

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 609

To accord honorary citizenship to the alien victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against the United States and to provide for the granting of permanent resident status to the alien spouses and children of certain victims of such attacks.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 2003

Mr. PALLONE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To accord honorary citizenship to the alien victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against the United States and to provide for the granting of permanent resident status to the alien spouses and children of certain victims of such attacks.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Terrorist Victim Citi-  
5       zenship Relief Act of 2003”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1) On September 11, 2001, the United States  
2           suffered a series of attacks which led to the deaths  
3           of thousands of people.

4           (2) Hundreds of foreign nationals perished in  
5           the attacks on the American institutions on Amer-  
6           ican soil.

7           (3) At that time, the Immigration and Natu-  
8           ralization Service was processing applications for ad-  
9           justment in immigration status for immigrants who  
10          perished in the attacks.

11          (4) The immigrant or nonimmigrant status of  
12          many immigrant families depends on the sponsor-  
13          ship of those who perished.

14          (5) The Immigration and Naturalization Serv-  
15          ice has publicly stated that it does not intend to take  
16          action against foreign nationals whose immigration  
17          status is in jeopardy as a direct result of the attack.

18          (6) Commissioner of the Immigration and Nat-  
19          uralization Service James Ziglar stated that “the  
20          Immigration and Naturalization Service will exercise  
21          its discretion toward families of victims during this  
22          time of mourning and readjustment”.

23          (7) Only Congress has the authority to change  
24          immigration law to address unanticipated omissions  
25          in existing law to account for the unique cir-

1        cumstances surrounding the events of September 11,  
2        2001.

3    **SEC. 3. DECEASED ALIEN VICTIMS OF TERRORIST ATTACKS**  
4        **DEEMED TO BE UNITED STATES CITIZENS.**

5        Notwithstanding title III of the Immigration and Na-  
6        tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), and except as pro-  
7        vided in section 5, each alien who died as a result of a  
8        September 11, 2001, terrorist attack against the United  
9        States, shall, as of that date, be considered to be an hon-  
10       orary citizen of the United States if the alien held lawful  
11       status under the immigration laws of the United States  
12       as of that date.

13    **SEC. 4. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS ACCORDED TO**  
14        **ALIEN SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF CERTAIN**  
15        **VICTIMS OF TERRORIST ATTACKS.**

16       Notwithstanding the Immigration and Nationality  
17       Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), and except as provided in  
18       section 5, an alien spouse or child of an individual who  
19       was lawfully present in the United States and who died  
20       as a result of a September 11, 2001, terrorist attack  
21       against the United States shall be granted status as a per-  
22       manent resident alien, without regard to the current sta-  
23       tus of the alien spouse or child under the immigration laws  
24       of the United States, if the spouse or child applies to the

1 Attorney General for permanent resident status not later  
2 than two years after the date of enactment of this Act.

3 **SEC. 5. EXCEPTIONS.**

4 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, an  
5 alien may not be afforded honorary citizenship or granted  
6 permanent resident status, under this Act if the alien is—

7 (1) inadmissible under paragraph (2) or (3) of  
8 section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality  
9 Act, or deportable under paragraph (2) or (4) of sec-  
10 tion 237(a) of that Act, including any terrorist per-  
11 petrator of a September 11, 2001, terrorist attack  
12 against the United States; or

13 (2) a member of the family of a person de-  
14 scribed in paragraph (1).

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