



(Original Signature of Member)

FC-26

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DIAZ-BALART (for himself and Mr. MCCLINTOCK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To secure the borders of the United States, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Secure the Border Act of 2023”.

6 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for  
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

**DIVISION A—BORDER SECURITY**

- Sec. 101. Definitions.
- Sec. 102. Border wall construction.
- Sec. 103. Strengthening the requirements for barriers along the southern border.
- Sec. 104. Border and port security technology investment plan.
- Sec. 105. Border security technology program management.
- Sec. 106. U.S. Customs and Border Protection technology upgrades.
- Sec. 107. U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel.
- Sec. 108. Anti-Border Corruption Act reauthorization.
- Sec. 109. Establishment of workload staffing models for U.S. Border Patrol and Air and Marine Operations of CBP.
- Sec. 110. Operation Stonegarden.
- Sec. 111. Air and Marine Operations flight hours.
- Sec. 112. Eradication of carrizo cane and salt cedar.
- Sec. 113. Border patrol strategic plan.
- Sec. 114. U.S. Customs and Border Protection spiritual readiness.
- Sec. 115. Restrictions on funding.
- Sec. 116. Collection of DNA and biometric information at the border.
- Sec. 117. Eradication of narcotic drugs and formulating effective new tools to address yearly losses of life; ensuring timely updates to U.S. Customs and Border Protection field manuals.
- Sec. 118. Publication by U.S. Customs and Border Protection of operational statistics.
- Sec. 119. Alien criminal background checks.
- Sec. 120. Prohibited identification documents at airport security checkpoints; notification to immigration agencies.
- Sec. 121. Prohibition against any COVID-19 vaccine mandate or adverse action against DHS employees.
- Sec. 122. CBP One app limitation.
- Sec. 123. Report on designation of Mexican cartels as foreign terrorist organizations.
- Sec. 124. GAO study on costs incurred by States to secure the southwest border.
- Sec. 125. Report by Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security.
- Sec. 126. Offsetting authorizations of appropriations.
- Sec. 127. Report to Congress on foreign terrorist organizations.
- Sec. 128. Assessment by Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security on the mitigation of unmanned aircraft systems at the southwest border.

## DIVISION B—IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### TITLE I—ASYLUM REFORM AND BORDER PROTECTION

- Sec. 101. Safe third country.
- Sec. 102. Credible fear interviews.
- Sec. 103. Clarification of asylum eligibility.
- Sec. 104. Exceptions.
- Sec. 105. Employment authorization.
- Sec. 106. Asylum fees.
- Sec. 107. Rules for determining asylum eligibility.
- Sec. 108. Firm resettlement.
- Sec. 109. Notice concerning frivolous asylum applications.
- Sec. 110. Technical amendments.

Sec. 111. Requirement for procedures relating to certain asylum applications.

**TITLE II—BORDER SAFETY AND MIGRANT PROTECTION**

Sec. 201. Inspection of applicants for admission.

Sec. 202. Operational detention facilities.

**TITLE III—PREVENTING UNCONTROLLED MIGRATION FLOWS IN  
THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE**

Sec. 301. United States policy regarding Western Hemisphere cooperation on immigration and asylum.

Sec. 302. Negotiations by Secretary of State.

Sec. 303. Mandatory briefings on United States efforts to address the border crisis.

**TITLE IV—ENSURING UNITED FAMILIES AT THE BORDER**

Sec. 401. Clarification of standards for family detention.

**TITLE V—PROTECTION OF CHILDREN**

Sec. 501. Findings.

Sec. 502. Repatriation of unaccompanied alien children.

Sec. 503. Special immigrant juvenile status for immigrants unable to reunite with either parent.

Sec. 504. Rule of construction.

**TITLE VI—VISA OVERSTAYS PENALTIES**

Sec. 601. Expanded penalties for illegal entry or presence.

**TITLE VII—IMMIGRATION PAROLE REFORM**

Sec. 701. Immigration parole reform.

Sec. 702. Implementation.

Sec. 703. Cause of action.

Sec. 704. Severability.

**TITLE VIII—LEGAL WORKFORCE**

Sec. 801. Employment eligibility verification process.

Sec. 802. Employment eligibility verification system.

Sec. 803. Recruitment, referral, and continuation of employment.

Sec. 804. Good faith defense.

Sec. 805. Preemption and States' rights.

