprisoned for up to 2 years or fined. If the evasion results in serious bodily injury, the person will be imprisoned for 5 to 20 years, fined or both. If the evasion results in death, the person will be imprisoned for not less than 10 years, fined or both.

Sec. 3. Inadmissibility, Deportability, and Ineligibility Related to Evading Arrest or Detention While Operating a Motor Vehicle: This section creates a ground of inadmissibility and a ground of removability for aliens who have been convicted of, admit to, or admit to committing acts that constitute the essential elements of a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 40B(a), evading arrest or detention while operating a motor vehicle. The section makes such aliens ineligible for all immigration relief.

Sec. 4: Annual Report: This section requires the Attorney General to submit an annual report to both the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. The report will identify the number of people charged, and summarize the penalties sought and the penalties imposed for the violations.

Changes in Existing Law Made by the Bill, as Reported

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (new matter is printed in italics and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE

* * * * *

PART I—CRIMES

* * * * *

CHAPTER 2—AIRCRAFT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Sec.
31. Definitions.

* * * * *
40B. Evading arrest or detention while operating a motor vehicle.
* * * * *

§40B. Evading arrest or detention while operating a motor vehicle

(a) OFFENSE.—A person commits an offense under this section by operating a motor vehicle within 100 miles of the United States border while intentionally fleeing from—

- (1) a pursuing U.S. Border Patrol agent acting pursuant to lawful authority; or
- (2) any pursuing Federal, State, or local law enforcement officer who is actively assisting, or under the command of, U.S. Border Patrol.

(b) PENALTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), any person who commits an offense described in subsection (a) shall be—

- (A) imprisoned for a term of not more than 2 years;
- (B) fined under this title; or
- (C) subject to the penalties described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(2) SERIOUS BODILY INJURY.—If serious bodily injury results from the commission of an offense described in subsection (a), the person committing such offense shall be—

- (A) imprisoned for a term of not less than 5 years and not more than 20 years;
- (B) fined under this title; or
- (C) subject to the penalties described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(3) DEATH.—If the death of any person results from the commission of an offense described in subsection (a), the person committing such offense shall be—

- (A) imprisoned for a term of not less than 10 years and up to life;
- (B) fined under this title; or
- (C) subject to the penalties described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

* * * * *



IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT

* * * * *

TITLE II—IMMIGRATION

* * * * *

CHAPTER 2—QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION OF ALIENS; TRAVEL CONTROL OF CITIZENS AND ALIENS

* * * * *

SEC. 208A. INELIGIBILITY FOR RELIEF RELATED TO EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE.

Any alien who has been convicted of, who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of a violation of section 40B(a) of title 18, United States Code, shall be ineligible for relief under the immigration laws, including asylum under section 208.

* * * * *

GENERAL CLASSES OF ALIENS INELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE VISAS AND INELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION; WAIVERS OF INADMISSIBILITY

SEC. 212. (a) CLASSES OF ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS OR ADMISSION.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, aliens who are inadmissible under the following paragraphs are ineligible to receive visas and ineligible to be admitted to the United States:

(1) HEALTH-RELATED GROUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any alien—

(i) who is determined (in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services) to have a communicable disease of public health significance;

(ii) except as provided in subparagraph (C), who seeks admission as an immigrant, or who seeks adjustment of status to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, and who has failed to present documentation of having received vaccination against vaccine-preventable diseases, which shall include at least the following diseases: mumps, measles, rubella, polio, tetanus and diphtheria toxoids, pertussis, influenza type B and hepatitis B, and any other vaccinations against vaccine-preventable diseases recommended by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices,

(iii) who is determined (in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Attorney General)—

(I) to have a physical or mental disorder and behavior associated with the disorder that may pose, or has posed, a threat to the property, safety, or welfare of the alien or others, or

(II) to have had a physical or mental disorder and a history of behavior associated with the dis-

order, which behavior has posed a threat to the property, safety, or welfare of the alien or others and which behavior is likely to recur or to lead to other harmful behavior, or

(iv) who is determined (in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services) to be a drug abuser or addict, is inadmissibility.

(B) WAIVER AUTHORIZED.—For provision authorizing waiver of certain clauses of subparagraph (A), see subsection (g).

(C) EXCEPTION FROM IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT FOR ADOPTED CHILDREN 10 YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER.—Clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) shall not apply to a child who—

- (i) is 10 years of age or younger,
- (ii) is described in subparagraph (F) or (G) of section 101(b)(1); and
- (iii) is seeking an immigrant visa as an immediate relative under section 201(b),

if, prior to the admission of the child, an adoptive parent or prospective adoptive parent of the child, who has sponsored the child for admission as an immediate relative, has executed an affidavit stating that the parent is aware of the provisions of subparagraph (A)(ii) and will ensure that, within 30 days of the child's admission, or at the earliest time that is medically appropriate, the child will receive the vaccinations identified in such subparagraph.

(2) CRIMINAL AND RELATED GROUNDS.—

(A) CONVICTION OF CERTAIN CRIMES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), any alien convicted of, or who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of—

(I) a crime involving moral turpitude (other than a purely political offense) or an attempt or conspiracy to commit such a crime, or

(II) a violation of (or a conspiracy or attempt to violate) any law or regulation of a State, the United States, or a foreign country relating to a controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)),

is inadmissible.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i)(I) shall not apply to an alien who committed only one crime if—

(I) the crime was committed when the alien was under 18 years of age, and the crime was committed (and the alien released from any confinement to a prison or correctional institution imposed for the crime) more than 5 years before the date of application for a visa or other documentation and the date of application for admission to the United States, or

(II) the maximum penalty possible for the crime of which the alien was convicted (or which the alien admits having committed or of which the

acts that the alien admits having committed constituted the essential elements) did not exceed imprisonment for one year and, if the alien was convicted of such crime, the alien was not sentenced to a term of imprisonment in excess of 6 months (regardless of the extent to which the sentence was ultimately executed).

(B) MULTIPLE CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS.—Any alien convicted of 2 or more offenses (other than purely political offenses), regardless of whether the conviction was in a single trial or whether the offenses arose from a single scheme of misconduct and regardless of whether the offenses involved moral turpitude, for which the aggregate sentences to confinement were 5 years or more is inadmissible.

(C) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE TRAFFICKERS.—Any alien who the consular officer or the Attorney General knows or has reason to believe—

(i) is or has been an illicit trafficker in any controlled substance or in any listed chemical (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)), or is or has been a knowing aider, abettor, assister, conspirator, or colluder with others in the illicit trafficking in any such controlled or listed substance or chemical, or endeavored to do so; or

(ii) is the spouse, son, or daughter of an alien inadmissible under clause (i), has, within the previous 5 years, obtained any financial or other benefit from the illicit activity of that alien, and knew or reasonably should have known that the financial or other benefit was the product of such illicit activity,

is inadmissible.

(D) PROSTITUTION AND COMMERCIALIZED VICE.—Any alien who—

(i) is coming to the United States solely, principally, or incidentally to engage in prostitution, or has engaged in prostitution within 10 years of the date of application for a visa, admission, or adjustment of status,

(ii) directly or indirectly procures or attempts to procure, or (within 10 years of the date of application for a visa, entry, or adjustment of status) procured or attempted to procure or to import, prostitutes or persons for the purpose of prostitution, or receives or (within such 10-year period) received, in whole or in part, the proceeds of prostitution, or

(iii) is coming to the United States to engage in any other unlawful commercialized vice, whether or not related to prostitution,

is inadmissible.

(E) CERTAIN ALIENS INVOLVED IN SERIOUS CRIMINAL ACTIVITY WHO HAVE ASSERTED IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION.—Any alien—

(i) who has committed in the United States at any time a serious criminal offense (as defined in section 101(h)),

(ii) for whom immunity from criminal jurisdiction was exercised with respect to that offense,

(iii) who as a consequence of the offense and exercise of immunity has departed from the United States, and

(iv) who has not subsequently submitted fully to the jurisdiction of the court in the United States having jurisdiction with respect to that offense,

is inadmissible.

(F) WAIVER AUTHORIZED.—For provision authorizing waiver of certain subparagraphs of this paragraph, see subsection (h).

(G) FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO HAVE COMMITTED PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.—Any alien who, while serving as a foreign government official, was responsible for or directly carried out, at any time, particularly severe violations of religious freedom, as defined in section 3 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6402), is inadmissible.

(H) SIGNIFICANT TRAFFICKERS IN PERSONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Any alien who commits or conspires to commit human trafficking offenses in the United States or outside the United States, or who the consular officer, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, or the Attorney General knows or has reason to believe is or has been a knowing aider, abettor, assister, conspirator, or colluder with such a trafficker in severe forms of trafficking in persons, as defined in the section 103 of such Act, is inadmissible.

(ii) BENEFICIARIES OF TRAFFICKING.—Except as provided in clause (iii), any alien who the consular officer or the Attorney General knows or has reason to believe is the spouse, son, or daughter of an alien inadmissible under clause (i), has, within the previous 5 years, obtained any financial or other benefit from the illicit activity of that alien, and knew or reasonably should have known that the financial or other benefit was the product of such illicit activity, is inadmissible.

(iii) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN SONS AND DAUGHTERS.—Clause (ii) shall not apply to a son or daughter who was a child at the time he or she received the benefit described in such clause.

(I) MONEY LAUNDERING.—Any alien—

(i) who a consular officer or the Attorney General knows, or has reason to believe, has engaged, is engaging, or seeks to enter the United States to engage, in an offense which is described in section 1956 or 1957 of title 18, United States Code (relating to laundering of monetary instruments); or

(ii) who a consular officer or the Attorney General knows is, or has been, a knowing aider, abettor, assist-

er, conspirator, or colluder with others in an offense which is described in such section; is inadmissible.

(J) EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE.—Any alien who has been convicted of, who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of a violation of section 40B(a) of title 18, United States Code, is inadmissible.

(3) SECURITY AND RELATED GROUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any alien who a consular officer or the Attorney General knows, or has reasonable ground to believe, seeks to enter the United States to engage solely, principally, or incidentally in—

(i) any activity (I) to violate any law of the United States relating to espionage or sabotage or (II) to violate or evade any law prohibiting the export from the United States of goods, technology, or sensitive information,

(ii) any other unlawful activity, or

(iii) any activity a purpose of which is the opposition to, or the control or overthrow of, the Government of the United States by force, violence, or other unlawful means,

is inadmissible.

(B) TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Any alien who—

(I) has engaged in a terrorist activity;

(II) a consular officer, the Attorney General, or the Secretary of Homeland Security knows, or has reasonable ground to believe, is engaged in or is likely to engage after entry in any terrorist activity (as defined in clause (iv));

(III) has, under circumstances indicating an intention to cause death or serious bodily harm, incited terrorist activity;

(IV) is a representative (as defined in clause (v)) of—

(aa) a terrorist organization (as defined in clause (vi)); or

(bb) a political, social, or other group that endorses or espouses terrorist activity;

(V) is a member of a terrorist organization described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (vi);

(VI) is a member of a terrorist organization described in clause (vi)(III), unless the alien can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that the alien did not know, and should not reasonably have known, that the organization was a terrorist organization;

(VII) endorses or espouses terrorist activity or persuades others to endorse or espouse terrorist activity or support a terrorist organization;

(VIII) has received military-type training (as defined in section 2339D(c)(1) of title 18, United

States Code) from or on behalf of any organization that, at the time the training was received, was a terrorist organization (as defined in clause (vi)); or

(IX) is the spouse or child of an alien who is inadmissible under this subparagraph, if the activity causing the alien to be found inadmissible occurred within the last 5 years, is inadmissible.

An alien who is an officer, official, representative, or spokesman of the Palestine Liberation Organization is considered, for purposes of this Act, to be engaged in a terrorist activity.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—Subclause (IX) of clause (i) does not apply to a spouse or child—

(I) who did not know or should not reasonably have known of the activity causing the alien to be found inadmissible under this section; or

(II) whom the consular officer or Attorney General has reasonable grounds to believe has renounced the activity causing the alien to be found inadmissible under this section.

(iii) TERRORIST ACTIVITY DEFINED.—As used in this Act, the term “terrorist activity” means any activity which is unlawful under the laws of the place where it is committed (or which, if it had been committed in the United States, would be unlawful under the laws of the United States or any State) and which involves any of the following:

(I) The hijacking or sabotage of any conveyance (including an aircraft, vessel, or vehicle).

(II) The seizing or detaining, and threatening to kill, injure, or continue to detain, another individual in order to compel a third person (including a governmental organization) to do or abstain from doing any act as an explicit or implicit condition for the release of the individual seized or detained.

(III) A violent attack upon an internationally protected person (as defined in section 1116(b)(4) of title 18, United States Code) or upon the liberty of such a person.

(IV) An assassination.

(V) The use of any—

(a) biological agent, chemical agent, or nuclear weapon or device, or

(b) explosive, firearm, or other weapon or dangerous device (other than for mere personal monetary gain),

with intent to endanger, directly or indirectly, the safety of one or more individuals or to cause substantial damage to property.

(VI) A threat, attempt, or conspiracy to do any of the foregoing.

(iv) ENGAGE IN TERRORIST ACTIVITY DEFINED.—As used in this Act, the term “engage in terrorist activity”

means, in an individual capacity or as a member of an organization—

(I) to commit or to incite to commit, under circumstances indicating an intention to cause death or serious bodily injury, a terrorist activity;

(II) to prepare or plan a terrorist activity;

(III) to gather information on potential targets for terrorist activity;

(IV) to solicit funds or other things of value for—

(aa) a terrorist activity;

(bb) a terrorist organization described in clause (vi)(I) or (vi)(II); or

(cc) a terrorist organization described in clause (vi)(III), unless the solicitor can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that he did not know, and should not reasonably have known, that the organization was a terrorist organization;

(V) to solicit any individual—

(aa) to engage in conduct otherwise described in this subsection;

(bb) for membership in a terrorist organization described in clause (vi)(I) or (vi)(II); or

(cc) for membership in a terrorist organization described in clause (vi)(III) unless the solicitor can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that he did not know, and should not reasonably have known, that the organization was a terrorist organization; or

(VI) to commit an act that the actor knows, or reasonably should know, affords material support, including a safe house, transportation, communications, funds, transfer of funds or other material financial benefit, false documentation or identification, weapons (including chemical, biological, or radiological weapons), explosives, or training—

(aa) for the commission of a terrorist activity;

(bb) to any individual who the actor knows, or reasonably should know, has committed or plans to commit a terrorist activity;

(cc) to a terrorist organization described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (vi) or to any member of such an organization; or

(dd) to a terrorist organization described in clause (vi)(III), or to any member of such an organization, unless the actor can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that the actor did not know, and should not reasonably have known, that the organization was a terrorist organization.

(v) REPRESENTATIVE DEFINED.—As used in this paragraph, the term “representative” includes an officer, official, or spokesman of an organization, and any per-

son who directs, counsels, commands, or induces an organization or its members to engage in terrorist activity.

(vi) TERRORIST ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—As used in this section, the term “terrorist organization” means an organization—

(I) designated under section 219;

(II) otherwise designated, upon publication in the Federal Register, by the Secretary of State in consultation with or upon the request of the Attorney General or the Secretary of Homeland Security, as a terrorist organization, after finding that the organization engages in the activities described in subclauses (I) through (VI) of clause (iv); or

(III) that is a group of two or more individuals, whether organized or not, which engages in, or has a subgroup which engages in, the activities described in subclauses (I) through (VI) of clause (iv).

(C) FOREIGN POLICY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An alien whose entry or proposed activities in the United States the Secretary of State has reasonable ground to believe would have potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States is inadmissible.

(ii) EXCEPTION FOR OFFICIALS.—An alien who is an official of a foreign government or a purported government, or who is a candidate for election to a foreign government office during the period immediately preceding the election for that office, shall not be excludable or subject to restrictions or conditions on entry into the United States under clause (i) solely because of the alien’s past, current, or expected beliefs, statements, or associations, if such beliefs, statements, or associations would be lawful within the United States.

(iii) EXCEPTION FOR OTHER ALIENS.—An alien, not described in clause (ii), shall not be excludable or subject to restrictions or conditions on entry into the United States under clause (i) because of the alien’s past, current, or expected beliefs, statements, or associations, if such beliefs, statements, or associations would be lawful within the United States, unless the Secretary of State personally determines that the alien’s admission would compromise a compelling United States foreign policy interest.

(iv) NOTIFICATION OF DETERMINATIONS.—If a determination is made under clause (iii) with respect to an alien, the Secretary of State must notify on a timely basis the chairmen of the Committees on the Judiciary and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and of the Committees on the Judiciary and Foreign Relations of the Senate of the identity of the alien and the reasons for the determination.

(D) IMMIGRANT MEMBERSHIP IN TOTALITARIAN PARTY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Any immigrant who is or has been a member of or affiliated with the Communist or any other totalitarian party (or subdivision or affiliate thereof), domestic or foreign, is inadmissible.

