

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 537

To extend the supplemental security income program to Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2021

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To extend the supplemental security income program to Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa, 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 “Supplemental Security
5 Income Equality Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY IN-**
2 **COME PROGRAM TO PUERTO RICO, THE**
3 **UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS, GUAM, AND**
4 **AMERICAN SAMOA.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303 of the Social Security
6 Amendments of 1972 (86 Stat. 1484) is amended by strik-
7 ing subsection (b).

8 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

9 (1) DEFINITION OF STATE.—Section
10 1101(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
11 1301(a)(1)) is amended by striking the 5th sentence
12 and inserting the following: “Such term when used
13 in title XVI includes Puerto Rico, the United States
14 Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.”.

15 (2) ELIMINATION OF LIMIT ON TOTAL PAY-
16 MENTS TO THE TERRITORIES.—Section 1108 of
17 such Act (42 U.S.C. 1308) is amended—

18 (A) in the section heading, by striking “;
19 **LIMITATION ON TOTAL PAYMENTS**”;

20 (B) by striking subsection (a); and

21 (C) in subsection (c), by striking para-
22 graphs (2) and (4) and redesignating para-
23 graphs (3) and (5) as paragraphs (2) and (4),
24 respectively.

1 (3) UNITED STATES NATIONALS TREATED THE
2 SAME AS CITIZENS.—Section 1614(a)(1)(B) of such
3 Act (42 U.S.C. 1382c(a)(1)(B)) is amended—

4 (A) in clause (i)(I), by inserting “or na-
5 tional,” after “citizen”;

6 (B) in clause (i)(II), by adding “; or” at
7 the end; and

8 (C) in clause (ii), by inserting “or na-
9 tional” after “citizen”.

10 (4) TERRITORIES INCLUDED IN GEOGRAPHIC
11 MEANING OF UNITED STATES.—Section 1614(e) of
12 such Act (42 U.S.C. 1382c(e)) is amended by strik-
13 ing “and the District of Columbia” and inserting “,
14 the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United
15 States Virgin Islands, Guam, and American
16 Samoa”.

17 (c) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Commissioner of So-
18 cial Security may waive or modify any statutory require-
19 ment relating to the provision of benefits under the Sup-
20 plemental Security Income Program under title XVI of the
21 Social Security Act in Puerto Rico, the United States Vir-
22 gin Islands, Guam, or American Samoa, to the extent that
23 the Commissioner deems it necessary in order to adapt
24 the program to the needs of the territory involved.

1 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amend-
2 ments made by this section shall take effect on the 1st
3 day of the 1st Federal fiscal year that begins 1 year or
4 more after the date of the enactment of this Act.

○