Sec. 806. Repeal.

Sec. 807. Penalties.

Sec. 808. Fraud and misuse of documents.

Sec. 809. Protection of Social Security Administration programs.

Sec. 810. Fraud prevention.

Sec. 811. Use of employment eligibility verification photo tool.

Sec. 812. Identity authentication employment eligibility verification pilot programs.

Sec. 813. Inspector General audits.

Sec. 814. Agriculture Workforce Study.

Sec. 815. Repealing regulations.

1 **DIVISION A—BORDER SECURITY**

2 **SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.**

3 In this division:

4 (1) **CBP.**—The term “CBP” means U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

6 (2) **COMMISSIONER.**—The term “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

9 (3) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

11 (4) **OPERATIONAL CONTROL.**—The term “operational control” has the meaning given such term in section 2(b) of the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–367; 8 U.S.C. 1701 note).

15 (5) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

17 (6) **SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.**—The term “situational awareness” has the meaning given such term in section 1092(a)(7) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 6 U.S.C. 223(a)(7)).

22 (7) **UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.**—The term “unmanned aircraft system” has the meaning given such term in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 102. BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—

3 (1) IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF BORDER WALL  
4 CONSTRUCTION.—Not later than seven days after  
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
6 shall resume all activities related to the construction  
7 of the border wall along the border between the  
8 United States and Mexico that were underway or  
9 being planned for prior to January 20, 2021.

10 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—To carry out this section,  
11 the Secretary shall expend all unexpired funds ap-  
12 propriated or explicitly obligated for the construction  
13 of the border wall that were appropriated or obli-  
14 gated, as the case may be, for use beginning on Oc-  
15 tober 1, 2019.

16 (3) USE OF MATERIALS.—Any unused materials  
17 purchased before the date of the enactment of this  
18 Act for construction of the border wall may be used  
19 for activities related to the construction of the bor-  
20 der wall in accordance with paragraph (1).

21 (b) PLAN TO COMPLETE TACTICAL INFRASTRUC-  
22 TURE AND TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than 90 days after  
23 the date of the enactment of this Act and annually there-  
24 after until construction of the border wall has been com-  
25 pleted, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate con-  
26 gressional committees an implementation plan, including

1 annual benchmarks for the construction of 200 miles of  
2 such wall and associated cost estimates for satisfying all  
3 requirements of the construction of the border wall, in-  
4 cluding installation and deployment of tactical infrastruc-  
5 ture, technology, and other elements as identified by the  
6 Department prior to January 20, 2021, through the ex-  
7 penditure of funds appropriated or explicitly obligated, as  
8 the case may be, for use, as well as any future funds ap-  
9 propriated or otherwise made available by Congress.

10 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
12 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
13 mittees” means the Committee on Homeland Secu-  
14 rity and the Committee on Appropriations of the  
15 House of Representatives and the Committee on  
16 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and  
17 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

18 (2) TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term  
19 “tactical infrastructure” includes boat ramps, access  
20 gates, checkpoints, lighting, and roads associated  
21 with a border wall.

22 (3) TECHNOLOGY.—The term “technology” in-  
23 cludes border surveillance and detection technology,  
24 including linear ground detection systems, associated  
25 with a border wall.

1 **SEC. 103. STRENGTHENING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BAR-**  
2 **RIERS ALONG THE SOUTHERN BORDER.**

3 Section 102 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and  
4 Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (Division C of Pub-  
5 lie Law 104–208; 8 U.S.C. 1103 note) is amended—

6 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-  
7 lows:

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Se-  
9 curity shall take such actions as may be necessary (includ-  
10 ing the removal of obstacles to detection of illegal en-  
11 trants) to design, test, construct, install, deploy, integrate,  
12 and operate physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and  
13 technology in the vicinity of the southwest border to  
14 achieve situational awareness and operational control of  
15 the southwest border and deter, impede, and detect unlaw-  
16 ful activity.”;

17 (2) in subsection (b)—

18 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking  
19 “FENCING AND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS” and in-  
20 serting “PHYSICAL BARRIERS”;

21 (B) in paragraph (1)—

22 (i) in the heading, by striking “FENC-  
23 ING” and inserting “BARRIERS”;

24 (ii) by amending subparagraph (A) to  
25 read as follows:

1           “(A) REINFORCED BARRIERS.—In carrying  
2           out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Se-  
3           curity shall construct a border wall, including  
4           physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and  
5           technology, along not fewer than 900 miles of  
6           the southwest border until situational aware-  
7           ness and operational control of the southwest  
8           border is achieved.”;

9                       (iii) by amending subparagraph (B) to  
10           read as follows:

11           “(B) PHYSICAL BARRIERS AND TACTICAL  
12           INFRASTRUCTURE.—In carrying out this sec-  
13           tion, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall  
14           deploy along the southwest border the most  
15           practical and effective physical barriers, tactical  
16           infrastructure, and technology available for  
17           achieving situational awareness and operational  
18           control of the southwest border.”;

19                       (iv) in subparagraph (C)—

20                       (I) by amending clause (i) to  
21           read as follows:

22           “(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out  
23           this section, the Secretary of Homeland  
24           Security shall consult with the Secretary of  
25           the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture,



1 appropriate representatives of State, Trib-  
2 al, and local governments, and appropriate  
3 private property owners in the United  
4 States to minimize the impact on natural  
5 resources, commerce, and sites of historical  
6 or cultural significance for the commu-  
7 nities and residents located near the sites  
8 at which physical barriers, tactical infra-  
9 structure, and technology are to be con-  
10 structed. Such consultation may not delay  
11 such construction for longer than seven  
12 days.”; and

13 (II) in clause (ii)—

14 (aa) in subclause (I), by  
15 striking “or” after the semicolon  
16 at the end;

17 (bb) by amending subclause  
18 (II) to read as follows:

19 “(II) delay the transfer to the  
20 United States of the possession of  
21 property or affect the validity of any  
22 property acquisition by the United  
23 States by purchase or eminent do-  
24 main, or to otherwise affect the emi-

1                   nent domain laws of the United States  
2                   or of any State; or”; and

3                   (cc) by adding at the end  
4                   the following new subelause:

5                   “(III) create any right or liability  
6                   for any party.”; and

7                   (v) by striking subparagraph (D);

8                   (C) in paragraph (2)—

9                   (i) by striking “Attorney General”  
10                  and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Se-  
11                  curity”;

12                  (ii) by striking “this subsection” and  
13                  inserting “this section”; and

14                  (iii) by striking “construction of  
15                  fences” and inserting “the construction of  
16                  physical barriers, tactical infrastructure,  
17                  and technology”;

18                  (D) by amending paragraph (3) to read as  
19                  follows:

20                  “(3) AGENT SAFETY.—In carrying out this sec-  
21                  tion, the Secretary of Homeland Security, when de-  
22                  signing, testing, constructing, installing, deploying,  
23                  integrating, and operating physical barriers, tactical  
24                  infrastructure, or technology, shall incorporate such  
25                  safety features into such design, test, construction,

1 installation, deployment, integration, or operation of  
2 such physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, or  
3 technology, as the case may be, that the Secretary  
4 determines are necessary to maximize the safety and  
5 effectiveness of officers and agents of the Depart-  
6 ment of Homeland Security or of any other Federal  
7 agency deployed in the vicinity of such physical bar-  
8 riers, tactical infrastructure, or technology.”; and

9 (E) in paragraph (4), by striking “this  
10 subsection” and inserting “this section”;

11 (3) in subsection (c)—

12 (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as  
13 follows:

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
15 provision of law, the Secretary of Homeland Security  
16 shall waive all legal requirements necessary to en-  
17 sure the expeditious design, testing, construction, in-  
18 stallation, deployment, integration, operation, and  
19 maintenance of the physical barriers, tactical infra-  
20 structure, and technology under this section. The  
21 Secretary shall ensure the maintenance and effec-  
22 tiveness of such physical barriers, tactical infrastruc-  
23 ture, or technology. Any such action by the Sec-  
24 retary shall be effective upon publication in the Fed-  
25 eral Register.”;

1 (B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as  
2 paragraph (3); and

3 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the  
4 following new paragraph:

5 “(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than seven  
6 days after the date on which the Secretary of Home-  
7 land Security exercises a waiver pursuant to para-  
8 graph (1), the Secretary shall notify the Committee  
9 on Homeland Security of the House of Representa-  
10 tives and the Committee on Homeland Security and  
11 Governmental Affairs of the Senate of such waiver.”;  
12 and

13 (4) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
14 sections:

15 “(e) TECHNOLOGY.—In carrying out this section, the  
16 Secretary of Homeland Security shall deploy along the  
17 southwest border the most practical and effective tech-  
18 nology available for achieving situational awareness and  
19 operational control.

