

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 656

To require the Attorney General to make grants to nonprofit organizations to offer legal assistance to certain aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence, DACA recipients, and refugees, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 17, 2019

Mr. CORREA (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WILD, Ms. OMAR, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. WATERS, Mr. BEYER, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. VELA, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. GOMEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require the Attorney General to make grants to nonprofit organizations to offer legal assistance to certain aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence, DACA recipients, and refugees, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “DREAMers, Immi-
3 grants, and Refugees (DIRe) Legal Aid Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General
7 shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, make
8 grants to nonprofit legal services providers with immigra-
9 tion law expertise to provide legal services and advice with
10 respect to the immigration laws (and any executive branch
11 orders, regulations, rules, memoranda, or other guidance
12 under such laws) to aliens who—

13 (1) are present in the United States;

14 (2) are described in subsection (b); and

15 (3) have been ordered removed, are in removal
16 proceedings, or are at risk of being denied entry or
17 admission into the United States.

18 (b) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—An alien is described in
19 this subsection if—

20 (1) the alien is lawfully admitted to the United
21 States for permanent residence;

22 (2) the alien received a grant of deferred action
23 under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
24 program established pursuant to the memorandum
25 of the Secretary of Homeland Security dated June
26 15, 2012; or

1 (3) the alien, or the alien’s spouse or parent,
2 has been admitted, or has been determined to be
3 qualified for admission, as a refugee.

4 (c) DISSEMINATION OF CONTACT INFORMATION.—
5 The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide aliens
6 described in subsection (a) with the contact information
7 for providers receiving funds under this section and shall
8 afford aliens in detention an opportunity to speak in per-
9 son or by telephone to, and arrange representation by,
10 such a provider.

11 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 to carry out
13 this section.

14 **SEC. 3. STUDY ON DISPARITIES IN OUTCOMES FOR ALIENS**
15 **IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS BASED ON HAV-**
16 **ING LEGAL REPRESENTATION.**

17 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
18 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, act-
19 ing through the Under Secretary for Science and Tech-
20 nology, shall carry out a study on the relative outcomes
21 for individuals in removal proceedings who have legal rep-
22 resentation as compared to individuals who lack legal rep-
23 resentation and shall submit to the Congress recommenda-

- 1 tions for correcting any disparities in outcomes found
- 2 through such study.