(ii) EXCEPTION FOR INVOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP.—Clause (i) shall not apply to an alien because of membership or affiliation if the alien establishes to the satisfaction of the consular officer when applying for a visa (or to the satisfaction of the Attorney General when applying for admission) that the membership or affiliation is or was involuntary, or is or was solely when under 16 years of age, by operation of law, or for purposes of obtaining employment, food rations, or other essentials of living and whether necessary for such purposes.

(iii) EXCEPTION FOR PAST MEMBERSHIP.—Clause (i) shall not apply to an alien because of membership or affiliation if the alien establishes to the satisfaction of the consular officer when applying for a visa (or to the satisfaction of the Attorney General when applying for admission) that—

(I) the membership or affiliation terminated at least—

(a) 2 years before the date of such application, or

(b) 5 years before the date of such application, in the case of an alien whose membership or affiliation was with the party controlling the government of a foreign state that is a totalitarian dictatorship as of such date, and

(II) the alien is not a threat to the security of the United States.

(iv) EXCEPTION FOR CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS.—The Attorney General may, in the Attorney General's discretion, waive the application of clause (i) in the case of an immigrant who is the parent, spouse, son, daughter, brother, or sister of a citizen of the United States or a spouse, son, or daughter of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence for humanitarian purposes, to assure family unity, or when it is otherwise in the public interest if the immigrant is not a threat to the security of the United States.

(E) PARTICIPANTS IN NAZI PERSECUTION, GENOCIDE, OR THE COMMISSION OF ANY ACT OF TORTURE OR EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING.—

(i) PARTICIPATION IN NAZI PERSECUTIONS.—Any alien who, during the period beginning on March 23, 1933, and ending on May 8, 1945, under the direction of, or in association with—

(I) the Nazi government of Germany,

(II) any government in any area occupied by the military forces of the Nazi government of Germany,

(III) any government established with the assistance or cooperation of the Nazi government of Germany, or

(IV) any government which was an ally of the Nazi government of Germany, ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person because of race, religion, national origin, or political opinion is inadmissible.

(ii) PARTICIPATION IN GENOCIDE.—Any alien who ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in genocide, as defined in section 1091(a) of title 18, United States Code, is inadmissible

(iii) COMMISSION OF ACTS OF TORTURE OR EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS.—Any alien who, outside the United States, has committed, ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the commission of—

(I) any act of torture, as defined in section 2340 of title 18, United States Code; or

(II) under color of law of any foreign nation, any extrajudicial killing, as defined in section 3(a) of the Torture Victim Protection Act of 1991 (28 U.S.C. 1350 note),

is inadmissible.

(F) ASSOCIATION WITH TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.—Any alien who the Secretary of State, after consultation with the Attorney General, or the Attorney General, after consultation with the Secretary of State, determines has been associated with a terrorist organization and intends while in the United States to engage solely, principally, or incidentally in activities that could endanger the welfare, safety, or security of the United States is inadmissible.

(G) RECRUITMENT OR USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS.—Any alien who has engaged in the recruitment or use of child soldiers in violation of section 2442 of title 18, United States Code, is inadmissible.

(4) PUBLIC CHARGE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any alien who, in the opinion of the consular officer at the time of application for a visa, or in the opinion of the Attorney General at the time of application for admission or adjustment of status, is likely at any time to become a public charge is inadmissible.

(B) FACTORS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.—(i) In determining whether an alien is inadmissible under this paragraph, the consular officer or the Attorney General shall at a minimum consider the alien's—

(I) age;

(II) health;

(III) family status;

(IV) assets, resources, and financial status; and

(V) education and skills.

(ii) In addition to the factors under clause (i), the consular officer or the Attorney General may also consider any affidavit of support under section 213A for purposes of exclusion under this paragraph.

(C) FAMILY-SPONSORED IMMIGRANTS.—Any alien who seeks admission or adjustment of status under a visa number issued under section 201(b)(2) or 203(a) is inadmissible under this paragraph unless—

(i) the alien has obtained—

(I) status as a spouse or a child of a United States citizen pursuant to clause (ii), (iii), or (iv) of section 204(a)(1)(A), or

(II) classification pursuant to clause (ii) or (iii) of section 204(a)(1)(B); or

(III) classification or status as a VAWA self-petitioner; or

(ii) the person petitioning for the alien's admission (and any additional sponsor required under section 213A(f) or any alternative sponsor permitted under paragraph (5)(B) of such section) has executed an affidavit of support described in section 213A with respect to such alien.

(D) CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.—Any alien who seeks admission or adjustment of status under a visa number issued under section 203(b) by virtue of a classification petition filed by a relative of the alien (or by an entity in which such relative has a significant ownership interest) is inadmissible under this paragraph unless such relative has executed an affidavit of support described in section 213A with respect to such alien.

(E) SPECIAL RULE FOR QUALIFIED ALIEN VICTIMS.—Subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) shall not apply to an alien who—

(i) is a VAWA self-petitioner;

(ii) is an applicant for, or is granted, nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(U); or

(iii) is a qualified alien described in section 431(c) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1641(c)).

(5) LABOR CERTIFICATION AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR CERTAIN IMMIGRANTS.—

(A) LABOR CERTIFICATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Any alien who seeks to enter the United States for the purpose of performing skilled or unskilled labor is inadmissible, unless the Secretary of Labor has determined and certified to the Secretary of State and the Attorney General that—

(I) there are not sufficient workers who are able, willing, qualified (or equally qualified in the case of an alien described in clause (ii)) and available at the time of application for a visa and admission to the United States and at the place where the alien is to perform such skilled or unskilled labor, and

(II) the employment of such alien will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of workers in the United States similarly employed.

(ii) CERTAIN ALIENS SUBJECT TO SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of clause (i)(I), an alien described in this clause is an alien who—

(I) is a member of the teaching profession, or

(II) has exceptional ability in the sciences or the arts.

(iii) PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—A certification made under clause (i) with respect to a professional athlete shall remain valid with respect to the athlete after the athlete changes employer, if the new employer is a team in the same sport as the team which employed the athlete when the athlete first applied for the certification.

(II) DEFINITION.—For purposes of subclause (I), the term “professional athlete” means an individual who is employed as an athlete by—

(aa) a team that is a member of an association of 6 or more professional sports teams whose total combined revenues exceed \$10,000,000 per year, if the association governs the conduct of its members and regulates the contests and exhibitions in which its member teams regularly engage; or

(bb) any minor league team that is affiliated with such an association.

(iv) LONG DELAYED ADJUSTMENT APPLICANTS.—A certification made under clause (i) with respect to an individual whose petition is covered by section 204(j) shall remain valid with respect to a new job accepted by the individual after the individual changes jobs or employers if the new job is in the same or a similar occupational classification as the job for which the certification was issued.

(B) UNQUALIFIED PHYSICIANS.—An alien who is a graduate of a medical school not accredited by a body or bodies approved for the purpose by the Secretary of Education (regardless of whether such school of medicine is in the United States) and who is coming to the United States principally to perform services as a member of the medical profession is inadmissible, unless the alien (i) has passed parts I and II of the National Board of Medical Examiners Examination (or an equivalent examination as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services) and (ii) is competent in oral and written English. For purposes of the previous sentence, an alien who is a graduate of a medical school shall be considered to have passed parts I and II of the National Board of Medical Examiners if the alien was fully and permanently licensed to practice medicine in a State on January 9, 1978, and was practicing medicine in a State on that date.

(C) UNCERTIFIED FOREIGN HEALTH-CARE WORKERS.—Subject to subsection (r), any alien who seeks to enter the United States for the purpose of performing labor as a health-care worker, other than a physician, is inadmissible

unless the alien presents to the consular officer, or, in the case of an adjustment of status, the Attorney General, a certificate from the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools, or a certificate from an equivalent independent credentialing organization approved by the Attorney General in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, verifying that—

(i) the alien's education, training, license, and experience—

(I) meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements for entry into the United States under the classification specified in the application;

(II) are comparable with that required for an American health-care worker of the same type; and

(III) are authentic and, in the case of a license, unencumbered;

(ii) the alien has the level of competence in oral and written English considered by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to be appropriate for health care work of the kind in which the alien will be engaged, as shown by an appropriate score on one or more nationally recognized, commercially available, standardized assessments of the applicant's ability to speak and write; and

(iii) if a majority of States licensing the profession in which the alien intends to work recognize a test predicting the success on the profession's licensing or certification examination, the alien has passed such a test or has passed such an examination.

For purposes of clause (ii), determination of the standardized tests required and of the minimum scores that are appropriate are within the sole discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services and are not subject to further administrative or judicial review.

(D) APPLICATION OF GROUNDS.—The grounds for inadmissibility of aliens under subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall apply to immigrants seeking admission or adjustment of status under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 203(b).

(6) ILLEGAL ENTRANTS AND IMMIGRATION VIOLATORS.—

(A) ALIENS PRESENT WITHOUT ADMISSION OR PAROLE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An alien present in the United States without being admitted or paroled, or who arrives in the United States at any time or place other than as designated by the Attorney General, is inadmissible.

(ii) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN BATTERED WOMEN AND CHILDREN.—Clause (i) shall not apply to an alien who demonstrates that—

(I) the alien is a VAWA self-petitioner;

(II)(a) the alien has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty by a spouse or parent, or by a member of the spouse's or parent's family residing

in the same household as the alien and the spouse or parent consented or acquiesced to such battery or cruelty, or (b) the alien's child has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty by a spouse or parent of the alien (without the active participation of the alien in the battery or cruelty) or by a member of the spouse's or parent's family residing in the same household as the alien when the spouse or parent consented to or acquiesced in such battery or cruelty and the alien did not actively participate in such battery or cruelty, and

(III) there was a substantial connection between the battery or cruelty described in subclause (I) or (II) and the alien's unlawful entry into the United States.

(B) FAILURE TO ATTEND REMOVAL PROCEEDING.—Any alien who without reasonable cause fails or refuses to attend or remain in attendance at a proceeding to determine the alien's inadmissibility or deportability and who seeks admission to the United States within 5 years of such alien's subsequent departure or removal is inadmissible.

(C) MISREPRESENTATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Any alien who, by fraud or willfully misrepresenting a material fact, seeks to procure (or has sought to procure or has procured) a visa, other documentation, or admission into the United States or other benefit provided under this Act is inadmissible.

(ii) FALSELY CLAIMING CITIZENSHIP.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Any alien who falsely represents, or has falsely represented, himself or herself to be a citizen of the United States for any purpose or benefit under this Act (including section 274A) or any other Federal or State law is inadmissible.

(II) EXCEPTION.—In the case of an alien making a representation described in subclause (I), if each natural parent of the alien (or, in the case of an adopted alien, each adoptive parent of the alien) is or was a citizen (whether by birth or naturalization), the alien permanently resided in the United States prior to attaining the age of 16, and the alien reasonably believed at the time of making such representation that he or she was a citizen, the alien shall not be considered to be inadmissible under any provision of this subsection based on such representation.

(iii) WAIVER AUTHORIZED.—For provision authorizing waiver of clause (i), see subsection (i).

(D) STOWAWAYS.—Any alien who is a stowaway is inadmissible.

(E) SMUGGLERS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Any alien who at any time knowingly has encouraged, induced, assisted, abetted, or aided any other alien to enter or to try to enter the United States in violation of law is inadmissible.

(ii) SPECIAL RULE IN THE CASE OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION.—Clause (i) shall not apply in the case of alien who is an eligible immigrant (as defined in section 301(b)(1) of the Immigration Act of 1990), was physically present in the United States on May 5, 1988, and is seeking admission as an immediate relative or under section 203(a)(2) (including under section 112 of the Immigration Act of 1990) or benefits under section 301(a) of the Immigration Act of 1990 if the alien, before May 5, 1988, has encouraged, induced, assisted, abetted, or aided only the alien's spouse, parent, son, or daughter (and no other individual) to enter the United States in violation of law.

(iii) WAIVER AUTHORIZED.—For provision authorizing waiver of clause (i), see subsection (d)(11).

(F) SUBJECT OF CIVIL PENALTY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An alien who is the subject of a final order for violation of section 274C is inadmissible.

(ii) WAIVER AUTHORIZED.—For provision authorizing waiver of clause (i), see subsection (d)(12).

(G) STUDENT VISA ABUSERS.—An alien who obtains the status of a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(F)(i) and who violates a term or condition of such status under section 214(l) is inadmissible until the alien has been outside the United States for a continuous period of 5 years after the date of the violation.

(7) DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IMMIGRANTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Act, any immigrant at the time of application for admission—

(I) who is not in possession of a valid unexpired immigrant visa, reentry permit, border crossing identification card, or other valid entry document required by this Act, and a valid unexpired passport, or other suitable travel document, or document of identity and nationality if such document is required under the regulations issued by the Attorney General under section 211(a), or

(II) whose visa has been issued without compliance with the provisions of section 203, is inadmissible.

(ii) WAIVER AUTHORIZED.—For provision authorizing waiver of clause (i), see subsection (k).

(B) NONIMMIGRANTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Any nonimmigrant who—

(I) is not in possession of a passport valid for a minimum of six months from the date of the expiration of the initial period of the alien's admission or contemplated initial period of stay authorizing the alien to return to the country from which the alien came or to proceed to and enter some other country during such period, or

(II) is not in possession of a valid nonimmigrant visa or border crossing identification card at the time of application for admission, is inadmissible.

(ii) GENERAL WAIVER AUTHORIZED.—For provision authorizing waiver of clause (i), see subsection (d)(4).

(iii) GUAM AND NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS VISA WAIVER.—For provision authorizing waiver of clause (i) in the case of visitors to Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, see subsection (l).

(iv) VISA WAIVER PROGRAM.—For authority to waive the requirement of clause (i) under a program, see section 217.

(8) INELIGIBLE FOR CITIZENSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any immigrant who is permanently ineligible to citizenship is inadmissible.

(B) DRAFT EVADERS.—Any person who has departed from or who has remained outside the United States to avoid or evade training or service in the armed forces in time of war or a period declared by the President to be a national emergency is inadmissible, except that this subparagraph shall not apply to an alien who at the time of such departure was a nonimmigrant and who is seeking to reenter the United States as a nonimmigrant.

(9) ALIENS PREVIOUSLY REMOVED.—

(A) CERTAIN ALIENS PREVIOUSLY REMOVED.—

(i) ARRIVING ALIENS.—Any alien who has been ordered removed under section 235(b)(1) or at the end of proceedings under section 240 initiated upon the alien's arrival in the United States and who again seeks admission within 5 years of the date of such removal (or within 20 years in the case of a second or subsequent removal or at any time in the case of an alien convicted of an aggravated felony) is inadmissible.

(ii) OTHER ALIENS.—Any alien not described in clause (i) who—

(I) has been ordered removed under section 240 or any other provision of law, or

(II) departed the United States while an order of removal was outstanding, and who seeks admission within 10 years of the date of such alien's departure or removal (or within 20 years of such date in the case of a second or subsequent removal or at any time in the case of an alien convicted of an aggravated felony) is inadmissible.

(iii) EXCEPTION.—Clauses (i) and (ii) shall not apply to an alien seeking admission within a period if, prior to the date of the alien's reembarkation at a place outside the United States or attempt to be admitted from foreign contiguous territory, the Attorney General has consented to the alien's reapplying for admission.

(B) ALIENS UNLAWFULLY PRESENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Any alien (other than an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence) who—

(I) was unlawfully present in the United States for a period of more than 180 days but less than 1 year, voluntarily departed the United States (whether or not pursuant to section 244(e)) prior to the commencement of proceedings under section 235(b)(1) or section 240, and again seeks admission within 3 years of the date of such alien's departure or removal, or

(II) has been unlawfully present in the United States for one year or more, and who again seeks admission within 10 years of the date of such alien's departure or removal from the United States,

is inadmissible.

(ii) CONSTRUCTION OF UNLAWFUL PRESENCE.—For purposes of this paragraph, an alien is deemed to be unlawfully present in the United States if the alien is present in the United States after the expiration of the period of stay authorized by the Attorney General or is present in the United States without being admitted or paroled.

(iii) EXCEPTIONS.—

(I) MINORS.—No period of time in which an alien is under 18 years of age shall be taken into account in determining the period of unlawful presence in the United States under clause (i).

(II) ASYLEES.—No period of time in which an alien has a bona fide application for asylum pending under section 208 shall be taken into account in determining the period of unlawful presence in the United States under clause (i) unless the alien during such period was employed without authorization in the United States.

(III) FAMILY UNITY.—No period of time in which the alien is a beneficiary of family unity protection pursuant to section 301 of the Immigration Act of 1990 shall be taken into account in determining the period of unlawful presence in the United States under clause (i).

(IV) BATTERED WOMEN AND CHILDREN.—Clause (i) shall not apply to an alien who would be described in paragraph (6)(A)(ii) if “violation of the terms of the alien's nonimmigrant visa” were substituted for “unlawful entry into the United States” in subclause (III) of that paragraph.

(V) VICTIMS OF A SEVERE FORM OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.—Clause (i) shall not apply to an alien who demonstrates that the severe form of trafficking (as that term is defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)) was at least one central reason for the alien's unlawful presence in the United States.