20 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) ADVANCED UNATTENDED SURVEILLANCE  
22 SENSORS.—The term ‘advanced unattended surveil-  
23 lance sensors’ means sensors that utilize an onboard  
24 computer to analyze detections in an effort to dis-

cern between vehicles, humans, and animals, and ultimately filter false positives prior to transmission.

“(2) OPERATIONAL CONTROL.—The term ‘operational control’ has the meaning given such term in section 2(b) of the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–367; 8 U.S.C. 1701 note).

“(3) PHYSICAL BARRIERS.—The term ‘physical barriers’ includes reinforced fencing, the border wall, and levee walls.

“(4) SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.—The term ‘situational awareness’ has the meaning given such term in section 1092(a)(7) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 6 U.S.C. 223(a)(7)).

“(5) TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ‘tactical infrastructure’ includes boat ramps, access gates, checkpoints, lighting, and roads.

“(6) TECHNOLOGY.—The term ‘technology’ includes border surveillance and detection technology, including the following:

“(A) Tower-based surveillance technology.

“(B) Deployable, lighter-than-air ground surveillance equipment.

“(C) Vehicle and Dismount Exploitation Radars (VADER).

1 “(D) 3-dimensional, seismic acoustic detec-  
2 tion and ranging border tunneling detection  
3 technology.

4 “(E) Advanced unattended surveillance  
5 sensors.

6 “(F) Mobile vehicle-mounted and man-  
7 portable surveillance capabilities.

8 “(G) Unmanned aircraft systems.

9 “(H) Tunnel detection systems and other  
10 seismic technology.

11 “(I) Fiber-optic cable.

12 “(J) Other border detection, communica-  
13 tion, and surveillance technology.

14 “(7) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term  
15 ‘unmanned aircraft system’ has the meaning given  
16 such term in section 44801 of title 49, United  
17 States Code.”.

18 **SEC. 104. BORDER AND PORT SECURITY TECHNOLOGY IN-**  
19 **VESTMENT PLAN.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
21 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner, in  
22 consultation with covered officials and border and port se-  
23 curity technology stakeholders, shall submit to the appro-  
24 priate congressional committees a strategic 5-year tech-  
25 nology investment plan (in this section referred to as the

1 “plan”). The plan may include a classified annex, if appro-  
2 priate.

3 (b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan shall include the  
4 following:

5 (1) An analysis of security risks at and between  
6 ports of entry along the northern and southern bor-  
7 ders of the United States.

8 (2) An identification of capability gaps with re-  
9 spect to security at and between such ports of entry  
10 to be mitigated in order to—

11 (A) prevent terrorists and instruments of  
12 terror from entering the United States;

13 (B) combat and reduce cross-border crimi-  
14 nal activity, including—

15 (i) the transport of illegal goods, such  
16 as illicit drugs; and

17 (ii) human smuggling and human  
18 trafficking; and

19 (C) facilitate the flow of legal trade across  
20 the southwest border.

21 (3) An analysis of current and forecast trends  
22 relating to the number of aliens who—

23 (A) unlawfully entered the United States  
24 by crossing the northern or southern border of  
25 the United States; or

1 (B) are unlawfully present in the United  
2 States.

3 (4) A description of security-related technology  
4 acquisitions, to be listed in order of priority, to ad-  
5 dress the security risks and capability gaps analyzed  
6 and identified pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2),  
7 respectively.

8 (5) A description of each planned security-re-  
9 lated technology program, including objectives, goals,  
10 and timelines for each such program.

11 (6) An identification of each deployed security-  
12 related technology that is at or near the end of the  
13 life cycle of such technology.

14 (7) A description of the test, evaluation, mod-  
15 eling, and simulation capabilities, including target  
16 methodologies, rationales, and timelines, necessary  
17 to support the acquisition of security-related tech-  
18 nologies pursuant to paragraph (4).

19 (8) An identification and assessment of ways to  
20 increase opportunities for communication and col-  
21 laboration with the private sector, small and dis-  
22 advantaged businesses, intragovernment entities,  
23 university centers of excellence, and federal labora-  
24 tories to ensure CBP is able to engage with the mar-  
25 ket for security-related technologies that are avail-



1       able to satisfy its mission needs before engaging in  
2       an acquisition of a security-related technology.

