

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1700

To amend section 292 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the Attorney General to appoint counsel for unaccompanied alien children and aliens with serious mental disabilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2015

Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. CHU of California, Ms. LEE, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. MCGOVERN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend section 292 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the Attorney General to appoint counsel for unaccompanied alien children and aliens with serious mental disabilities, and for other purposes.

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 “Vulnerable Immigrant
5 Voice Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL IN CERTAIN CASES.**

7 (a) APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL FOR UNACCOM-
8 PANIED ALIEN CHILDREN AND ALIENS WITH A SERIOUS

1 MENTAL DISABILITY.—Section 292 of the Immigration
2 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1362) is amended—

3 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “In any”;

4 (2) by striking “(at no expense to the Govern-
5 ment)”;

6 (3) by striking “he shall” and inserting “the
7 person shall”; and

8 (4) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), the Gov-
10 ernment is not required to provide counsel to aliens under
11 subsection (a).

12 “(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b), the Attorney
13 General shall appoint counsel, at the expense of the Gov-
14 ernment if necessary (to the extent provided in appropria-
15 tions Acts), to represent an alien in a removal proceeding
16 who—

17 “(1) has been determined by the Secretary to
18 be an unaccompanied alien child (as defined in sec-
19 tion 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
20 U.S.C. 279(g))); or

21 “(2) is unable to represent himself or herself
22 due to a serious mental disability that would be in-
23 cluded in section 3(1) of the Americans with Disabil-
24 ities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102(1)).”.

1 (b) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appro-
2 priated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the
3 amendments made by this section.

○