(iv) TOLLING FOR GOOD CAUSE.—In the case of an alien who—

(I) has been lawfully admitted or paroled into the United States,

(II) has filed a nonfrivolous application for a change or extension of status before the date of expiration of the period of stay authorized by the Attorney General, and

(III) has not been employed without authorization in the United States before or during the pendency of such application,

the calculation of the period of time specified in clause (i)(I) shall be tolled during the pendency of such application, but not to exceed 120 days.

(v) WAIVER.—The Attorney General has sole discretion to waive clause (i) in the case of an immigrant who is the spouse or son or daughter of a United States citizen or of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, if it is established to the satisfaction of the Attorney General that the refusal of admission to such immigrant alien would result in extreme hardship to the citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent of such alien. No court shall have jurisdiction to review a decision or action by the Attorney General regarding a waiver under this clause.

(C) ALIENS UNLAWFULLY PRESENT AFTER PREVIOUS IMMIGRATION VIOLATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Any alien who—

(I) has been unlawfully present in the United States for an aggregate period of more than 1 year, or

(II) has been ordered removed under section 235(b)(1), section 240, or any other provision of law,

and who enters or attempts to reenter the United States without being admitted is inadmissible.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply to an alien seeking admission more than 10 years after the date of the alien's last departure from the United States if, prior to the alien's reembarkation at a place outside the United States or attempt to be readmitted from a foreign contiguous territory, the Secretary of Homeland Security has consented to the alien's reapplying for admission.

(iii) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may waive the application of clause (i) in the case of an alien who is a VAWA self-petitioner if there is a connection between—

(I) the alien's battering or subjection to extreme cruelty; and

(II) the alien's removal, departure from the United States, reentry or reentries into the United States; or attempted reentry into the United States.

(10) MISCELLANEOUS.—

(A) PRACTICING POLYGAMISTS.—Any immigrant who is coming to the United States to practice polygamy is inadmissible.

(B) GUARDIAN REQUIRED TO ACCOMPANY HELPLESS ALIEN.—Any alien—

(i) who is accompanying another alien who is inadmissible and who is certified to be helpless from sickness, mental or physical disability, or infancy pursuant to section 232(c), and

(ii) whose protection or guardianship is determined to be required by the alien described in clause (i), is inadmissible.

(C) INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), any alien who, after entry of an order by a court in the United States granting custody to a person of a United States citizen child who detains or retains the child, or withholds custody of the child, outside the United States from the person granted custody by that order, is inadmissible until the child is surrendered to the person granted custody by that order.

(ii) ALIENS SUPPORTING ABDUCTORS AND RELATIVES OF ABDUCTORS.—Any alien who—

(I) is known by the Secretary of State to have intentionally assisted an alien in the conduct described in clause (i),

(II) is known by the Secretary of State to be intentionally providing material support or safe haven to an alien described in clause (i), or

(III) is a spouse (other than the spouse who is the parent of the abducted child), child (other than the abducted child), parent, sibling, or agent of an alien described in clause (i), if such person has been designated by the Secretary of State at the Secretary's sole and unreviewable discretion, is inadmissible until the child described in clause (i) is surrendered to the person granted custody by the order described in that clause, and such person and child are permitted to return to the United States or such person's place of residence.

(iii) EXCEPTIONS.—Clauses (i) and (ii) shall not apply—

(I) to a government official of the United States who is acting within the scope of his or her official duties;

(II) to a government official of any foreign government if the official has been designated by the Secretary of State at the Secretary's sole and unreviewable discretion; or

(III) so long as the child is located in a foreign state that is a party to the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, done at The Hague on October 25, 1980.

(D) UNLAWFUL VOTERS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Any alien who has voted in violation of any Federal, State, or local constitutional provision, statute, ordinance, or regulation is inadmissible.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—In the case of an alien who voted in a Federal, State, or local election (including an initiative, recall, or referendum) in violation of a lawful restriction of voting to citizens, if each natural parent of the alien (or, in the case of an adopted alien, each adoptive parent of the alien) is or was a citizen (whether by birth or naturalization), the alien permanently resided in the United States prior to attaining the age of 16, and the alien reasonably believed at the time of such violation that he or she was a citizen, the alien shall not be considered to be inadmissible under any provision of this subsection based on such violation.

(E) FORMER CITIZENS WHO RENOUNCED CITIZENSHIP TO AVOID TAXATION.—Any alien who is a former citizen of the United States who officially renounces United States citizenship and who is determined by the Attorney General to have renounced United States citizenship for the purpose of avoiding taxation by the United States is inadmissible.

(b) NOTICES OF DENIALS.—

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), if an alien's application for a visa, for admission to the United States, or for adjustment of status is denied by an immigration or consular officer because the officer determines the alien to be inadmissible under subsection (a), the officer shall provide the alien with a timely written notice that—

(A) states the determination, and

(B) lists the specific provision or provisions of law under which the alien is excludable or ineligible for entry or adjustment of status.

(2) The Secretary of State may waive the requirements of paragraph (1) with respect to a particular alien or any class or classes of inadmissible aliens.

(3) Paragraph (1) does not apply to any alien inadmissible under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a).

(d)(1) The Attorney General shall determine whether a ground for inadmissible exists with respect to a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(S). The Attorney General, in the Attorney General's discretion, may waive the application of subsection (a) (other than paragraph (3)(E)) in the case of a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(S), if the Attorney General considers it to be in the national interest to do so. Nothing in this section shall be regarded as prohibiting the Immigration and Naturalization Service from instituting removal proceedings against an alien admitted as a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(S) for conduct committed after the alien's admission into the United States, or for conduct or a condition that was not disclosed to the Attorney General prior to the alien's admission as a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(S).

(3)(A) Except as provided in this subsection, an alien (i) who is applying for a nonimmigrant visa and is known or believed by the consular officer to be ineligible for such visa under subsection (a)

(other than paragraphs (3)(A)(i)(I), (3)(A)(ii), (3)(A)(iii), (3)(C), and clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (3)(E) of such subsection), may, after approval by the Attorney General of a recommendation by the Secretary of State or by the consular officer that the alien be admitted temporarily despite his inadmissibility, be granted such a visa and may be admitted into the United States temporarily as a nonimmigrant in the discretion of the Attorney General, or (ii) who is inadmissible under subsection (a) (other than paragraphs (3)(A)(i)(I), (3)(A)(ii), (3)(A)(iii), (3)(C), and clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (3)(E) of such subsection), but who is in possession of appropriate documents or is granted a waiver thereof and is seeking admission, may be admitted into the United States temporarily as a nonimmigrant in the discretion of the Attorney General. The Attorney General shall prescribe conditions, including exaction of such bonds as may be necessary, to control and regulate the admission and return of inadmissible aliens applying for temporary admission under this paragraph.

(B)(i) The Secretary of State, after consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the Secretary of Homeland Security, after consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, may determine in such Secretary's sole unreviewable discretion that subsection (a)(3)(B) shall not apply with respect to an alien within the scope of that subsection or that subsection (a)(3)(B)(vi)(III) shall not apply to a group within the scope of that subsection, except that no such waiver may be extended to an alien who is within the scope of subsection (a)(3)(B)(i)(II), no such waiver may be extended to an alien who is a member or representative of, has voluntarily and knowingly engaged in or endorsed or espoused or persuaded others to endorse or espouse or support terrorist activity on behalf of, or has voluntarily and knowingly received military-type training from a terrorist organization that is described in subclause (I) or (II) of subsection (a)(3)(B)(vi), and no such waiver may be extended to a group that has engaged terrorist activity against the United States or another democratic country or that has purposefully engaged in a pattern or practice of terrorist activity that is directed at civilians. Such a determination shall neither prejudice the ability of the United States Government to commence criminal or civil proceedings involving a beneficiary of such a determination or any other person, nor create any substantive or procedural right or benefit for a beneficiary of such a determination or any other person. Notwithstanding any other provision of law (statutory or nonstatutory), including section 2241 of title 28, or any other habeas corpus provision, and sections 1361 and 1651 of such title, no court shall have jurisdiction to review such a determination or revocation except in a proceeding for review of a final order of removal pursuant to section 1252 of this title, and review shall be limited to the extent provided in section 1252(a)(2)(D). The Secretary of State may not exercise the discretion provided in this clause with respect to an alien at any time during which the alien is the subject of pending removal proceedings under section 1229a of this title.

(ii) Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall each provide to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and of the Senate, the Committee on International

Relations of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the aliens to whom such Secretary has applied clause (i). Within one week of applying clause (i) to a group, the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a report to such Committees.

(4) Either or both of the requirements of paragraph (7)(B)(i) of subsection (a) may be waived by the Attorney General and the Secretary of State acting jointly (A) on the basis of unforeseen emergency in individual cases, or (B) on the basis of reciprocity with respect to nationals of foreign contiguous territory or of adjacent islands and residents thereof having a common nationality with such nationals, or (C) in the case of aliens proceeding in immediate and continuous transit through the United States under contracts authorized in section 238(c).

(5)(A) The Attorney General may, except as provided in subparagraph (B) or in section 214(f), in his discretion parole into the United States temporarily under such conditions as he may prescribe only on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit any alien applying for admission to the United States, but such parole of such alien shall not be regarded as an admission of the alien and when the purposes of such parole shall, in the opinion of the Attorney General, have been served the alien shall forthwith return or be returned to the custody from which he was paroled and thereafter his case shall continue to be dealt with in the same manner as that of any other applicant for admission to the United States.

(B) The Attorney General may not parole into the United States an alien who is a refugee unless the Attorney General determines that compelling reasons in the public interest with respect to that particular alien require that the alien be paroled into the United States rather than be admitted as a refugee under section 207.

(7) The provisions of subsection (a) (other than paragraph (7)) shall be applicable to any alien who shall leave Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands of the United States, and who seeks to enter the continental United States or any other place under the jurisdiction of the United States. Any alien described in this paragraph, who is denied admission to the United States, shall be immediately removed in the manner provided by section 241(c) of this Act.

(8) Upon a basis of reciprocity accredited officials of foreign governments, their immediate families, attendants, servants, and personal employees may be admitted in immediate and continuous transit through the United States without regard to the provisions of this section except paragraphs (3)(A), (3)(B), (3)(C), and (7)(B) of subsection (a) of this section.

(11) The Attorney General may, in his discretion for humanitarian purposes, to assure family unity, or when it is otherwise in the public interest, waive application of clause (i) of subsection (a)(6)(E) in the case of any alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence who temporarily proceeded abroad voluntarily and not under an order of removal, and who is otherwise admissible to the United States as a returning resident under section 211(b) and in the case of an alien seeking admission or adjustment of status as an immediate relative or immigrant under section 203(a) (other

than paragraph (4) thereof), if the alien has encouraged, induced, assisted, abetted, or aided only an individual who at the time of such action was the alien's spouse, parent, son, or daughter (and no other individual) to enter the United States in violation of law.

(12) The Attorney General may, in the discretion of the Attorney General for humanitarian purposes or to assure family unity, waive application of clause (i) of subsection (a)(6)(F)—

(A) in the case of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence who temporarily proceeded abroad voluntarily and not under an order of deportation or removal and who is otherwise admissible to the United States as a returning resident under section 211(b), and

(B) in the case of an alien seeking admission or adjustment of status under section 201(b)(2)(A) or under section 203(a), if no previous civil money penalty was imposed against the alien under section 274C and the offense was committed solely to assist, aid, or support the alien's spouse or child (and not another individual). No court shall have jurisdiction to review a decision of the Attorney General to grant or deny a waiver under this paragraph.

(13)(A) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall determine whether a ground for inadmissibility exists with respect to a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(T), except that the ground for inadmissibility described in subsection (a)(4) shall not apply with respect to such a nonimmigrant.

(B) In addition to any other waiver that may be available under this section, in the case of a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(T), if the Secretary of Homeland Security considers it to be in the national interest to do so, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in the Attorney General's discretion, may waive the application of—

(i) subsection (a)(1); and

(ii) any other provision of subsection (a) (excluding paragraphs (3), (4), (10)(C), and (10)(E)) if the activities rendering the alien inadmissible under the provision were caused by, or were incident to, the victimization described in section 101(a)(15)(T)(i)(I).

(14) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall determine whether a ground of inadmissibility exists with respect to a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(U). The Secretary of Homeland Security, in the Attorney General's discretion, may waive the application of subsection (a) (other than paragraph (3)(E)) in the case of a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(U), if the Secretary of Homeland Security considers it to be in the public or national interest to do so.

(e) No person admitted under section 101(a)(15)(J) or acquiring such status after admission (i) whose participation in the program for which he came to the United States was financed in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, by an agency of the Government of the United States or by the government of the country of his nationality or his last residence, (ii) who at the time of admission or acquisition of status under section 101(a)(15)(J) was a national or resident of a country which the Director of the United States Information Agency pursuant to regulations prescribed by him, had designated as clearly requiring the services of persons engaged in the field of specialized knowledge or skill in which the alien was en-

gaged, or (iii) who came to the United States or acquired such status in order to receive graduate medical education or training, shall be eligible to apply for an immigrant visa, or for permanent residence, or for a nonimmigrant visa under section 101(a)(15)(H) or section 101(a)(15)(L) until it is established that such person has resided and been physically present in the country of his nationality or his last residence for an aggregate of a least two years following departure from the United States: *Provided*, That upon the favorable recommendation of the Director, pursuant to the request of an interested United States Government agency (or, in the case of an alien described in clause (iii), pursuant to the request of a State Department of Public Health, or its equivalent), or of the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization after he has determined that departure from the United States would impose exceptional hardship upon the alien's spouse or child (if such spouse or child is a citizen of the United States or a lawfully resident alien), or that the alien cannot return to the country of his nationality or last residence because he would be subject to persecution on account of race, religion, or political opinion, the Attorney General may waive the requirement of such two-year foreign residence abroad in the case of any alien whose admission to the United States is found by the Attorney General to be in the public interest except that in the case of a waiver requested by a State Department of Public Health, or its equivalent, or in the case of a waiver requested by an interested United States Government agency on behalf of an alien described in clause (iii), the waiver shall be subject to the requirements of section 214(l): *And provided further*, That, except in the case of an alien described in clause (iii), the Attorney General may, upon the favorable recommendation of the Director, waive such two-year foreign residence requirement in any case in which the foreign country of the alien's nationality or last residence has furnished the Director a statement in writing that it has no objection to such waiver in the case of such alien.

(f) Whenever the President finds that the entry of any aliens or of any class of aliens into the United States would be detrimental to the interests of the United States, he may by proclamation, and for such period as he shall deem necessary, suspend the entry of all aliens or any class of aliens as immigrants or nonimmigrants, or impose on the entry of aliens any restrictions he may deem to be appropriate. Whenever the Attorney General finds that a commercial airline has failed to comply with regulations of the Attorney General relating to requirements of airlines for the detection of fraudulent documents used by passengers traveling to the United States (including the training of personnel in such detection), the Attorney General may suspend the entry of some or all aliens transported to the United States by such airline.

(g) The Attorney General may waive the application of—

(1) subsection (a)(1)(A)(i) in the case of any alien who—

(A) is the spouse or the unmarried son or daughter, or the minor unmarried lawfully adopted child, of a United States citizen, or of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or of an alien who has been issued an immigrant visa,

(B) has a son or daughter who is a United States citizen, or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or an alien who has been issued an immigrant visa; or
 (C) is a VAWA self-petitioner,
 in accordance with such terms, conditions, and controls, if any, including the giving of bond, as the Attorney General, in the discretion of the Attorney General after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, may by regulation prescribe;

(2) subsection (a)(1)(A)(ii) in the case of any alien—

(A) who receives vaccination against the vaccine-preventable disease or diseases for which the alien has failed to present documentation of previous vaccination,

(B) for whom a civil surgeon, medical officer, or panel physician (as those terms are defined by section 34.2 of title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations) certifies, according to such regulations as the Secretary of Health and Human Services may prescribe, that such vaccination would not be medically appropriate, or

(C) under such circumstances as the Attorney General provides by regulation, with respect to whom the requirement of such a vaccination would be contrary to the alien's religious beliefs or moral convictions; or

(3) subsection (a)(1)(A)(iii) in the case of any alien, in accordance with such terms, conditions, and controls, if any, including the giving of bond, as the Attorney General, in the discretion of the Attorney General after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, may by regulation prescribe.

(h) The Attorney General may, in his discretion, waive the application of subparagraphs (A)(i)(I), (B), (D), and (E) of subsection (a)(2) and subparagraph (A)(i)(II) of such subsection insofar as it relates to a single offense of simple possession of 30 grams or less of marijuana if—

(1)(A) in the case of any immigrant it is established to the satisfaction of the Attorney General that—

(i) the alien is inadmissible only under subparagraph (D)(i) or (D)(ii) of such subsection or the activities for which the alien is inadmissible occurred more than 15 years before the date of the alien's application for a visa, admission, or adjustment of status,

(ii) the admission to the United States of such alien would not be contrary to the national welfare, safety, or security of the United States, and

(iii) the alien has been rehabilitated; or

(B) in the case of an immigrant who is the spouse, parent, son, or daughter of a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if it is established to the satisfaction of the Attorney General that the alien's denial of admission would result in extreme hardship to the United States citizen or lawfully resident spouse, parent, son, or daughter of such alien; or

(C) the alien is a VAWA self-petitioner; and

(2) the Attorney General, in his discretion, and pursuant to such terms, conditions and procedures as he may by regula-

tions prescribe, has consented to the alien's applying or re-applying for a visa, for admission to the United States, or adjustment of status.

