

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2962

To designate Pakistan under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Pakistan to be eligible for temporary protected status under such sections.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. HONDA, Ms. KILPATRICK, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To designate Pakistan under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Pakistan to be eligible for temporary protected status under such sections.

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 “Pakistani Temporary
5 Protected Status Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) On October 8, 2005, a magnitude 7.6 earth-
2 quake struck Pakistan.

3 (2) In Pakistan, more than 73,000 people have
4 been killed as a result of this earthquake.

5 (3) Immediately following the earthquake, near-
6 ly 3 million people were living in tents or in the open
7 air amid freezing temperatures, having been left
8 homeless by the earthquake.

9 (4) The earthquake damaged sanitation systems
10 in the region, destroyed hospitals, and left many vic-
11 tims with no access to clean drinking water, making
12 them more vulnerable to disease.

13 (5) One year after the devastating 7.6 mag-
14 nitude earthquake that killed some 80,000 people in
15 northern Pakistan and Kashmir, more than 400,000
16 people were still without permanent shelter.

17 (6) Temporary protected status allows aliens
18 who do not legally qualify as refugees but are none-
19 theless fleeing or reluctant to return to potentially
20 dangerous situations to temporarily remain in the
21 United States.

22 (7) Granting temporary protected status to na-
23 tionals of Pakistan is consistent with the interests of
24 the United States and promotes the values and mor-
25 als that have made the United States strong.

1 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that the extraordinary and
3 temporary conditions caused by the earthquake in Paki-
4 stan qualifies Pakistan for designation under subpara-
5 graphs (B) or (C) of section 244(b)(1) of the Immigration
6 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(1)), pursuant to
7 which nationals of Pakistan would be eligible for tem-
8 porary protected status in the United States.

9 **SEC. 4. DESIGNATION FOR PURPOSES OF GRANTING TEM-**
10 **PORARY PROTECTED STATUS.**

11 (a) DESIGNATION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 244
13 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
14 1254a), Pakistan shall be treated as if it had been
15 designated under subsection (b) of such section, sub-
16 ject to the provisions of this section.

17 (2) PERIOD OF DESIGNATION.—The initial pe-
18 riod of such designation shall begin on the date of
19 the enactment of this Act and shall remain in effect
20 for 12 months.

21 (b) ALIENS ELIGIBLE.—In applying section 244 of
22 such Act pursuant to the designation made under this sec-
23 tion, subject to section 244(c)(3) of such Act, an alien who
24 is a national of Pakistan is deemed to satisfy the require-
25 ments of section 244(c)(1) of such Act only if the alien—

1 (1) has been continuously physically present in
2 the United States since October 8, 2005;

3 (2) is admissible as an immigrant, except as
4 otherwise provided under section 244(c)(2)(A) of
5 such Act, and is not ineligible for temporary pro-
6 tected status under section 244(c)(2)(B) of such
7 Act; and

8 (3) registers for temporary protected status in
9 a manner that the Secretary of Homeland Security
10 shall establish.

11 (c) CONSENT TO TRAVEL ABROAD.—The Secretary
12 of Homeland Security shall give the prior consent to travel
13 abroad described in section 244(f)(3) of such Act to an
14 alien who is granted temporary protected status pursuant
15 to the designation made under this section, if the alien
16 establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Home-
17 land Security that emergency and extenuating cir-
18 cumstances beyond the control of the alien require the
19 alien to depart for a brief, temporary trip abroad. An alien
20 returning to the United States in accordance with such
21 an authorization shall be treated the same as any other
22 returning alien provided temporary protected status under
23 section 244 of such Act.

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