

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 285

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 section.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 12, 2011

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## 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 section.

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 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The summer of 2010 produced Pakistan's  
2 worst flooding in 80 years.

3           (2) The 2010 Pakistani floods began in July  
4 2010 following heavy monsoon rains in the Khyber  
5 Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab, and Balochistan re-  
6 gions of Pakistan and affected the Indus River  
7 basin. Flooding began on July 22, 2010, in the prov-  
8 ince of Baluchistan.

9           (3) According to the United Nations,  
10 20,000,000 people, one-eighth of the population, and  
11 nearly 62,000 square miles, one-fifth of the country,  
12 have been significantly affected by destruction of  
13 property, livelihood, and infrastructure.

14           (4) The Pakistani Government reports that the  
15 floods have affected 82 of Pakistan's 122 districts.  
16 As a result, more than 12 million people require hu-  
17 manitarian assistance, with nearly 6 million victims  
18 lacking access to food, shelter, and water.

19           (5) The Pakistani Government estimates that  
20 approximately 1.9 million houses were either dam-  
21 aged or destroyed and nearly 2,000 people have lost  
22 their lives.

23           (6) Over 60,000 troops are involved in Paki-  
24 stan's flood relief operations.

1           (7) The floods severely devastated Pakistan's  
2 infrastructure including roads, bridges, schools,  
3 health clinics, electricity, and communications. More  
4 than 5,000 miles of roads and railways were washed  
5 away, along with some 7,000 schools and more than  
6 400 health facilities.

7           (8) In addition, about 17 million acres of Paki-  
8 stan's most fertile croplands have been submerged  
9 by the floods, in a nation where farming is an eco-  
10 nomic mainstay. The waters have also killed more  
11 than 200,000 head of livestock, and washed away  
12 large quantities of stored commodities that feed mil-  
13 lions throughout the year.

14           (9) On August 14, 2010, the first documented  
15 case of cholera emerged in the town of Mingora.

16           (10) On September 7, 2010, the International  
17 Labour Organization reported that more than 5.3  
18 million jobs have been lost due to the floods.

19           (11) Concerns are growing about the enduring  
20 toll of the disaster on Pakistan's overall economy,  
21 food supply, and political stability.

22           (12) Temporary protected status allows aliens  
23 who do not legally qualify as refugees but are none-  
24 theless fleeing or reluctant to return to potentially

1 dangerous situations to temporarily remain in the  
2 United States.

3 (13) Granting temporary protected status to  
4 nationals of Pakistan is consistent with the interests  
5 of the United States and promotes the values and  
6 morals that have made the United States strong.

7 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of the Congress that the extraordinary  
9 and temporary conditions caused by flooding in Pakistan  
10 qualifies Pakistan for designation under subparagraph (B)  
11 or (C) of section 244(b)(1) of the Immigration and Na-  
12 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(1)), pursuant to which  
13 nationals of Pakistan would be eligible for temporary pro-  
14 tected status in the United States.

15 **SEC. 4. DESIGNATION FOR PURPOSES OF GRANTING TEM-**  
16 **PORARY PROTECTED STATUS.**

17 (a) DESIGNATION.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 244  
19 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
20 1254a), Pakistan shall be treated as if it had been  
21 designated under subsection (b) of such section, sub-  
22 ject to the provisions of this section.

23 (2) PERIOD OF DESIGNATION.—The initial pe-  
24 riod of such designation shall begin on the date of

1 the enactment of this Act and shall remain in effect  
2 for 12 months.

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

8 (1) has been continuously physically present in  
9 the United States since July 22, 2010;

10 (2) is admissible as an immigrant, except as  
11 otherwise provided under section 244(c)(2)(A) of  
12 such Act, and is not ineligible for temporary pro-  
13 tected status under section 244(c)(2)(B) of such  
14 Act; and

15 (3) registers for temporary protected status in  
16 a manner that the Secretary of Homeland Security  
17 shall establish.

18 (c) CONSENT TO TRAVEL ABROAD.—The Secretary  
19 of Homeland Security shall give the prior consent to travel  
20 abroad described in section 244(f)(3) of such Act to an  
21 alien who is granted temporary protected status pursuant  
22 to the designation made under this section, if the alien  
23 establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Home-  
24 land Security that emergency and extenuating cir-  
25 cumstances beyond the control of the alien require the

1 alien to depart for a brief, temporary trip abroad. An alien  
2 returning to the United States in accordance with such  
3 an authorization shall be treated the same as any other  
4 returning alien provided temporary protected status under  
5 section 244 of such Act.

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