No waiver shall be provided under this subsection in the case of an alien who has been convicted of (or who has admitted committing acts that constitute) murder or criminal acts involving torture, or an attempt or conspiracy to commit murder or a criminal act involving torture. No waiver shall be granted under this subsection in the case of an alien who has previously been admitted to the United States as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if either since the date of such admission the alien has been convicted of an aggravated felony or the alien has not lawfully resided continuously in the United States for a period of not less than 7 years immediately preceding the date of initiation of proceedings to remove the alien from the United States. No court shall have jurisdiction to review a decision of the Attorney General to grant or deny a waiver under this subsection.

(i)(1) The Attorney General may, in the discretion of the Attorney General, waive the application of clause (i) of subsection (a)(6)(C) in the case of an immigrant who is the spouse, son, or daughter of a United States citizen or of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if it is established to the satisfaction of the Attorney General that the refusal of admission to the United States of such immigrant alien would result in extreme hardship to the citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent of such an alien or, in the case of a VAWA self-petitioner, the alien demonstrates extreme hardship to the alien or the alien's United States citizen, lawful permanent resident, or qualified alien parent or child.

(2) No court shall have jurisdiction to review a decision or action of the Attorney General regarding a waiver under paragraph (1).

(j)(1) The additional requirements referred to in section 101(a)(15)(J) for an alien who is coming to the United States under a program under which he will receive graduate medical education or training are as follows:

(A) A school of medicine or of one of the other health professions, which is accredited by a body or bodies approved for the purpose by the Secretary of Education, has agreed in writing to provide the graduate medical education or training under the program for which the alien is coming to the United States or to assume responsibility for arranging for the provision thereof by an appropriate public or nonprofit private institution or agency, except that, in the case of such an agreement by a school of medicine, any one or more of its affiliated hospitals which are to participate in the provision of the graduate medical education or training must join in the agreement.

(B) Before making such agreement, the accredited school has been satisfied that the alien (i) is a graduate of a school of medicine which is accredited by a body or bodies approved for the purpose by the Secretary of Education (regardless of whether such school of medicine is in the United States); or (ii)(I) has passed parts I and II of the National Board of Medical Examiners Examination (or an equivalent examination as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services), (II) has competency in oral and written English, (III) will be able to adapt to the educational and cultural environment in

which he will be receiving his education or training, and (IV) has adequate prior education and training to participate satisfactorily in the program for which he is coming to the United States. For the purposes of this subparagraph, an alien who is a graduate of a medical school shall be considered to have passed parts I and II of the National Board of Medical Examiners examination if the alien was fully and permanently licensed to practice medicine in a State on January 9, 1978, and was practicing medicine in a State on that date.

(C) The alien has made a commitment to return to the country of his nationality or last residence upon completion of the education or training for which he is coming to the United States, and the government of the country of his nationality or last residence has provided a written assurance, satisfactory to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, that there is a need in that country for persons with the skills the alien will acquire in such education or training.

(D) The duration of the alien's participation in the program of graduate medical education or training for which the alien is coming to the United States is limited to the time typically required to complete such program, as determined by the Director of the United States Information Agency at the time of the alien's admission into the United States, based on criteria which are established in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and which take into consideration the published requirements of the medical specialty board which administers such education or training program; except that—

(i) such duration is further limited to seven years unless the alien has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Director that the country to which the alien will return at the end of such specialty education or training has an exceptional need for an individual trained in such specialty, and

(ii) the alien may, once and not later than two years after the date the alien is admitted to the United States as an exchange visitor or acquires exchange visitor status, change the alien's designated program of graduate medical education or training if the Director approves the change and if a commitment and written assurance with respect to the alien's new program have been provided in accordance with subparagraph (C).

(E) The alien furnishes the Attorney General each year with an affidavit (in such form as the Attorney General shall prescribe) that attests that the alien (i) is in good standing in the program of graduate medical education or training in which the alien is participating, and (ii) will return to the country of his nationality or last residence upon completion of the education or training for which he came to the United States.

(2) An alien who is a graduate of a medical school and who is coming to the United States to perform services as a member of the medical profession may not be admitted as a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) unless—

(A) the alien is coming pursuant to an invitation from a public or nonprofit private educational or research institution or

agency in the United States to teach or conduct research, or both, at or for such institution or agency, or

(B)(i) the alien has passed the Federation licensing examination (administered by the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States) or an equivalent examination as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and

(ii)(I) has competency in oral and written English or (II) is a graduate of a school of medicine which is accredited by a body or bodies approved for the purpose by the Secretary of Education (regardless of whether such school of medicine is in the United States).

(3) The Director of the United States Information Agency annually shall transmit to the Congress a report on aliens who have submitted affidavits described in paragraph (1)(E), and shall include in such report the name and address of each such alien, the medical education or training program in which such alien is participating, and the status of such alien in that program.

(k) Any alien, inadmissible from the United States under paragraph (5)(A) or (7)(A)(i) of subsection (a), who is in possession of an immigrant visa may, if otherwise admissible, be admitted in the discretion of the Attorney General if the Attorney General is satisfied that inadmissibility was not known to, and could not have been ascertained by the exercise of reasonable diligence by, the immigrant before the time of departure of the vessel or aircraft from the last port outside the United States and outside foreign contiguous territory or, in the case of an immigrant coming from foreign contiguous territory, before the time of the immigrant's application for admission.

(1) GUAM AND NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS VISA WAIVER PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The requirement of subsection (a)(7)(B)(i) may be waived by the Secretary of Homeland Security, in the case of an alien applying for admission as a nonimmigrant visitor for business or pleasure and solely for entry into and stay in Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for a period not to exceed 45 days, if the Secretary of Homeland Security, after consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of State, the Governor of Guam and the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, determines that—

(A) an adequate arrival and departure control system has been developed in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

(B) such a waiver does not represent a threat to the welfare, safety, or security of the United States or its territories and commonwealths.

(2) ALIEN WAIVER OF RIGHTS.—An alien may not be provided a waiver under this subsection unless the alien has waived any right—

(A) to review or appeal under this Act an immigration officer's determination as to the admissibility of the alien at the port of entry into Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; or

(B) to contest, other than on the basis of an application for withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3) of this

Act or under the Convention Against Torture, or an application for asylum if permitted under section 208, any action for removal of the alien.

(3) REGULATIONS.—All necessary regulations to implement this subsection shall be promulgated by the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of State, on or before the 180th day after the date of enactment of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008. The promulgation of such regulations shall be considered a foreign affairs function for purposes of section 553(a) of title 5, United States Code. At a minimum, such regulations should include, but not necessarily be limited to—

(A) a listing of all countries whose nationals may obtain the waiver also provided by this subsection, except that such regulations shall provide for a listing of any country from which the Commonwealth has received a significant economic benefit from the number of visitors for pleasure within the one-year period preceding the date of enactment of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, unless the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that such country's inclusion on such list would represent a threat to the welfare, safety, or security of the United States or its territories; and

(B) any bonding requirements for nationals of some or all of those countries who may present an increased risk of overstays or other potential problems, if different from such requirements otherwise provided by law for non-immigrant visitors.

(4) FACTORS.—In determining whether to grant or continue providing the waiver under this subsection to nationals of any country, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of State, shall consider all factors that the Secretary deems relevant, including electronic travel authorizations, procedures for reporting lost and stolen passports, repatriation of aliens, rates of refusal for nonimmigrant visitor visas, overstays, exit systems, and information exchange.

(5) SUSPENSION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall monitor the admission of nonimmigrant visitors to Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands under this subsection. If the Secretary determines that such admissions have resulted in an unacceptable number of visitors from a country remaining unlawfully in Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, unlawfully obtaining entry to other parts of the United States, or seeking withholding of removal or asylum, or that visitors from a country pose a risk to law enforcement or security interests of Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or of the United States (including the interest in the enforcement of the immigration laws of the United States), the Secretary shall suspend the admission of nationals of such country under this subsection. The Secretary of Homeland Security may in the Secretary's discretion suspend the Guam and Northern Mariana Islands visa waiver program at any time, on a country-by-country basis, for other good cause.

(6) ADDITION OF COUNTRIES.—The Governor of Guam and the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands may request the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Homeland Security to add a particular country to the list of countries whose nationals may obtain the waiver provided by this subsection, and the Secretary of Homeland Security may grant such request after consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of State, and may promulgate regulations with respect to the inclusion of that country and any special requirements the Secretary of Homeland Security, in the Secretary's sole discretion, may impose prior to allowing nationals of that country to obtain the waiver provided by this subsection.

(m)(1) The qualifications referred to in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c), with respect to an alien who is coming to the United States to perform nursing services for a facility, are that the alien—

(A) has obtained a full and unrestricted license to practice professional nursing in the country where the alien obtained nursing education or has received nursing education in the United States;

(B) has passed an appropriate examination (recognized in regulations promulgated in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services) or has a full and unrestricted license under State law to practice professional nursing in the State of intended employment; and

(C) is fully qualified and eligible under the laws (including such temporary or interim licensing requirements which authorize the nurse to be employed) governing the place of intended employment to engage in the practice of professional nursing as a registered nurse immediately upon admission to the United States and is authorized under such laws to be employed by the facility.

(2)(A) The attestation referred to in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c), with respect to a facility for which an alien will perform services, is an attestation as to the following:

(i) The facility meets all the requirements of paragraph (6).

(ii) The employment of the alien will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of registered nurses similarly employed.

(iii) The alien employed by the facility will be paid the wage rate for registered nurses similarly employed by the facility.

(iv) The facility has taken and is taking timely and significant steps designed to recruit and retain sufficient registered nurses who are United States citizens or immigrants who are authorized to perform nursing services, in order to remove as quickly as reasonably possible the dependence of the facility on nonimmigrant registered nurses.

(v) There is not a strike or lockout in the course of a labor dispute, the facility did not lay off and will not lay off a registered nurse employed by the facility within the period beginning 90 days before and ending 90 days after the date of filing of any visa petition, and the employment of such an alien is not intended or designed to influence an election for a bargaining representative for registered nurses of the facility.

(vi) At the time of the filing of the petition for registered nurses under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c), notice of the filing has been provided by the facility to the bargaining representative of the registered nurses at the facility or, where there is no such bargaining representative, notice of the filing has been provided to the registered nurses employed at the facility through posting in conspicuous locations.

(vii) The facility will not, at any time, employ a number of aliens issued visas or otherwise provided nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c) that exceeds 33 percent of the total number of registered nurses employed by the facility.

(viii) The facility will not, with respect to any alien issued a visa or otherwise provided nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c)—

(I) authorize the alien to perform nursing services at any worksite other than a worksite controlled by the facility; or

(II) transfer the place of employment of the alien from one worksite to another.

Nothing in clause (iv) shall be construed as requiring a facility to have taken significant steps described in such clause before the date of the enactment of the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1999. A copy of the attestation shall be provided, within 30 days of the date of filing, to registered nurses employed at the facility on the date of filing.

(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iv), each of the following shall be considered a significant step reasonably designed to recruit and retain registered nurses:

(i) Operating a training program for registered nurses at the facility or financing (or providing participation in) a training program for registered nurses elsewhere.

(ii) Providing career development programs and other methods of facilitating health care workers to become registered nurses.

(iii) Paying registered nurses wages at a rate higher than currently being paid to registered nurses similarly employed in the geographic area.

(iv) Providing reasonable opportunities for meaningful salary advancement by registered nurses.

The steps described in this subparagraph shall not be considered to be an exclusive list of the significant steps that may be taken to meet the conditions of subparagraph (A)(iv). Nothing in this subparagraph shall require a facility to take more than one step if the facility can demonstrate that taking a second step is not reasonable.

(C) Subject to subparagraph (E), an attestation under subparagraph (A)—

(i) shall expire on the date that is the later of—

(I) the end of the one-year period beginning on the date of its filing with the Secretary of Labor; or

(II) the end of the period of admission under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c) of the last alien with respect to whose admission it was applied (in accordance with clause (ii)); and

(ii) shall apply to petitions filed during the one-year period beginning on the date of its filing with the Secretary of Labor

if the facility states in each such petition that it continues to comply with the conditions in the attestation.

(D) A facility may meet the requirements under this paragraph with respect to more than one registered nurse in a single petition.

(E)(i) The Secretary of Labor shall compile and make available for public examination in a timely manner in Washington, D.C., a list identifying facilities which have filed petitions for non-immigrants under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c) and, for each such facility, a copy of the facility's attestation under subparagraph (A) (and accompanying documentation) and each such petition filed by the facility.

(ii) The Secretary of Labor shall establish a process, including reasonable time limits, for the receipt, investigation, and disposition of complaints respecting a facility's failure to meet conditions attested to or a facility's misrepresentation of a material fact in an attestation. Complaints may be filed by any aggrieved person or organization (including bargaining representatives, associations deemed appropriate by the Secretary, and other aggrieved parties as determined under regulations of the Secretary). The Secretary shall conduct an investigation under this clause if there is reasonable cause to believe that a facility fails to meet conditions attested to. Subject to the time limits established under this clause, this subparagraph shall apply regardless of whether an attestation is expired or unexpired at the time a complaint is filed.

(iii) Under such process, the Secretary shall provide, within 180 days after the date such a complaint is filed, for a determination as to whether or not a basis exists to make a finding described in clause (iv). If the Secretary determines that such a basis exists, the Secretary shall provide for notice of such determination to the interested parties and an opportunity for a hearing on the complaint within 60 days of the date of the determination.

(iv) If the Secretary of Labor finds, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, that a facility (for which an attestation is made) has failed to meet a condition attested to or that there was a misrepresentation of material fact in the attestation, the Secretary shall notify the Attorney General of such finding and may, in addition, impose such other administrative remedies (including civil monetary penalties in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per nurse per violation, with the total penalty not to exceed \$10,000 per violation) as the Secretary determines to be appropriate. Upon receipt of such notice, the Attorney General shall not approve petitions filed with respect to a facility during a period of at least one year for nurses to be employed by the facility.

(v) In addition to the sanctions provided for under clause (iv), if the Secretary of Labor finds, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, that a facility has violated the condition attested to under subparagraph (A)(iii) (relating to payment of registered nurses at the prevailing wage rate), the Secretary shall order the facility to provide for payment of such amounts of back pay as may be required to comply with such condition.

(F)(i) The Secretary of Labor shall impose on a facility filing an attestation under subparagraph (A) a filing fee, in an amount prescribed by the Secretary based on the costs of carrying out the Secretary's duties under this subsection, but not exceeding \$250.

(ii) Fees collected under this subparagraph shall be deposited in a fund established for this purpose in the Treasury of the United States.

(iii) The collected fees in the fund shall be available to the Secretary of Labor, to the extent and in such amounts as may be provided in appropriations Acts, to cover the costs described in clause (i), in addition to any other funds that are available to the Secretary to cover such costs.

(3) The period of admission of an alien under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c) shall be 3 years.

(4) The total number of nonimmigrant visas issued pursuant to petitions granted under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c) in each fiscal year shall not exceed 500. The number of such visas issued for employment in each State in each fiscal year shall not exceed the following:

(A) For States with populations of less than 9,000,000, based upon the 1990 decennial census of population, 25 visas.

(B) For States with populations of 9,000,000 or more, based upon the 1990 decennial census of population, 50 visas.

(C) If the total number of visas available under this paragraph for a fiscal year quarter exceeds the number of qualified nonimmigrants who may be issued such visas during those quarters, the visas made available under this paragraph shall be issued without regard to the numerical limitation under subparagraph (A) or (B) of this paragraph during the last fiscal year quarter.

(5) A facility that has filed a petition under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c) to employ a nonimmigrant to perform nursing services for the facility—

(A) shall provide the nonimmigrant a wage rate and working conditions commensurate with those of nurses similarly employed by the facility;

(B) shall require the nonimmigrant to work hours commensurate with those of nurses similarly employed by the facility; and

(C) shall not interfere with the right of the nonimmigrant to join or organize a union.

(6) For purposes of this subsection and section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c), the term “facility” means a subsection (d) hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(1)(B))) that meets the following requirements:

(A) As of March 31, 1997, the hospital was located in a health professional shortage area (as defined in section 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e)).

(B) Based on its settled cost report filed under title XVIII of the Social Security Act for its cost reporting period beginning during fiscal year 1994—

(i) the hospital has not less than 190 licensed acute care beds;

(ii) the number of the hospital’s inpatient days for such period which were made up of patients who (for such days) were entitled to benefits under part A of such title is not less than 35 percent of the total number of such hospital’s acute care inpatient days for such period; and

(iii) the number of the hospital's inpatient days for such period which were made up of patients who (for such days) were eligible for medical assistance under a State plan approved under title XIX of the Social Security Act, is not less than 28 percent of the total number of such hospital's acute care inpatient days for such period.