3           (9) An assessment of the management of  
4       planned security-related technology programs by the  
5       acquisition workforce of CBP.

6           (10) An identification of ways to leverage al-  
7       ready-existing acquisition expertise within the Fed-  
8       eral Government.

9           (11) A description of the security resources, in-  
10       cluding information security resources, required to  
11       protect security-related technology from physical or  
12       cyber theft, diversion, sabotage, or attack.

13          (12) A description of initiatives to—

14               (A) streamline the acquisition process of  
15       CBP; and

16               (B) provide to the private sector greater  
17       predictability and transparency with respect to  
18       such process, including information relating to  
19       the timeline for testing and evaluation of secu-  
20       rity-related technology.

21          (13) An assessment of the privacy and security  
22       impact on border communities of security-related  
23       technology.

24          (14) In the case of a new acquisition leading to  
25       the removal of equipment from a port of entry along

1 the northern or southern border of the United  
2 States, a strategy to consult with the private sector  
3 and community stakeholders affected by such re-  
4 moval.

5 (15) A strategy to consult with the private sec-  
6 tor and community stakeholders with respect to se-  
7 curity impacts at a port of entry described in para-  
8 graph (14).

9 (16) An identification of recent technological  
10 advancements in the following:

11 (A) Manned aircraft sensor, communica-  
12 tion, and common operating picture technology.

13 (B) Unmanned aerial systems and related  
14 technology, including counter-unmanned aerial  
15 system technology.

16 (C) Surveillance technology, including the  
17 following:

18 (i) Mobile surveillance vehicles.

19 (ii) Associated electronics, including  
20 cameras, sensor technology, and radar.

21 (iii) Tower-based surveillance tech-  
22 nology.

23 (iv) Advanced unattended surveillance  
24 sensors.

1 (v) Deployable, lighter-than-air,  
2 ground surveillance equipment.

3 (D) Nonintrusive inspection technology, in-  
4 cluding non-X-ray devices utilizing muon to-  
5 mography and other advanced detection tech-  
6 nology.

7 (E) Tunnel detection technology.

8 (F) Communications equipment, including  
9 the following:

10 (i) Radios.

11 (ii) Long-term evolution broadband.

12 (iii) Miniature satellites.

13 (c) LEVERAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR.—To the ex-  
14 tent practicable, the plan shall—

15 (1) leverage emerging technological capabilities,  
16 and research and development trends, within the  
17 public and private sectors;

18 (2) incorporate input from the private sector,  
19 including from border and port security stake-  
20 holders, through requests for information, industry  
21 day events, and other innovative means consistent  
22 with the Federal Acquisition Regulation; and

23 (3) identify security-related technologies that  
24 are in development or deployed, with or without ad-  
25 aptation, that may satisfy the mission needs of CBP.

1 (d) FORM.—To the extent practicable, the plan shall  
2 be published in unclassified form on the website of the  
3 Department.

4 (e) DISCLOSURE.—The plan shall include an identi-  
5 fication of individuals not employed by the Federal Gov-  
6 ernment, and their professional affiliations, who contrib-  
7 uted to the development of the plan.

8 (f) UPDATE AND REPORT.—Not later than the date  
9 that is two years after the date on which the plan is sub-  
10 mitted to the appropriate congressional committees pursu-  
11 ant to subsection (a) and biennially thereafter for ten  
12 years, the Commissioner shall submit to the appropriate  
13 congressional committees—

14 (1) an update of the plan, if appropriate; and

15 (2) a report that includes—

16 (A) the extent to which each security-re-  
17 lated technology acquired by CBP since the ini-  
18 tial submission of the plan or most recent up-  
19 date of the plan, as the case may be, is con-  
20 sistent with the planned technology programs  
21 and projects described pursuant to subsection  
22 (b)(5); and

23 (B) the type of contract and the reason for  
24 acquiring each such security-related technology.

25 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
2       TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
3       mittees” means—

4           (A) the Committee on Homeland Security  
5       and the Committee on Appropriations of the  
6       House of Representatives; and

7           (B) the Committee on Homeland Security  
8       and Governmental Affairs and the Committee  
9       on Appropriations of the Senate.

