

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 889

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 citizenship to the alien spouses and children of certain victims of such attacks.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 11, 2003

Mr. CORZINE (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and 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 citizenship 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”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

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 former Immigration and Naturalization  
15 Service publicly stated that it would not take action  
16 against foreign nationals whose immigration status  
17 is in jeopardy as a direct result of the attack.

18           (6) The Commissioner of the former Immigra-  
19 tion and Naturalization Service James Ziglar stated  
20 that “the Immigration and Naturalization Service  
21 will exercise its discretion toward families of victims  
22 during this 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. 1401 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. CITIZENSHIP ACCORDED TO ALIEN SPOUSES AND**  
14                                   **CHILDREN OF CERTAIN VICTIMS OF TER-**  
15                                   **RORIST ATTACKS.**

16           Notwithstanding title III of the Immigration and Na-  
17   tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.), and except as pro-  
18   vided in section 5, an alien spouse or child of an individual  
19   who was lawfully present in the United States and who  
20   died as a result of a September 11, 2001, terrorist attack  
21   against the United States shall be entitled to naturaliza-  
22   tion as a citizen of the United States upon being adminis-  
23   tered the oath of renunciation and allegiance in an appro-  
24   priate ceremony pursuant to section 337 of the Immigra-  
25   tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1448), without regard

1 to the current status of the alien spouse or child under  
2 the immigration laws of the United States, if the spouse  
3 or child applies to the Secretary of Homeland Security for  
4 naturalization not later than 2 years after the date of en-  
5 actment of this Act. The Secretary of Homeland Security  
6 shall record the date of naturalization of any person grant-  
7 ed naturalization under this section as being September  
8 10, 2001.

9 **SEC. 5. EXCEPTIONS.**

10 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, an  
11 alien may not be naturalized as a citizen of the United  
12 States, or afforded honorary citizenship, under this Act  
13 if the alien is—

14 (1) inadmissible under paragraph (2) or (3) of  
15 section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality  
16 Act, or deportable under paragraph (2) or (4) of sec-  
17 tion 237(a) of that Act, including any terrorist per-  
18 petrador of a September 11, 2001, terrorist attack  
19 against the United States; or

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

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