(7) For purposes of paragraph (2)(A)(v), the term "lay off", with respect to a worker—

(A) means to cause the worker's loss of employment, other than through a discharge for inadequate performance, violation of workplace rules, cause, voluntary departure, voluntary retirement, or the expiration of a grant or contract; but

(B) does not include any situation in which the worker is offered, as an alternative to such loss of employment, a similar employment opportunity with the same employer at equivalent or higher compensation and benefits than the position from which the employee was discharged, regardless of whether or not the employee accepts the offer.

Nothing in this paragraph is intended to limit an employee's or an employer's rights under a collective bargaining agreement or other employment contract.

(n)(1) No alien may be admitted or provided status as an H-1B nonimmigrant in an occupational classification unless the employer has filed with the Secretary of Labor an application stating the following:

(A) The employer—

(i) is offering and will offer during the period of authorized employment to aliens admitted or provided status as an H-1B nonimmigrant wages that are at least—

(I) the actual wage level paid by the employer to all other individuals with similar experience and qualifications for the specific employment in question, or

(II) the prevailing wage level for the occupational classification in the area of employment,

whichever is greater, based on the best information available as of the time of filing the application, and

(ii) will provide working conditions for such a nonimmigrant that will not adversely affect the working conditions of workers similarly employed.

(B) There is not a strike or lockout in the course of a labor dispute in the occupational classification at the place of employment.

(C) The employer, at the time of filing the application—

(i) has provided notice of the filing under this paragraph to the bargaining representative (if any) of the employer's employees in the occupational classification and area for which aliens are sought, or

(ii) if there is no such bargaining representative, has provided notice of filing in the occupational classification through such methods as physical posting in conspicuous locations at the place of employment or electronic notification to employees in the occupational classification for which H-1B nonimmigrants are sought.

(D) The application shall contain a specification of the number of workers sought, the occupational classification in which the workers will be employed, and wage rate and conditions under which they will be employed.

(E)(i) In the case of an application described in clause (ii), the employer did not displace and will not displace a United States worker (as defined in paragraph (4)) employed by the employer within the period beginning 90 days before and ending 90 days after the date of filing of any visa petition supported by the application.

(ii) An application described in this clause is an application filed on or after the date final regulations are first promulgated to carry out this subparagraph, and before by an H-1B-dependent employer (as defined in paragraph (3)) or by an employer that has been found, on or after the date of the enactment of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998, under paragraph (2)(C) or (5) to have committed a willful failure or misrepresentation during the 5-year period preceding the filing of the application. An application is not described in this clause if the only H-1B nonimmigrants sought in the application are exempt H-1B nonimmigrants.

(F) In the case of an application described in subparagraph (E)(ii), the employer will not place the nonimmigrant with another employer (regardless of whether or not such other employer is an H-1B-dependent employer) where—

(i) the nonimmigrant performs duties in whole or in part at one or more worksites owned, operated, or controlled by such other employer; and

(ii) there are indicia of an employment relationship between the nonimmigrant and such other employer; unless the employer has inquired of the other employer as to whether, and has no knowledge that, within the period beginning 90 days before and ending 90 days after the date of the placement of the nonimmigrant with the other employer, the other employer has displaced or intends to displace a United States worker employed by the other employer.

(G)(i) In the case of an application described in subparagraph (E)(ii), subject to clause (ii), the employer, prior to filing the application—

(I) has taken good faith steps to recruit, in the United States using procedures that meet industry-wide standards and offering compensation that is at least as great as that required to be offered to H-1B nonimmigrants under subparagraph (A), United States workers for the job for which the nonimmigrant or nonimmigrants is or are sought; and

(II) has offered the job to any United States worker who applies and is equally or better qualified for the job for which the nonimmigrant or nonimmigrants is or are sought.

(ii) The conditions described in clause (i) shall not apply to an application filed with respect to the employment of an H-1B nonimmigrant who is described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 203(b)(1).

The employer shall make available for public examination, within one working day after the date on which an application under this paragraph is filed, at the employer's principal place of business or worksite, a copy of each such application (and such accompanying documents as are necessary). The Secretary shall compile, on a current basis, a list (by employer and by occupational classification) of the applications filed under this subsection. Such list shall include the wage rate, number of aliens sought, period of intended employment, and date of need. The Secretary shall make such list available for public examination in Washington, D.C. The Secretary of Labor shall review such an application only for completeness and obvious inaccuracies. Unless the Secretary finds that the application is incomplete or obviously inaccurate, the Secretary shall provide the certification described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) within 7 days of the date of the filing of the application. The application form shall include a clear statement explaining the liability under subparagraph (F) of a placing employer if the other employer described in such subparagraph displaces a United States worker as described in such subparagraph. Nothing in subparagraph (G) shall be construed to prohibit an employer from using legitimate selection criteria relevant to the job that are normal or customary to the type of job involved, so long as such criteria are not applied in a discriminatory manner.

(2)(A) Subject to paragraph (5)(A), the Secretary shall establish a process for the receipt, investigation, and disposition of complaints respecting a petitioner's failure to meet a condition specified in an application submitted under paragraph (1) or a petitioner's misrepresentation of material facts in such an application. Complaints may be filed by any aggrieved person or organization (including bargaining representatives). No investigation or hearing shall be conducted on a complaint concerning such a failure or misrepresentation unless the complaint was filed not later than 12 months after the date of the failure or misrepresentation, respectively. The Secretary shall conduct an investigation under this paragraph if there is reasonable cause to believe that such a failure or misrepresentation has occurred.

(B) Under such process, the Secretary shall provide, within 30 days after the date such a complaint is filed, for a determination as to whether or not a reasonable basis exists to make a finding described in subparagraph (C). If the Secretary determines that such a reasonable basis exists, the Secretary shall provide for notice of such determination to the interested parties and an opportunity for a hearing on the complaint, in accordance with section 556 of title 5, United States Code, within 60 days after the date of the determination. If such a hearing is requested, the Secretary shall make a finding concerning the matter by not later than 60 days after the date of the hearing. In the case of similar complaints respecting the same applicant, the Secretary may consolidate the hearings under this subparagraph on such complaints.

(C)(i) If the Secretary finds, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, a failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1)(B), (1)(E), or (1)(F), a substantial failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1)(C), (1)(D), or (1)(G)(i)(I), or a misrepresentation of material fact in an application—

(I) the Secretary shall notify the Attorney General of such finding and may, in addition, impose such other administrative remedies (including civil monetary penalties in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per violation) as the Secretary determines to be appropriate; and

(II) the Attorney General shall not approve petitions filed with respect to that employer under section 204 or 214(c) during a period of at least 1 year for aliens to be employed by the employer.

(ii) If the Secretary finds, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, a willful failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1), a willful misrepresentation of material fact in an application, or a violation of clause (iv)—

(I) the Secretary shall notify the Attorney General of such finding and may, in addition, impose such other administrative remedies (including civil monetary penalties in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 per violation) as the Secretary determines to be appropriate; and

(II) the Attorney General shall not approve petitions filed with respect to that employer under section 204 or 214(c) during a period of at least 2 years for aliens to be employed by the employer.

(iii) If the Secretary finds, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, a willful failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1) or a willful misrepresentation of material fact in an application, in the course of which failure or misrepresentation the employer displaced a United States worker employed by the employer within the period beginning 90 days before and ending 90 days after the date of filing of any visa petition supported by the application—

(I) the Secretary shall notify the Attorney General of such finding and may, in addition, impose such other administrative remedies (including civil monetary penalties in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 per violation) as the Secretary determines to be appropriate; and

(II) the Attorney General shall not approve petitions filed with respect to that employer under section 204 or 214(c) during a period of at least 3 years for aliens to be employed by the employer.

(iv) It is a violation of this clause for an employer who has filed an application under this subsection to intimidate, threaten, restrain, coerce, blacklist, discharge, or in any other manner discriminate against an employee (which term, for purposes of this clause, includes a former employee and an applicant for employment) because the employee has disclosed information to the employer, or to any other person, that the employee reasonably believes evidences a violation of this subsection, or any rule or regulation pertaining to this subsection, or because the employee cooperates or seeks to cooperate in an investigation or other proceeding concerning the employer's compliance with the requirements of this subsection or any rule or regulation pertaining to this subsection.

(v) The Secretary of Labor and the Attorney General shall devise a process under which an H-1B nonimmigrant who files a complaint regarding a violation of clause (iv) and is otherwise eligible to remain and work in the United States may be allowed to seek other appropriate employment in the United States for a period not

to exceed the maximum period of stay authorized for such non-immigrant classification.

(vi)(I) It is a violation of this clause for an employer who has filed an application under this subsection to require an H-1B non-immigrant to pay a penalty for ceasing employment with the employer prior to a date agreed to by the nonimmigrant and the employer. The Secretary shall determine whether a required payment is a penalty (and not liquidated damages) pursuant to relevant State law.

(II) It is a violation of this clause for an employer who has filed an application under this subsection to require an alien who is the subject of a petition filed under section 214(c)(1), for which a fee is imposed under section 214(c)(9), to reimburse, or otherwise compensate, the employer for part or all of the cost of such fee. It is a violation of this clause for such an employer otherwise to accept such reimbursement or compensation from such an alien.

(III) If the Secretary finds, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, that an employer has committed a violation of this clause, the Secretary may impose a civil monetary penalty of \$1,000 for each such violation and issue an administrative order requiring the return to the nonimmigrant of any amount paid in violation of this clause, or, if the nonimmigrant cannot be located, requiring payment of any such amount to the general fund of the Treasury.

(vii)(I) It is a failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1)(A) for an employer, who has filed an application under this subsection and who places an H-1B nonimmigrant designated as a full-time employee on the petition filed under section 214(c)(1) by the employer with respect to the nonimmigrant, after the nonimmigrant has entered into employment with the employer, in nonproductive status due to a decision by the employer (based on factors such as lack of work), or due to the nonimmigrant's lack of a permit or license, to fail to pay the nonimmigrant full-time wages in accordance with paragraph (1)(A) for all such nonproductive time.

(II) It is a failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1)(A) for an employer, who has filed an application under this subsection and who places an H-1B nonimmigrant designated as a part-time employee on the petition filed under section 214(c)(1) by the employer with respect to the nonimmigrant, after the nonimmigrant has entered into employment with the employer, in nonproductive status under circumstances described in subclause (I), to fail to pay such a nonimmigrant for such hours as are designated on such petition consistent with the rate of pay identified on such petition.

(III) In the case of an H-1B nonimmigrant who has not yet entered into employment with an employer who has had approved an application under this subsection, and a petition under section 214(c)(1), with respect to the nonimmigrant, the provisions of subclauses (I) and (II) shall apply to the employer beginning 30 days after the date the nonimmigrant first is admitted into the United States pursuant to the petition, or 60 days after the date the nonimmigrant becomes eligible to work for the employer (in the case of a nonimmigrant who is present in the United States on the date of the approval of the petition).

(IV) This clause does not apply to a failure to pay wages to an H-1B nonimmigrant for nonproductive time due to non-work-related factors, such as the voluntary request of the nonimmigrant

for an absence or circumstances rendering the nonimmigrant unable to work.

(V) This clause shall not be construed as prohibiting an employer that is a school or other educational institution from applying to an H-1B nonimmigrant an established salary practice of the employer, under which the employer pays to H-1B nonimmigrants and United States workers in the same occupational classification an annual salary in disbursements over fewer than 12 months, if—

(aa) the nonimmigrant agrees to the compressed annual salary payments prior to the commencement of the employment; and

(bb) the application of the salary practice to the nonimmigrant does not otherwise cause the nonimmigrant to violate any condition of the nonimmigrant's authorization under this Act to remain in the United States.

(VI) This clause shall not be construed as superseding clause (viii).

(viii) It is a failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1)(A) for an employer who has filed an application under this subsection to fail to offer to an H-1B nonimmigrant, during the nonimmigrant's period of authorized employment, benefits and eligibility for benefits (including the opportunity to participate in health, life, disability, and other insurance plans; the opportunity to participate in retirement and savings plans; and cash bonuses and noncash compensation, such as stock options (whether or not based on performance)) on the same basis, and in accordance with the same criteria, as the employer offers to United States workers.

(D) If the Secretary finds, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, that an employer has not paid wages at the wage level specified under the application and required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall order the employer to provide for payment of such amounts of back pay as may be required to comply with the requirements of paragraph (1), whether or not a penalty under subparagraph (C) has been imposed.

(E) If an H-1B-dependent employer places a nonexempt H-1B nonimmigrant with another employer as provided under paragraph (1)(F) and the other employer has displaced or displaces a United States worker employed by such other employer during the period described in such paragraph, such displacement shall be considered for purposes of this paragraph a failure, by the placing employer, to meet a condition specified in an application submitted under paragraph (1); except that the Attorney General may impose a sanction described in subclause (II) of subparagraph (C)(i), (C)(ii), or (C)(iii) only if the Secretary of Labor found that such placing employer—

(i) knew or had reason to know of such displacement at the time of the placement of the nonimmigrant with the other employer; or

(ii) has been subject to a sanction under this subparagraph based upon a previous placement of an H-1B nonimmigrant with the same other employer.

(F) The Secretary may, on a case-by-case basis, subject an employer to random investigations for a period of up to 5 years, beginning on the date (on or after the date of the enactment of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of

1998) on which the employer is found by the Secretary to have committed a willful failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1) (or has been found under paragraph (5) to have committed a willful failure to meet the condition of paragraph (1)(G)(i)(II)) or to have made a willful misrepresentation of material fact in an application. The preceding sentence shall apply to an employer regardless of whether or not the employer is an H-1B-dependent employer. The authority of the Secretary under this subparagraph shall not be construed to be subject to, or limited by, the requirements of subparagraph (A).

(G)(i) The Secretary of Labor may initiate an investigation of any employer that employs nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) if the Secretary of Labor has reasonable cause to believe that the employer is not in compliance with this subsection. In the case of an investigation under this clause, the Secretary of Labor (or the acting Secretary in the case of the absence of disability of the Secretary of Labor) shall personally certify that reasonable cause exists and shall approve commencement of the investigation. The investigation may be initiated for reasons other than completeness and obvious inaccuracies by the employer in complying with this subsection.

(ii) If the Secretary of Labor receives specific credible information from a source who is likely to have knowledge of an employer's practices or employment conditions, or an employer's compliance with the employer's labor condition application under paragraph (1), and whose identity is known to the Secretary of Labor, and such information provides reasonable cause to believe that the employer has committed a willful failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1)(A), (1)(B), (1)(C), (1)(E), (1)(F), or (1)(G)(i)(I), has engaged in a pattern or practice of failures to meet such a condition, or has committed a substantial failure to meet such a condition that affects multiple employees, the Secretary of Labor may conduct an investigation into the alleged failure or failures. The Secretary of Labor may withhold the identity of the source from the employer, and the source's identity shall not be subject to disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code.

(iii) The Secretary of Labor shall establish a procedure for any person desiring to provide to the Secretary of Labor information described in clause (ii) that may be used, in whole or in part, as the basis for the commencement of an investigation described in such clause, to provide the information in writing on a form developed and provided by the Secretary of Labor and completed by or on behalf of the person. The person may not be an officer or employee of the Department of Labor, unless the information satisfies the requirement of clause (iv)(II) (although an officer or employee of the Department of Labor may complete the form on behalf of the person).

(iv) Any investigation initiated or approved by the Secretary of Labor under clause (ii) shall be based on information that satisfies the requirements of such clause and that—

(I) originates from a source other than an officer or employee of the Department of Labor; or

(II) was lawfully obtained by the Secretary of Labor in the course of lawfully conducting another Department of Labor investigation under this Act of any other Act.

(v) The receipt by the Secretary of Labor of information submitted by an employer to the Attorney General or the Secretary of Labor for purposes of securing the employment of a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) shall not be considered a receipt of information for purposes of clause (ii).

(vi) No investigation described in clause (ii) (or hearing described in clause (viii) based on such investigation) may be conducted with respect to information about a failure to meet a condition described in clause (ii), unless the Secretary of Labor receives the information not later than 12 months after the date of the alleged failure.

(vii) The Secretary of Labor shall provide notice to an employer with respect to whom there is reasonable cause to initiate an investigation described in clauses (i) or (ii), prior to the commencement of an investigation under such clauses, of the intent to conduct an investigation. The notice shall be provided in such a manner, and shall contain sufficient detail, to permit the employer to respond to the allegations before an investigation is commenced. The Secretary of Labor is not required to comply with this clause if the Secretary of Labor determines that to do so would interfere with an effort by the Secretary of Labor to secure compliance by the employer with the requirements of this subsection. There shall be no judicial review of a determination by the Secretary of Labor under this clause.