10          (2) COVERED OFFICIALS.—The term “covered  
11       officials” means—

12          (A) the Under Secretary for Management  
13       of the Department;

14          (B) the Under Secretary for Science and  
15       Technology of the Department; and

16          (C) the Chief Information Officer of the  
17       Department.

18          (3) UNLAWFULLY PRESENT.—The term “un-  
19       lawfully present” has the meaning provided such  
20       term in section 212(a)(9)(B)(ii) of the Immigration  
21       and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(9)(B)(ii)).

1 **SEC. 105. BORDER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**  
2 **MANAGEMENT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title IV of the  
4 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 231 et seq.)  
5 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 437. BORDER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**  
7 **MANAGEMENT.**

8 “(a) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM DEFINED.—In  
9 this section, the term ‘major acquisition program’ means  
10 an acquisition program of the Department that is esti-  
11 mated by the Secretary to require an eventual total ex-  
12 penditure of at least \$100,000,000 (based on fiscal year  
13 2023 constant dollars) over its life-cycle cost.

14 “(b) PLANNING DOCUMENTATION.—For each border  
15 security technology acquisition program of the Depart-  
16 ment that is determined to be a major acquisition pro-  
17 gram, the Secretary shall—

18 “(1) ensure that each such program has a writ-  
19 ten acquisition program baseline approved by the  
20 relevant acquisition decision authority;

21 “(2) document that each such program is satis-  
22 fying cost, schedule, and performance thresholds as  
23 specified in such baseline, in compliance with rel-  
24 evant departmental acquisition policies and the Fed-  
25 eral Acquisition Regulation; and

1           “(3) have a plan for satisfying program imple-  
2           mentation objectives by managing contractor per-  
3           formance.

4           “(c) ADHERENCE TO STANDARDS.—The Secretary,  
5           acting through the Under Secretary for Management and  
6           the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection,  
7           shall ensure border security technology acquisition pro-  
8           gram managers who are responsible for carrying out this  
9           section adhere to relevant internal control standards iden-  
10          tified by the Comptroller General of the United States.  
11          The Commissioner shall provide information, as needed,  
12          to assist the Under Secretary in monitoring management  
13          of border security technology acquisition programs under  
14          this section.

15          “(d) PLAN.—The Secretary, acting through the  
16          Under Secretary for Management, in coordination with  
17          the Under Secretary for Science and Technology and the  
18          Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection,  
19          shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of  
20          the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
21          Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-  
22          ate a plan for testing, evaluating, and using independent  
23          verification and validation of resources relating to the pro-  
24          posed acquisition of border security technology. Under  
25          such plan, the proposed acquisition of new border security

1 technologies shall be evaluated through a series of assess-  
2 ments, processes, and audits to ensure—

3 “(1) compliance with relevant departmental ac-  
4 quisition policies and the Federal Acquisition Regu-  
5 lation; and

6 “(2) the effective use of taxpayer dollars.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
8 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is  
9 amended by inserting after the item relating to section  
10 436 the following new item:

“Sec. 437. Border security technology program management.”.

11 (c) PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION  
12 OF APPROPRIATIONS.—No additional funds are author-  
13 ized to be appropriated to carry out section 437 of the  
14 Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection  
15 (a).

16 **SEC. 106. U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION TECH-**  
17 **NOLOGY UPGRADES.**

18 (a) SECURE COMMUNICATIONS.—The Commissioner  
19 shall ensure that each CBP officer or agent, as appro-  
20 priate, is equipped with a secure radio or other two-way  
21 communication device that allows each such officer or  
22 agent to communicate—

23 (1) between ports of entry and inspection sta-  
24 tions; and



1 (2) with other Federal, State, Tribal, and local  
2 law enforcement entities.

3 (b) BORDER SECURITY DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM.—

4 (1) EXPANSION.—Not later than September 30,  
5 2025, the Commissioner shall—

6 (A) fully implement the Border Security  
7 Deployment Program of CBP; and

8 (B) expand the integrated surveillance and  
9 intrusion detection system at land ports of  
10 entry along the northern and southern borders  
11 of the United States.

12 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In  
13 addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be ap-  
14 propriated for such purpose, there is authorized to  
15 be appropriated \$33,000,000 for fiscal years 2024  
16 and 2025 to carry out paragraph (1).

