

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5955

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to establish a repatriation grant program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 13, 2023

Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. THANEDAR) introduced the following bill

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to establish a repatriation grant program.

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 “Safe Return Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. REPATRIATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 of the State Depart-
7 ment Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2671) is
8 amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b)(2)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (A), by amending
3 clause (ii) to read as follows:

4 “(ii) private United States citizens,
5 lawful permanent residents of the United
6 States, or third-country nationals, on a
7 grant basis, to the maximum extent prac-
8 ticable;”;

9 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

10 (i) by striking “loans” and inserting
11 “grants”;

12 (ii) by inserting “and destitute lawful
13 permanent residents of the United States”
14 after “destitute citizens of the United
15 States”; and

16 (iii) by adding at the end before the
17 semicolon the following: “and lawful per-
18 manent residents”;

19 (2) in subsection (d)—

20 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
21 by striking “loan” and inserting “grant”;

22 (B) in paragraph (1)—

23 (i) by striking “borrower” and insert-
24 ing “grantee”; and

25 (ii) by adding “and” at the end;

1 (C) in paragraph (2), by striking “a writ-
2 ten loan agreement” and all that follows and in-
3 serting “a written grant agreement.”; and

4 (D) by striking paragraphs (3) through
5 (11).

6 (b) UPDATE TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS MANUAL.—The
7 Secretary of State shall update the “Repatriation Loans”
8 section of the Foreign Affairs Manual to reflect the
9 amendments made by subsection (a).

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