(viii) An investigation under clauses (i) or (ii) may be conducted for a period of up to 60 days. If the Secretary of Labor determines after such an investigation that a reasonable basis exists to make a finding that the employer has committed a willful failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1)(A), (1)(B), (1)(C), (1)(E), (1)(F), or (1)(G)(i)(D), has engaged in a pattern or practice of failures to meet such a condition, or has committed a substantial failure to meet such a condition that affects multiple employees, the Secretary of Labor shall provide for notice of such determination to the interested parties and an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with section 556 of title 5, United States Code, within 120 days after the date of the determination. If such a hearing is requested, the Secretary of Labor shall make a finding concerning the matter by not later than 120 days after the date of the hearing.

(H)(i) Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), a person or entity is considered to have complied with the requirements of this subsection, notwithstanding a technical or procedural failure to meet such requirements, if there was a good faith attempt to comply with the requirements.

(ii) Clause (i) shall not apply if—

(I) the Department of Labor (or another enforcement agency) has explained to the person or entity the basis for the failure;

(II) the person or entity has been provided a period of not less than 10 business days (beginning after the date of the explanation) within which to correct the failure; and

(III) the person or entity has not corrected the failure voluntarily within such period.

(iii) A person or entity that, in the course of an investigation, is found to have violated the prevailing wage requirements set forth in paragraph (1)(A), shall not be assessed fines or other penalties for such violation if the person or entity can establish that the manner in which the prevailing wage was calculated

was consistent with recognized industry standards and practices.

(iv) Clauses (i) and (iii) shall not apply to a person or entity that has engaged in or is engaging in a pattern or practice of willful violations of this subsection.

(I) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as superseding or preempting any other enforcement-related authority under this Act (such as the authorities under section 274B), or any other Act.

(3)(A) For purposes of this subsection, the term “H-1B-dependent employer” means an employer that—

(i)(I) has 25 or fewer full-time equivalent employees who are employed in the United States; and (II) employs more than 7 H-1B nonimmigrants;

(ii)(I) has at least 26 but not more than 50 full-time equivalent employees who are employed in the United States; and (II) employs more than 12 H-1B nonimmigrants; or

(iii)(I) has at least 51 full-time equivalent employees who are employed in the United States; and (II) employs H-1B nonimmigrants in a number that is equal to at least 15 percent of the number of such full-time equivalent employees.

(B) For purposes of this subsection—

(i) the term “exempt H-1B nonimmigrant” means an H-1B nonimmigrant who—

(I) receives wages (including cash bonuses and similar compensation) at an annual rate equal to at least \$60,000; or

(II) has attained a master’s or higher degree (or its equivalent) in a specialty related to the intended employment; and

(ii) the term nonexempt H-1B nonimmigrant means an H-1B nonimmigrant who is not an exempt H-1B nonimmigrant.

(C) For purposes of subparagraph (A)—

(i) in computing the number of full-time equivalent employees and the number of H-1B nonimmigrants, exempt H-1B nonimmigrants shall not be taken into account during the longer of—

(I) the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998; or

(II) the period beginning on the date of the enactment of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 and ending on the date final regulations are issued to carry out this paragraph; and

(ii) any group treated as a single employer under subsection (b), (c), (m), or (o) of section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be treated as a single employer.

(4) For purposes of this subsection:

(A) The term “area of employment” means the area within normal commuting distance of the worksite or physical location where the work of the H-1B nonimmigrant is or will be performed. If such worksite or location is within a Metropolitan Statistical Area, any place within such area is deemed to be within the area of employment.

(B) In the case of an application with respect to one or more H-1B nonimmigrants by an employer, the employer is consid-

ered to “displace” a United States worker from a job if the employer lays off the worker from a job that is essentially the equivalent of the job for which the nonimmigrant or nonimmigrants is or are sought. A job shall not be considered to be essentially equivalent of another job unless it involves essentially the same responsibilities, was held by a United States worker with substantially equivalent qualifications and experience, and is located in the same area of employment as the other job.

(C) The term “H-1B nonimmigrant” means an alien admitted or provided status as a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b).

(D)(i) The term “lays off”, with respect to a worker—

(I) means to cause the worker’s loss of employment, other than through a discharge for inadequate performance, violation of workplace rules, cause, voluntary departure, voluntary retirement, or the expiration of a grant or contract (other than a temporary employment contract entered into in order to evade a condition described in subparagraph (E) or (F) of paragraph (1)); but

(II) does not include any situation in which the worker is offered, as an alternative to such loss of employment, a similar employment opportunity with the same employer (or, in the case of a placement of a worker with another employer under paragraph (1)(F), with either employer described in such paragraph) at equivalent or higher compensation and benefits than the position from which the employee was discharged, regardless of whether or not the employee accepts the offer.

(ii) Nothing in this subparagraph is intended to limit an employee’s rights under a collective bargaining agreement or other employment contract.

(E) The term “United States worker” means an employee who—

(i) is a citizen or national of the United States; or

(ii) is an alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence, is admitted as a refugee under section 207, is granted asylum under section 208, or is an immigrant otherwise authorized, by this Act or by the Attorney General, to be employed.

(5)(A) This paragraph shall apply instead of subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (2) in the case of a violation described in subparagraph (B), but shall not be construed to limit or affect the authority of the Secretary or the Attorney General with respect to any other violation.

(B) The Attorney General shall establish a process for the receipt, initial review, and disposition in accordance with this paragraph of complaints respecting an employer’s failure to meet the condition of paragraph (1)(G)(i)(II) or a petitioner’s misrepresentation of material facts with respect to such condition. Complaints may be filed by an aggrieved individual who has submitted a résumé or otherwise applied in a reasonable manner for the job that is the subject of the condition. No proceeding shall be conducted under this paragraph on a complaint concerning such a failure or misrepresentation unless the Attorney General determines

that the complaint was filed not later than 12 months after the date of the failure or misrepresentation, respectively.

(C) If the Attorney General finds that a complaint has been filed in accordance with subparagraph (B) and there is reasonable cause to believe that such a failure or misrepresentation described in such complaint has occurred, the Attorney General shall initiate binding arbitration proceedings by requesting the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to appoint an arbitrator from the roster of arbitrators maintained by such Service. The procedure and rules of such Service shall be applicable to the selection of such arbitrator and to such arbitration proceedings. The Attorney General shall pay the fee and expenses of the arbitrator.

(D)(i) The arbitrator shall make findings respecting whether a failure or misrepresentation described in subparagraph (B) occurred. If the arbitrator concludes that failure or misrepresentation was willful, the arbitrator shall make a finding to that effect. The arbitrator may not find such a failure or misrepresentation (or that such a failure or misrepresentation was willful) unless the complainant demonstrates such a failure or misrepresentation (or its willful character) by clear and convincing evidence. The arbitrator shall transmit the findings in the form of a written opinion to the parties to the arbitration and the Attorney General. Such findings shall be final and conclusive, and, except as provided in this subparagraph, no official or court of the United States shall have power or jurisdiction to review any such findings.

(ii) The Attorney General may review and reverse or modify the findings of an arbitrator only on the same bases as an award of an arbitrator may be vacated or modified under section 10 or 11 of title 9, United States Code.

(iii) With respect to the findings of an arbitrator, a court may review only the actions of the Attorney General under clause (ii) and may set aside such actions only on the grounds described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 706(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, such judicial review may only be brought in an appropriate United States court of appeals.

(E) If the Attorney General receives a finding of an arbitrator under this paragraph that an employer has failed to meet the condition of paragraph (1)(G)(i)(II) or has misrepresented a material fact with respect to such condition, unless the Attorney General reverses or modifies the finding under subparagraph (D)(ii)—

(i) the Attorney General may impose administrative remedies (including civil monetary penalties in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per violation or \$5,000 per violation in the case of a willful failure or misrepresentation) as the Attorney General determines to be appropriate; and

(ii) the Attorney General is authorized to not approve petitions filed, with respect to that employer and for aliens to be employed by the employer, under section 204 or 214(c)—

(I) during a period of not more than 1 year; or

(II) in the case of a willful failure or willful misrepresentation, during a period of not more than 2 years.

(F) The Attorney General shall not delegate, to any other employee or official of the Department of Justice, any function of the Attorney General under this paragraph, until 60 days after the At-

torney General has submitted a plan for such delegation to the Committees on the Judiciary of the United States House of Representatives and the Senate.

(o) An alien who has been physically present in the United States shall not be eligible to receive an immigrant visa within ninety days following departure therefrom unless—

(1) the alien was maintaining a lawful nonimmigrant status at the time of such departure, or

(2) the alien is the spouse or unmarried child of an individual who obtained temporary or permanent resident status under section 210 or 245A of the Immigration and Nationality Act or section 202 of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 at any date, who—

(A) as of May 5, 1988, was the unmarried child or spouse of the individual who obtained temporary or permanent resident status under section 210 or 245A of the Immigration and Nationality Act or section 202 of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986;

(B) entered the United States before May 5, 1988, resided in the United States on May 5, 1988, and is not a lawful permanent resident; and

(C) applied for benefits under section 301(a) of the Immigration Act of 1990.

(p)(1) In computing the prevailing wage level for an occupational classification in an area of employment for purposes of subsections (a)(5)(A), (n)(1)(A)(i)(II), and (t)(1)(A)(i)(II) in the case of an employee of—

(A) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965), or a related or affiliated nonprofit entity; or

(B) a nonprofit research organization or a Governmental research organization,

the prevailing wage level shall only take into account employees at such institutions and organizations in the area of employment.

(2) With respect to a professional athlete (as defined in subsection (a)(5)(A)(iii)(II)) when the job opportunity is covered by professional sports league rules or regulations, the wage set forth in those rules or regulations shall be considered as not adversely affecting the wages of United States workers similarly employed and be considered the prevailing wage.

(3) The prevailing wage required to be paid pursuant to subsections (a)(5)(A), (n)(1)(A)(i)(II), and (t)(1)(A)(i)(II) shall be 100 percent of the wage determined pursuant to those sections.

(4) Where the Secretary of Labor uses, or makes available to employers, a governmental survey to determine the prevailing wage, such survey shall provide at least 4 levels of wages commensurate with experience, education, and the level of supervision. Where an existing government survey has only 2 levels, 2 intermediate levels may be created by dividing by 3, the difference between the 2 levels offered, adding the quotient thus obtained to the first level and subtracting that quotient from the second level.

(q) Any alien admitted under section 101(a)(15)(B) may accept an honorarium payment and associated incidental expenses for a usual academic activity or activities (lasting not longer than 9 days at any single institution), as defined by the Attorney General in

consultation with the Secretary of Education, if such payment is offered by an institution or organization described in subsection (p)(1) and is made for services conducted for the benefit of that institution or entity and if the alien has not accepted such payment or expenses from more than 5 institutions or organizations in the previous 6-month period.

(r) Subsection (a)(5)(C) shall not apply to an alien who seeks to enter the United States for the purpose of performing labor as a nurse who presents to the consular officer (or in the case of an adjustment of status, the Attorney General) a certified statement from the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (or an equivalent independent credentialing organization approved for the certification of nurses under subsection (a)(5)(C) by the Attorney General in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services) that—

(1) the alien has a valid and unrestricted license as a nurse in a State where the alien intends to be employed and such State verifies that the foreign licenses of alien nurses are authentic and unencumbered;

(2) the alien has passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX);

(3) the alien is a graduate of a nursing program—

(A) in which the language of instruction was English;

(B) located in a country—

(i) designated by such commission not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1999, based on such commission's assessment that the quality of nursing education in that country, and the English language proficiency of those who complete such programs in that country, justify the country's designation; or

(ii) designated on the basis of such an assessment by unanimous agreement of such commission and any equivalent credentialing organizations which have been approved under subsection (a)(5)(C) for the certification of nurses under this subsection; and

(C)(i) which was in operation on or before the date of the enactment of the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1999; or

(ii) has been approved by unanimous agreement of such commission and any equivalent credentialing organizations which have been approved under subsection (a)(5)(C) for the certification of nurses under this subsection.

(s) In determining whether an alien described in subsection (a)(4)(C)(i) is inadmissible under subsection (a)(4) or ineligible to receive an immigrant visa or otherwise to adjust to the status of permanent resident by reason of subsection (a)(4), the consular officer or the Attorney General shall not consider any benefits the alien may have received that were authorized under section 501 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1641(c)).

(t)(1) No alien may be admitted or provided status as a non-immigrant under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1) or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) in an occupational classification unless the em-

ployer has filed with the Secretary of Labor an attestation stating the following:

(A) The employer—

(i) is offering and will offer during the period of authorized employment to aliens admitted or provided status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1) or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) wages that are at least—

(I) the actual wage level paid by the employer to all other individuals with similar experience and qualifications for the specific employment in question; or

(II) the prevailing wage level for the occupational classification in the area of employment, whichever is greater, based on the best information available as of the time of filing the attestation; and

(ii) will provide working conditions for such a non-immigrant that will not adversely affect the working conditions of workers similarly employed.

(B) There is not a strike or lockout in the course of a labor dispute in the occupational classification at the place of employment.

(C) The employer, at the time of filing the attestation—

(i) has provided notice of the filing under this paragraph to the bargaining representative (if any) of the employer's employees in the occupational classification and area for which aliens are sought; or

(ii) if there is no such bargaining representative, has provided notice of filing in the occupational classification through such methods as physical posting in conspicuous locations at the place of employment or electronic notification to employees in the occupational classification for which nonimmigrants under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1) or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) are sought.

(D) A specification of the number of workers sought, the occupational classification in which the workers will be employed, and wage rate and conditions under which they will be employed.

(2)(A) The employer shall make available for public examination, within one working day after the date on which an attestation under this subsection is filed, at the employer's principal place of business or worksite, a copy of each such attestation (and such accompanying documents as are necessary).

(B)(i) The Secretary of Labor shall compile, on a current basis, a list (by employer and by occupational classification) of the attestations filed under this subsection. Such list shall include, with respect to each attestation, the wage rate, number of aliens sought, period of intended employment, and date of need.

(ii) The Secretary of Labor shall make such list available for public examination in Washington, D.C.

(C) The Secretary of Labor shall review an attestation filed under this subsection only for completeness and obvious inaccuracies. Unless the Secretary of Labor finds that an attestation is incomplete or obviously inaccurate, the Secretary of Labor shall provide the certification described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1) or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) within 7 days of the date of the filing of the attestation.

(3)(A) The Secretary of Labor shall establish a process for the receipt, investigation, and disposition of complaints respecting the failure of an employer to meet a condition specified in an attestation submitted under this subsection or misrepresentation by the employer of material facts in such an attestation. Complaints may be filed by any aggrieved person or organization (including bargaining representatives). No investigation or hearing shall be conducted on a complaint concerning such a failure or misrepresentation unless the complaint was filed not later than 12 months after the date of the failure or misrepresentation, respectively. The Secretary of Labor shall conduct an investigation under this paragraph if there is reasonable cause to believe that such a failure or misrepresentation has occurred.

(B) Under the process described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Labor shall provide, within 30 days after the date a complaint is filed, for a determination as to whether or not a reasonable basis exists to make a finding described in subparagraph (C). If the Secretary of Labor determines that such a reasonable basis exists, the Secretary of Labor shall provide for notice of such determination to the interested parties and an opportunity for a hearing on the complaint, in accordance with section 556 of title 5, United States Code, within 60 days after the date of the determination. If such a hearing is requested, the Secretary of Labor shall make a finding concerning the matter by not later than 60 days after the date of the hearing. In the case of similar complaints respecting the same applicant, the Secretary of Labor may consolidate the hearings under this subparagraph on such complaints.

(C)(i) If the Secretary of Labor finds, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, a failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1)(B), a substantial failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1)(C) or (1)(D), or a misrepresentation of material fact in an attestation—

(I) the Secretary of Labor shall notify the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security of such finding and may, in addition, impose such other administrative remedies (including civil monetary penalties in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per violation) as the Secretary of Labor determines to be appropriate; and

(II) the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security, as appropriate, shall not approve petitions or applications filed with respect to that employer under section 204, 214(c), 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1), or 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) during a period of at least 1 year for aliens to be employed by the employer.

(ii) If the Secretary of Labor finds, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, a willful failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1), a willful misrepresentation of material fact in an attestation, or a violation of clause (iv)—

(I) the Secretary of Labor shall notify the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security of such finding and may, in addition, impose such other administrative remedies (including civil monetary penalties in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 per violation as the Secretary of Labor determines to be appropriate; and

(II) the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security, as appropriate, shall not approve petitions or applica-

tions filed with respect to that employer under section 204, 214(c), 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1), or 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) during a period of at least 2 years for aliens to be employed by the employer.

(iii) If the Secretary of Labor finds, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, a willful failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1) or a willful misrepresentation of material fact in an attestation, in the course of which failure or misrepresentation the employer displaced a United States worker employed by the employer within the period beginning 90 days before and ending 90 days after the date of filing of any visa petition or application supported by the attestation—

(I) the Secretary of Labor shall notify the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security of such finding and may, in addition, impose such other administrative remedies (including civil monetary penalties in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 per violation) as the Secretary of Labor determines to be appropriate; and

(II) the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security, as appropriate, shall not approve petitions or applications filed with respect to that employer under section 204, 214(c), 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1), or 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) during a period of at least 3 years for aliens to be employed by the employer.

