

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2363

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide for ceremonies on or near Independence Day for administering oaths of allegiance to legal immigrants whose applications for naturalization have been approved.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 12, 2009

Mr. FARR (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. SIRES, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BILBRAY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. STARK, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. FILNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide for ceremonies on or near Independence Day for administering oaths of allegiance to legal immigrants whose applications for naturalization have been approved.

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 “Proud to Be an Amer-
5 ican Citizen Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) The United States is a nation of immi-
4 grants.

5 (2) Immigrants strengthen the economic and
6 political ties of the United States with other nations.

7 (3) Immigrants enhance the Nation's ability to
8 compete in the global market.

9 (4) Immigrants contribute to the Nation's sci-
10 entific, literary, artistic, and other cultural re-
11 sources.

12 (5) A properly regulated system of legal immi-
13 gration is in the Nation's interest.

14 (6) The Naturalization Oath of Allegiance im-
15 presses on new United States citizens—

16 (A) the shared American values of liberty,
17 democracy, and equal opportunity; and

18 (B) the obligation to respect and abide by
19 the Constitution, including the Bill of Rights.

20 (7) Naturalization rewards legal immigrants
21 who have abided by all United States laws and regu-
22 lations.

23 (8) Naturalization bestows all the legal rights,
24 privileges, and responsibilities of a United States cit-
25 izen.

1 **SEC. 3. INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONIES FOR OATHS OF**
2 **ALLEGIANCE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-
4 rity shall make available funds each fiscal year to the Di-
5 rector of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services or to
6 public or private nonprofit entities to support public cere-
7 monies for administering oaths of allegiance under section
8 337(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
9 1448(a)) to legal immigrants whose applications for natu-
10 ralization have been approved.

11 (b) CEREMONIES.—A ceremony conducted with funds
12 under this section—

13 (1) shall be held on a date that is on or near
14 Independence Day; and

15 (2) shall include appropriate outreach, ceremo-
16 nial, and celebratory activities.

17 (c) SELECTION OF SITES.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland
19 Security shall select the site for each ceremony con-
20 ducted with funds under this section.

21 (2) SELECTION PROCESS.—In selecting a site
22 under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Se-
23 curity should consider—

24 (A) the number of naturalization appli-
25 cants living in proximity to the site; and

1 (B) the degree of participation in and sup-
2 port for the ceremony by the local community
3 at the site.

4 (d) AMOUNTS AVAILABLE; USE OF FUNDS.—

5 (1) AMOUNTS AVAILABLE.—Amounts made
6 available under this section for each ceremony shall
7 not exceed \$5,000.

8 (2) FUNDS.—Funds made available under this
9 section may be used only for the following:

10 (A) Costs of personnel of the Department
11 of Homeland Security and the Federal judiciary
12 (including travel and overtime expenses).

13 (B) Site rental, including audio equipment
14 rental.

15 (C) Logistical requirements, including
16 sanitation.

17 (D) Costs for printing brochures about the
18 naturalization participants and the naturaliza-
19 tion process.

20 (3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds that are
21 otherwise available to the Secretary of Homeland Se-
22 curity to carry out naturalization activities shall be
23 available to carry out this section.

24 (e) APPLICATION.—No amount may be made avail-
25 able under this section to an entity that is not part of

1 the Department of Homeland Security, for supporting a
2 ceremony described in subsection (b), unless—

3 (1) the entity submits an application to the Sec-
4 retary of Homeland Security, in a form and manner
5 specified by the Secretary of Homeland Security;
6 and

7 (2) the Secretary of Homeland Security ap-
8 proves the application.

○