(iv) It is a violation of this clause for an employer who has filed an attestation under this subsection to intimidate, threaten, restrain, coerce, blacklist, discharge, or in any other manner discriminate against an employee (which term, for purposes of this clause, includes a former employee and an applicant for employment) because the employee has disclosed information to the employer, or to any other person, that the employee reasonably believes evidences a violation of this subsection, or any rule or regulation pertaining to this subsection, or because the employee cooperates or seeks to cooperate in an investigation or other proceeding concerning the employer's compliance with the requirements of this subsection or any rule or regulation pertaining to this subsection.

(v) The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall devise a process under which a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1) or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) who files a complaint regarding a violation of clause (iv) and is otherwise eligible to remain and work in the United States may be allowed to seek other appropriate employment in the United States for a period not to exceed the maximum period of stay authorized for such nonimmigrant classification.

(vi)(I) It is a violation of this clause for an employer who has filed an attestation under this subsection to require a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1) or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) to pay a penalty for ceasing employment with the employer prior to a date agreed to by the nonimmigrant and the employer. The Secretary of Labor shall determine whether a required payment is a penalty (and not liquidated damages) pursuant to relevant State law.

(II) If the Secretary of Labor finds, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, that an employer has committed a violation of this clause, the Secretary of Labor may impose a civil monetary penalty of \$1,000 for each such violation and issue an administrative order

requiring the return to the nonimmigrant of any amount paid in violation of this clause, or, if the nonimmigrant cannot be located, requiring payment of any such amount to the general fund of the Treasury.

(vii)(I) It is a failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1)(A) for an employer who has filed an attestation under this subsection and who places a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1) or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) designated as a full-time employee in the attestation, after the nonimmigrant has entered into employment with the employer, in nonproductive status due to a decision by the employer (based on factors such as lack of work), or due to the nonimmigrant's lack of a permit or license, to fail to pay the nonimmigrant full-time wages in accordance with paragraph (1)(A) for all such nonproductive time.

(II) It is a failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1)(A) for an employer who has filed an attestation under this subsection and who places a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1) or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) designated as a part-time employee in the attestation, after the nonimmigrant has entered into employment with the employer, in nonproductive status under circumstances described in subclause (I), to fail to pay such a nonimmigrant for such hours as are designated on the attestation consistent with the rate of pay identified on the attestation.

(III) In the case of a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1) or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) who has not yet entered into employment with an employer who has had approved an attestation under this subsection with respect to the nonimmigrant, the provisions of subclauses (I) and (II) shall apply to the employer beginning 30 days after the date the nonimmigrant first is admitted into the United States, or 60 days after the date the nonimmigrant becomes eligible to work for the employer in the case of a nonimmigrant who is present in the United States on the date of the approval of the attestation filed with the Secretary of Labor.

(IV) This clause does not apply to a failure to pay wages to a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1) or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) for nonproductive time due to non-work-related factors, such as the voluntary request of the nonimmigrant for an absence or circumstances rendering the nonimmigrant unable to work.

(V) This clause shall not be construed as prohibiting an employer that is a school or other educational institution from applying to a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1) or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) an established salary practice of the employer, under which the employer pays to nonimmigrants under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1) or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) and United States workers in the same occupational classification an annual salary in disbursements over fewer than 12 months, if—

(aa) the nonimmigrant agrees to the compressed annual salary payments prior to the commencement of the employment; and

(bb) the application of the salary practice to the nonimmigrant does not otherwise cause the nonimmigrant to violate any condition of the nonimmigrant's authorization under this Act to remain in the United States.

(VI) This clause shall not be construed as superseding clause (viii).

(viii) It is a failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1)(A) for an employer who has filed an attestation under this subsection to fail to offer to a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1) or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii), during the nonimmigrant's period of authorized employment, benefits and eligibility for benefits (including the opportunity to participate in health, life, disability, and other insurance plans; the opportunity to participate in retirement and savings plans; and cash bonuses and non-cash compensation, such as stock options (whether or not based on performance)) on the same basis, and in accordance with the same criteria, as the employer offers to United States workers.

(D) If the Secretary of Labor finds, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, that an employer has not paid wages at the wage level specified in the attestation and required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Labor shall order the employer to provide for payment of such amounts of back pay as may be required to comply with the requirements of paragraph (1), whether or not a penalty under subparagraph (C) has been imposed.

(E) The Secretary of Labor may, on a case-by-case basis, subject an employer to random investigations for a period of up to 5 years, beginning on the date on which the employer is found by the Secretary of Labor to have committed a willful failure to meet a condition of paragraph (1) or to have made a willful misrepresentation of material fact in an attestation. The authority of the Secretary of Labor under this subparagraph shall not be construed to be subject to, or limited by, the requirements of subparagraph (A).

(F) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as superseding or preempting any other enforcement-related authority under this Act (such as the authorities under section 274B), or any other Act.

(4) For purposes of this subsection:

(A) The term "area of employment" means the area within normal commuting distance of the worksite or physical location where the work of the nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1) or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) is or will be performed. If such worksite or location is within a Metropolitan Statistical Area, any place within such area is deemed to be within the area of employment.

(B) In the case of an attestation with respect to one or more nonimmigrants under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b1) or section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) by an employer, the employer is considered to "displace" a United States worker from a job if the employer lays off the worker from a job that is essentially the equivalent of the job for which the nonimmigrant or nonimmigrants is or are sought. A job shall not be considered to be essentially equivalent of another job unless it involves essentially the same responsibilities, was held by a United States worker with substantially equivalent qualifications and experience, and is located in the same area of employment as the other job.

(C)(i) The term "lays off", with respect to a worker—

(I) means to cause the worker's loss of employment, other than through a discharge for inadequate performance, violation of workplace rules, cause, voluntary depart-

ture, voluntary retirement, or the expiration of a grant or contract; but

(II) does not include any situation in which the worker is offered, as an alternative to such loss of employment, a similar employment opportunity with the same employer at equivalent or higher compensation and benefits than the position from which the employee was discharged, regardless of whether or not the employee accepts the offer.

(ii) Nothing in this subparagraph is intended to limit an employee's rights under a collective bargaining agreement or other employment contract.

(D) The term "United States worker" means an employee who—

(i) is a citizen or national of the United States; or

(ii) is an alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence, is admitted as a refugee under section 207 of this title, is granted asylum under section 208, or is an immigrant otherwise authorized, by this Act or by the Secretary of Homeland Security, to be employed.

(t)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), no person admitted under section 101(a)(15)(Q)(ii)(I), or acquiring such status after admission, shall be eligible to apply for nonimmigrant status, an immigrant visa, or permanent residence under this Act until it is established that such person has resided and been physically present in the person's country of nationality or last residence for an aggregate of at least 2 years following departure from the United States.

(2) The Secretary of Homeland Security may waive the requirement of such 2-year foreign residence abroad if the Secretary determines that—

(A) departure from the United States would impose exceptional hardship upon the alien's spouse or child (if such spouse or child is a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence); or

(B) the admission of the alien is in the public interest or the national interest of the United States.

* * * * *

CHAPTER 4—INSPECTION, APPREHENSION, EXAMINATION,
EXCLUSION, AND REMOVAL

* * * * *

GENERAL CLASSES OF DEPORTABLE ALIENS

SEC. 237. (a) CLASSES OF DEPORTABLE ALIENS.—Any alien (including an alien crewman) in and admitted to the United States shall, upon the order of the Attorney General, be removed if the alien is within one or more of the following classes of deportable aliens:

(1) INADMISSIBLE AT TIME OF ENTRY OR OF ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS OR VIOLATES STATUS.—

(A) INADMISSIBLE ALIENS.—Any alien who at the time of entry or adjustment of status was within one or more of the classes of aliens inadmissible by the law existing at such time is deportable.

(B) PRESENT IN VIOLATION OF LAW.—Any alien who is present in the United States in violation of this Act or any other law of the United States, or whose nonimmigrant visa (or other documentation authorizing admission into the United States as a nonimmigrant) has been revoked under section 221(i), is deportable.

(C) VIOLATED NONIMMIGRANT STATUS OR CONDITION OF ENTRY.—

(i) NONIMMIGRANT STATUS VIOLATORS.—Any alien who was admitted as a nonimmigrant and who has failed to maintain the nonimmigrant status in which the alien was admitted or to which it was changed under section 248, or to comply with the conditions of any such status, is deportable.

(ii) VIOLATORS OF CONDITIONS OF ENTRY.—Any alien whom the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies has failed to comply with terms, conditions, and controls that were imposed under section 212(g) is deportable.

(D) TERMINATION OF CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENCE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Any alien with permanent resident status on a conditional basis under section 216 (relating to conditional permanent resident status for certain alien spouses and sons and daughters) or under section 216A (relating to conditional permanent resident status for certain alien entrepreneurs, spouses, and children) who has had such status terminated under such respective section is deportable.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply in the cases described in section 216(c)(4) (relating to certain hardship waivers).

(E) SMUGGLING.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Any alien who (prior to the date of entry, at the time of any entry, or within 5 years of the date of any entry) knowingly has encouraged, induced, assisted, abetted, or aided any other alien to enter or to try to enter the United States in violation of law is deportable.

(ii) SPECIAL RULE IN THE CASE OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION.—Clause (i) shall not apply in the case of alien who is an eligible immigrant (as defined in section 301(b)(1) of the Immigration Act of 1990), was physically present in the United States on May 5, 1988, and is seeking admission as an immediate relative or under section 203(a)(2) (including under section 112 of the Immigration Act of 1990) or benefits under section 301(a) of the Immigration Act of 1990 if the alien, before May 5, 1988, has encouraged, induced, assisted, abetted, or aided only the alien's spouse, parent, son, or daughter (and no other individual) to enter the United States in violation of law.

(iii) WAIVER AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General may, in his discretion for humanitarian purposes, to assure family unity, or when it is otherwise in the

public interest, waive application of clause (i) in the case of any alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if the alien has encouraged, induced, assisted, abetted, or aided only an individual who at the time of the offense was the alien's spouse, parent, son, or daughter (and no other individual) to enter the United States in violation of law.

(F)

(G) MARRIAGE FRAUD.—An alien shall be considered to be deportable as having procured a visa or other documentation by fraud (within the meaning of section 212(a)(6)(C)(i)) and to be in the United States in violation of this Act (within the meaning of subparagraph (B)) if—

(i) the alien obtains any admission into the United States with an immigrant visa or other documentation procured on the basis of a marriage entered into less than 2 years prior to such admission of the alien and which, within 2 years subsequent to any admission of the alien in the United States, shall be judicially annulled or terminated, unless the alien establishes to the satisfaction of the Attorney General that such marriage was not contracted for the purpose of evading any provisions of the immigration laws, or

(ii) it appears to the satisfaction of the Attorney General that the alien has failed or refused to fulfill the alien's marital agreement which in the opinion of the Attorney General was made for the purpose of procuring the alien's admission as an immigrant.

(H) WAIVER AUTHORIZED FOR CERTAIN MISREPRESENTATIONS.—The provisions of this paragraph relating to the removal of aliens within the United States on the ground that they were inadmissible at the time of admission as aliens described in section 212(a)(6)(C)(i), whether willful or innocent, may, in the discretion of the Attorney General, be waived for any alien (other than an alien described in paragraph (4)(D)) who—

(i)(I) is the spouse, parent, son, or daughter of a citizen of the United States or of an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence; and

(II) was in possession of an immigrant visa or equivalent document and was otherwise admissible to the United States at the time of such admission except for those grounds of inadmissibility specified under paragraphs (5)(A) and (7)(A) of section 212(a) which were a direct result of that fraud or misrepresentation.

(ii) is a VAWA self-petitioner.

A waiver of removal for fraud or misrepresentation granted under this subparagraph shall also operate to waive removal based on the grounds of inadmissibility directly resulting from such fraud or misrepresentation.

(2) CRIMINAL OFFENSES.—

(A) GENERAL CRIMES.—

(i) CRIMES OF MORAL TURPITUDE.—Any alien who—

(I) is convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude committed within five years (or 10 years in

the case of an alien provided lawful permanent resident status under section 245(j)) after the date of admission, and

(II) is convicted of a crime for which a sentence of one year or longer may be imposed, is deportable.

(ii) MULTIPLE CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS.—Any alien who at any time after admission is convicted of two or more crimes involving moral turpitude, not arising out of a single scheme of criminal misconduct, regardless of whether confined therefor and regardless of whether the convictions were in a single trial, is deportable.

(iii) AGGRAVATED FELONY.—Any alien who is convicted of an aggravated felony at any time after admission is deportable.

(iv) HIGH SPEED FLIGHT.—Any alien who is convicted of a violation of section 758 of title 18, United States Code (relating to high speed flight from an immigration checkpoint), is deportable.

(v) FAILURE TO REGISTER AS A SEX OFFENDER.—Any alien who is convicted under section 2250 of title 18, United States Code, is deportable.

(vi) WAIVER AUTHORIZED.—Clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) shall not apply in the case of an alien with respect to a criminal conviction if the alien subsequent to the criminal conviction has been granted a full and unconditional pardon by the President of the United States or by the Governor of any of the several States.

(B) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.—

(i) CONVICTION.—Any alien who at any time after admission has been convicted of a violation of (or a conspiracy or attempt to violate) any law or regulation of a State, the United States, or a foreign country relating to a controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)), other than a single offense involving possession for one's own use of 30 grams or less of marijuana, is deportable.

(ii) DRUG ABUSERS AND ADDICTS.—Any alien who is, or at any time after admission has been, a drug abuser or addict is deportable.

(C) CERTAIN FIREARM OFFENSES.—Any alien who at any time after admission is convicted under any law of purchasing, selling, offering for sale, exchanging, using, owning, possessing, or carrying, or of attempting or conspiring to purchase, sell, offer for sale, exchange, use, own, possess, or carry, any weapon, part, or accessory which is a firearm or destructive device (as defined in section 921(a) of title 18, United States Code) in violation of any law is deportable.

(D) MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES.—Any alien who at any time has been convicted (the judgment on such conviction becoming final) of, or has been so convicted of a conspiracy or attempt to violate—

(i) any offense under chapter 37 (relating to espionage), chapter 105 (relating to sabotage), or chapter 115 (relating to treason and sedition) of title 18, United States Code, for which a term of imprisonment of five or more years may be imposed;

(ii) any offense under section 871 or 960 of title 18, United States Code;

(iii) a violation of any provision of the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. App. 451 et seq.) or the Trading With the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. App. 1 et seq.); or

(iv) a violation of section 215 or 278 of this Act, is deportable.

(E) **CRIMES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, STALKING, OR VIOLATION OF PROTECTION ORDER, CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN AND.**—

(i) **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, STALKING, AND CHILD ABUSE.**—Any alien who at any time after admission is convicted of a crime of domestic violence, a crime of stalking, or a crime of child abuse, child neglect, or child abandonment is deportable. For purposes of this clause, the term “crime of domestic violence” means any crime of violence (as defined in section 16 of title 18, United States Code) against a person committed by a current or former spouse of the person, by an individual with whom the person shares a child in common, by an individual who is cohabiting with or has cohabited with the person as a spouse, by an individual similarly situated to a spouse of the person under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction where the offense occurs, or by any other individual against a person who is protected from that individual’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the United States or any State, Indian tribal government, or unit of local government.

(ii) **VIOLATORS OF PROTECTION ORDERS.**—Any alien who at any time after admission is enjoined under a protection order issued by a court and whom the court determines has engaged in conduct that violates the portion of a protection order that involves protection against credible threats of violence, repeated harassment, or bodily injury to the person or persons for whom the protection order was issued is deportable. For purposes of this clause, the term “protection order” means any injunction issued for the purpose of preventing violent or threatening acts of domestic violence, including temporary or final orders issued by civil or criminal courts (other than support or child custody orders or provisions) whether obtained by filing an independent action or as a pendente lite order in another proceeding.

(F) **TRAFFICKING.**—Any alien described in section 212(a)(2)(H) is deportable.

(G) **EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE.**—Any alien who has been convicted of,

who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of a violation of section 40B(a) of title 18, United States Code, is deportable.

(3) FAILURE TO REGISTER AND FALSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS.—

(A) CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—An alien who has failed to comply with the provisions of section 265 is deportable, unless the alien establishes to the satisfaction of the Attorney General that such failure was reasonably excusable or was not willful.

(B) FAILURE TO REGISTER OR FALSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS.—Any alien who at any time has been convicted—

(i) under section 266(c) of this Act or under section 36(c) of the Alien Registration Act, 1940,

(ii) of a violation of, or an attempt or a conspiracy to violate, any provision of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 611 et seq.), or

(iii) of a violation of, or an attempt or a conspiracy to violate, section 1546 of title 18, United States Code (relating to fraud and misuse of visas, permits, and other entry documents),

is deportable.

(C) DOCUMENT FRAUD.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An alien who is the subject of a final order for violation of section 274C is deportable.

(ii) WAIVER AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General may waive clause (i) in the case of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if no previous civil money penalty was imposed against the alien under section 274C and the offense was incurred solely to assist, aid, or support the alien's spouse or child (and no other individual). No court shall have jurisdiction to review a decision of the Attorney General to grant or deny a waiver under this clause.

(D) FALSELY CLAIMING CITIZENSHIP.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Any alien who falsely represents, or has falsely represented, himself to be a citizen of the United States for any purpose or benefit under this Act (including section 274A) or any Federal or State law is deportable.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—In the case of an alien making a representation described in clause (i), if each natural parent of the alien (or, in the case of an adopted alien, each adoptive parent of the alien) is or was a citizen (whether by birth or naturalization), the alien permanently resided in the United States prior to attaining the age of 16, and the alien reasonably believed at the time of making such representation that he or she was a citizen, the alien shall not be considered to be deportable under any provision of this subsection based on such representation.

(4) SECURITY AND RELATED GROUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any alien who has engaged, is engaged, or at any time after admission engages in—

(i) any activity to violate any law of the United States relating to espionage or sabotage or to violate or evade any law prohibiting the export from the United States of goods, technology, or sensitive information,

(ii) any other criminal activity which endangers public safety or national security, or

(iii) any activity a purpose of which is the opposition to, or the control or overthrow of, the Government of the United States by force, violence, or other unlawful means,

is deportable.

(B) **TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.**—Any alien who is described in subparagraph (B) or (F) of section 212(a)(3) is deportable.

(C) **FOREIGN POLICY.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—An alien whose presence or activities in the United States the Secretary of State has reasonable ground to believe would have potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States is deportable.

(ii) **EXCEPTIONS.**—The exceptions described in clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 212(a)(3)(C) shall apply to deportability under clause (i) in the same manner as they apply to inadmissibility under section 212(a)(3)(C)(i).

(D) **PARTICIPATED IN NAZI PERSECUTION, GENOCIDE, OR THE COMMISSION OF ANY ACT OF TORTURE OR EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING.**—Any alien described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of section 212(a)(3)(E) is deportable.

(E) **PARTICIPATED IN THE COMMISSION OF SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**—Any alien described in section 212(a)(2)(G) is deportable.

(F) **RECRUITMENT OR USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS.**—Any alien who has engaged in the recruitment or use of child soldiers in violation of section 2442 of title 18, United States Code, is deportable.

(5) **PUBLIC CHARGE.**—Any alien who, within five years after the date of entry, has become a public charge from causes not affirmatively shown to have arisen since entry is deportable.

(6) **UNLAWFUL VOTERS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Any alien who has voted in violation of any Federal, State, or local constitutional provision, statute, ordinance, or regulation is deportable.

(B) **EXCEPTION.**—In the case of an alien who voted in a Federal, State, or local election (including an initiative, recall, or referendum) in violation of a lawful restriction of voting to citizens, if each natural parent of the alien (or, in the case of an adopted alien, each adoptive parent of the alien) is or was a citizen (whether by birth or naturalization), the alien permanently resided in the United States prior to attaining the age of 16, and the alien reasonably believed at the time of such violation that he or she was a citizen, the alien shall not be considered to be deportable

under any provision of this subsection based on such violation.

(7) WAIVER FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General is not limited by the criminal court record and may waive the application of paragraph (2)(E)(i) (with respect to crimes of domestic violence and crimes of stalking) and (ii) in the case of an alien who has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty and who is not and was not the primary perpetrator of violence in the relationship—

(i) upon a determination that—

- (I) the alien was acting in self-defense;
- (II) the alien was found to have violated a protection order intended to protect the alien; or
- (III) the alien committed, was arrested for, was convicted of, or pled guilty to committing a crime—

(aa) that did not result in serious bodily injury; and

(bb) where there was a connection between the crime and the alien's having been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty.

(B) CREDIBLE EVIDENCE CONSIDERED.—In acting on applications under this paragraph, the Attorney General shall consider any credible evidence relevant to the application. The determination of what evidence is credible and the weight to be given that evidence shall be within the sole discretion of the Attorney General.

(b) An alien, admitted as a nonimmigrant under the provisions of either section 101(a)(15)(A)(i) or 101(a)(15)(G)(i), and who fails to maintain a status under either of those provisions, shall not be required to depart from the United States without the approval of the Secretary of State, unless such alien is subject to deportation under paragraph (4) of subsection (a).

(c) Paragraphs (1)(A), (1)(B), (1)(C), (1)(D), and (3)(A) of subsection (a) (other than so much of paragraph (1) as relates to a ground of inadmissibility described in paragraph (2) or (3) of section 212(a)) shall not apply to a special immigrant described in section 101(a)(27)(J) based upon circumstances that existed before the date the alien was provided such special immigrant status.

(d)(1) If the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that an application for nonimmigrant status under subparagraph (T) or (U) of section 101(a)(15) filed for an alien in the United States sets forth a prima facie case for approval, the Secretary may grant the alien an administrative stay of a final order of removal under section 241(c)(2) until—

(A) the application for nonimmigrant status under such subparagraph (T) or (U) is approved; or

(B) there is a final administrative denial of the application for such nonimmigrant status after the exhaustion of administrative appeals.

(2) The denial of a request for an administrative stay of removal under this subsection shall not preclude the alien from applying for a stay of removal, deferred action, or a continuance or abeyance of

removal proceedings under any other provision of the immigration laws of the United States.

(3) During any period in which the administrative stay of removal is in effect, the alien shall not be removed.

(4) Nothing in this subsection may be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General to grant a stay of removal or deportation in any case not described in this subsection.

* * * * *

Dissenting Views

H.R. 5585, the “Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act,” would establish criminal and immigration penalties for flight in a motor vehicle from a pursuing U.S. Border Patrol agent or any federal, state, or local law enforcement assisting in such pursuit.

I. BACKGROUND

The United States’ border region has long borne the brunt of the most aggressive immigration enforcement efforts, including high-speed vehicle pursuits by Border Patrol agents that too often end in serious injuries and death, most often for those being pursued.¹ The number of fatalities resulting from Border Patrol vehicle pursuits grew from 2 deaths in 2019 to 22 in 2021.² Although law enforcement agencies across the country have increasingly restricted when vehicle pursuits could be undertaken, high speed chases along the border have continued to rise. And while many agencies issued policies authorizing chases only when there is an immediate risk of danger to the public, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) was slow to revise its own pursuit policy.

In 2021, following years of public outcry, CBP began making efforts to update its high- speed vehicle pursuit policies to better align with public safety concerns.³ In September of 2022, several members of Congress (led by Representative Veronica Escobar (D TX)) wrote a letter to the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection pointing out the urgent need to revise the agency’s vehicle pursuit policy following the deaths of 44 people, including citizens, migrants, and innocent bystanders in the preceding two years.⁴

CBP’s Law Enforcement Safety and Compliance (LESC) Directorate ultimately conducted an extensive review of vehicle pursuit policies.⁵ The review examined trends, statistics, and outcomes associated with CBP pursuits and culminated in several recommendations for improvement.⁶ Based on the review and resulting recommendations, the policy that governed CBP vehicular pursuits was updated to reflect that vehicular pursuits pose inherent

¹Sheff, R., *Inherent Risks: Policy Analysis and Recommendations on Revised CBP Vehicle Pursuit Policy*, ACLU OF NEW MEXICO AND ACLU OF TEXAS (June 2023).

²*Fact Sheet: The Deadly Trend of Border Patrol Vehicle Pursuits*, ACLU OF NEW MEXICO AND ACLU OF TEXAS.

³*U.S. Customs and Border Protection Emergency Driving and Vehicular Pursuits 4510–026A*, U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (May 2023).

⁴U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, letter to Commissioner Chris Magnus and Deputy Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (September 13, 2022).

⁵U.S. Customs and Border Protection, letter to the Honorable Veronica Escobar, House of Representatives.

⁶*Id.*

risks to members of the public, officers and agents, and vehicle occupants. The newly revised *CBP Emergency Driving and Vehicular Pursuits Directive* (ED-VP) was published in January of 2023 and became effective in May of that year.

The updated ED-VP acknowledges the risks and shifts the agency's overall approach to a risk-based model when pursuits occur. Most importantly, the ED-VP adopts a "reasonableness" standard that is familiar to, and found throughout, most law enforcement agencies across the United States.⁷ The ED-VP also requires application of a Graham Factors Analysis to vehicular pursuits (identical to the requirement already established under CBP's use of force directive).⁸ The ED-VP entrusts agents, officers, and their supervisors with the ability to conduct pursuits based on their analysis of risk factors, encourages them to consider other available means of apprehending suspects, and reaffirms the overall law enforcement need to conduct pursuits. The ED-VP further clarifies the role of supervisors and establishes clear reporting requirements to ensure continuous learning and performance improvements over time.

The ED-VP provides a framework for weighing the risks of conducting pursuits, such as danger to the public, against the law enforcement benefit or need. The ED-VP further provides factors to consider when deciding whether a vehicle should be pursued, and when a pursuit should be terminated. Many of these risk factors are self-evident, including road and weather conditions, speed, and nearby population centers. Officers and agents must now consider the government's interest in immediately apprehending an individual, including the severity of the crime at issue and the level of threat posed by the individual. The policy prohibits officers and agents from initiating or continuing pursuit of a vehicle that is exceeding the speed limit and appears to be overloaded, unless they have probable cause that a felony involving the use, or threatened use, of physical force or violence that poses an imminent threat has been or is about to be committed, and a reasonable belief that the immediate need to apprehend clearly outweighs the inherent risks.

II. CONCERNS REGARDING THIS LEGISLATION

H.R. 5585 is a solution in search of a problem. The ACLU's CBP Fatal Encounter tracker reported 107 total deaths of non-law enforcement officers that resulted from Border Patrol-involved vehicle pursuits between January 2010 and November 2023. In the absence of a hearing on this issue, very little information is publicly available about the number of Border Patrol agents who have been killed in high-speed chases. Notably, the proposed legislation is named in honor of Border Patrol agent, Raul Gonzalez, Jr., who was killed in an ATV accident while tracking a group of migrants in December of 2022. However, the facts are unclear as to whether Agent Gonzalez was involved in a high-speed pursuit at the time of the crash or even if the migrants he pursued were in a vehicle at the time of the incident.

⁷*Id.*

⁸See *Graham v. Connor*, which is used to measure the justification of use of force by law enforcement officers based upon severity of the crime committed by a subject, the immediacy of threat posed by a subject, and the level of resistance encountered from a subject while considering the foreseeable risk of injury to officers/agents and others.

It is also important to note that in many of the pursuits that occur near the border, migrants in the vehicle being pursued have little to no control over the vehicle they are being transported in and are typically not suspected of committing an offense more serious than misdemeanor entry without inspection. And in the vast majority of these pursuits, the risks taken, and the harm caused, are largely disproportionate to any suspected criminal activity.

Moreover, the bill attempts to create a new criminal offense without defining facts that would make otherwise lawful conduct unlawful. As drafted, the bill does not require a nexus between the flight and knowledge or criminal intent, such as a refusal to heed a law enforcement officer's visual or audible signal to initiate a vehicle stop. And despite repeated references to the dangers associated with high-speed chases during the markup, the bill does not require high-speed flight, such as speed exceeding the posted speed limit.

Even overlooking the vague definition of the offense as proposed, prosecutors would be required to prove not that the Border Patrol agent was acting within their duties as an agent or employee but that the agent had the legal authority to engage in a pursuit—which is a considerably more involved question. In other words, a factfinder would have to determine whether the agent was abiding by laws and regulations in effect at the time of the pursuit.

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) offered an amendment at the markup that would have required proof that a pursuing Border Patrol agent was acting within their official duties—meaning within the scope of what an agent is employed to do. The Jackson Lee amendment's proposed language mirrored existing federal criminal statutes that prohibit the commission of various offenses, including assault, murder, and manslaughter, perpetrated against officers and employees of the United States, and foreign officials, while engaged in the performance of their official duties.

In addition to its technical deficiencies, H.R. 5585 is of great concern because it would also expand mandatory minimum penalties that would apply to conduct without proof of intent. In general, flight from a Border Patrol agent in a motor vehicle would be a felony punishable by not more than two years imprisonment and a fine. The bill would require mandatory sentences of at least five years and up to ten years, depending on whether serious bodily injury or death occurs. These mandatory minimum penalties would be triggered without proof that a defendant intentionally caused serious bodily injury or death.

Democrats have long opposed the creation of new criminal offenses and the imposition and expansion of mandatory minimum penalties. Mandatory minimum sentencing schemes undermine the overarching directive set forth in 18 U.S.C. 3553(a), which directs sentencing judges to consider the totality of the circumstances to impose a sentence sufficient but not greater than necessary to achieve the goals and purposes of federal sentencing. The Jackson Lee amendment would have eliminated the mandatory minimum penalties in the bill while maintaining the proposed maximum penalties.

In addition to the concerns regarding the criminal aspects of this bill, the immigration portion of this bill is a solution in search of a problem. People who are convicted of fleeing law enforcement are

already deportable and inadmissible. U.S. immigration law gives the federal government the power to strip lawfully present immigrants of their immigration status and to prevent others from gaining entry or status.

Section 212 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) provides the reasons a non-citizen may be determined to be inadmissible, and Section 237 contains the INA's deportability provisions.¹⁰ Both sections contain similar, but not entirely identical grounds, ranging from criminal convictions and security/terrorism grounds to foreign policy and public charge-related grounds. Section 212 applies to individuals who are applying for status in the United States, whereas Section 237 generally applies to individuals who have been lawfully admitted into the United States and are lawfully present in the United States.

Section 212(a)(2) and Section 237(a)(2) of the INA contain the criminal-related inadmissibility and deportability grounds.¹¹

Section 237(a)(2)(A) renders deportable any noncitizen who "is convicted of some crime involving moral turpitude committed within five years . . . after the date of admission."¹² Further, the conviction must be one "for which a sentence of one year or longer may be imposed."¹³ This means that the actual sentence imposed need not be one year of imprisonment, but rather that if one is convicted of the offense, one *could* be sentenced to at least one year in prison.

Section 212(a)(2)(A)(i) is broader—it states that any noncitizen "convicted of, or who admits to committing acts which constitute essential elements of . . . a crime involving moral turpitude (other than a purely political offense) or an attempt or conspiracy to commit such a crime . . . is inadmissible."¹⁴

People who are convicted of fleeing law enforcement are already deportable and inadmissible. The Board of Immigration Appeals, as upheld by multiple appellate circuits, previously determined that knowingly fleeing or eluding law enforcement is a crime involving moral turpitude (CIMT).¹⁵ In many jurisdictions, such a crime, especially if it results in injury or death, is punishable by a year or more in prison. Under current immigration law, a CIMT conviction where the crime is punishable by one year or more makes an individual deportable, and any conviction of or admission to acts constituting a CIMT makes an individual inadmissible.

However, this bill makes a significant change by not requiring that an individual be convicted of the crime to render them *deportable*. Right now, if someone commits or admits to committing acts constituting the elements of the crime of knowingly fleeing or evading law enforcement, they would be rendered inadmissible, but to be rendered deportable, currently, a conviction is required. This bill would erase that conviction requirement—allowing someone to be rendered deportable, even if they have never been convicted of a crime.

¹⁰ INA §§ 212; 237.

¹¹ INA §§ 212(a)(2); 237(a)(2).

¹² INA §§ 212(a)(2).

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ INA § 212(a)(2)(A)(i).

¹⁵ *See, e.g.,* Granados v. Garland, 992 F.3d 755 (9th Cir. 2021); Cano-Oyarzabal v. Holder, 774 F.3d 914 (7th Cir. 2014) ("Knowingly fleeing or attempting to elude an officer is an act wrong in itself and therefore a crime involving moral turpitude.").

The deportability grounds are not about undocumented immigrants, who are already removable. They apply only to people who are lawfully present in the United States. Without requiring a conviction, this raises serious due process concerns for longstanding legal residents. At markup, Representative Escobar (D-TX) offered an amendment to require a conviction before a person can be deported under this new ground. Republicans defeated the amendment on a party line vote.

The majority consistently conflated the deportability and inadmissibility grounds in their reasoning for opposing the amendment. While there are exceptions, the vast majority of the deportability grounds require a conviction. That is because deportability grounds generally apply to those who are already here and came lawfully and have often lived in the United State for a long time. As was discussed by Representatives Escobar and Jayapal (D-WA), sadly, there are legitimate, non-extralegal reasons why an individual might be concerned about being pulled over by a Border Patrol officer or law enforcement officer.

H.R. 5585 is an unnecessary piece of legislation that would create new mandatory minimum sentences and have significant unintended consequences for long-term residents of this county. Instead of working with Democrats to advance bipartisan legislation, the Majority has once again advanced a fundamentally unserious proposal to close an imaginary gap in the law.

For all of these reasons, I dissent, and I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

JERROLD NADLER,
Ranking Member.