17 (c) UPGRADE OF LICENSE PLATE READERS AT  
18 PORTS OF ENTRY.—

19 (1) UPGRADE.—Not later than two years after  
20 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commis-  
21 sioner shall upgrade all existing license plate readers  
22 in need of upgrade, as determined by the Commis-  
23 sioner, on the northern and southern borders of the  
24 United States.

1           (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In  
2           addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be ap-  
3           propriated for such purpose, there is authorized to  
4           be appropriated \$125,000,000 for fiscal years 2023  
5           and 2024 to carry out paragraph (1).

6 **SEC. 107. U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION PER-**  
7 **SONNEL.**

8           (a) RETENTION BONUS.—To carry out this section,  
9           there is authorized to be appropriated up to \$100,000,000  
10          to the Commissioner to provide a retention bonus to any  
11          front-line U.S. Border Patrol law enforcement agent—

12               (1) whose position is equal to or below level GS-  
13          12 of the General Schedule;

14               (2) who has five years or more of service with  
15          the U.S. Border Patrol; and

16               (3) who commits to two years of additional  
17          service with the U.S. Border Patrol upon acceptance  
18          of such bonus.

19          (b) BORDER PATROL AGENTS.—Not later than Sep-  
20          tember 30, 2025, the Commissioner shall hire, train, and  
21          assign a sufficient number of Border Patrol agents to  
22          maintain an active duty presence of not fewer than 22,000  
23          full-time equivalent Border Patrol agents, who may not  
24          perform the duties of processing coordinators.

1 (c) PROHIBITION AGAINST ALIEN TRAVEL.—No per-  
2 sonnel or equipment of Air and Marine Operations may  
3 be used for the transportation of non-detained aliens, or  
4 detained aliens expected to be administratively released  
5 upon arrival, from the southwest border to destinations  
6 within the United States.

7 (d) GAO REPORT.—If the staffing level required  
8 under this section is not achieved by the date associated  
9 with such level, the Comptroller General of the United  
10 States shall—

11 (1) conduct a review of the reasons why such  
12 level was not so achieved; and

13 (2) not later than September 30, 2027, publish  
14 on a publicly available website of the Government  
15 Accountability Office a report relating thereto.

16 **SEC. 108. ANTI-BORDER CORRUPTION ACT REAUTHORIZA-**  
17 **TION.**

18 (a) HIRING FLEXIBILITY.—Section 3 of the Anti-  
19 Border Corruption Act of 2010 (6 U.S.C. 221; Public Law  
20 111–376) is amended by striking subsection (b) and in-  
21 serting the following new subsections:

22 “(b) WAIVER REQUIREMENT.—Subject to subsection  
23 (c), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Pro-  
24 tection shall waive the application of subsection (a)(1)—

1           “(1) to a current, full-time law enforcement of-  
2       ficer employed by a State or local law enforcement  
3       agency who—

4           “(A) has continuously served as a law en-  
5       forcement officer for not fewer than three  
6       years;

7           “(B) is authorized by law to engage in or  
8       supervise the prevention, detection, investiga-  
9       tion, or prosecution of, or the incarceration of  
10      any person for, any violation of law, and has  
11      statutory powers for arrest or apprehension;  
12      and

13          “(C) is not currently under investigation,  
14      has not been found to have engaged in criminal  
15      activity or serious misconduct, has not resigned  
16      from a law enforcement officer position under  
17      investigation or in lieu of termination, and has  
18      not been dismissed from a law enforcement offi-  
19      cer position;

20          “(2) to a current, full-time Federal law enforce-  
21      ment officer who—

22          “(A) has continuously served as a law en-  
23      forcement officer for not fewer than three  
24      years;

1           “(B) is authorized to make arrests, con-  
2           duct investigations, conduct searches, make sei-  
3           zures, carry firearms, and serve orders, war-  
4           rants, and other processes;

5           “(C) is not currently under investigation,  
6           has not been found to have engaged in criminal  
7           activity or serious misconduct, has not resigned  
8           from a law enforcement officer position under  
9           investigation or in lieu of termination, and has  
10          not been dismissed from a law enforcement offi-  
11          cer position; and

12          “(D) holds a current Tier 4 background  
13          investigation or current Tier 5 background in-  
14          vestigation; or

15          “(3) to a member of the Armed Forces (or a re-  
16          serve component thereof) or a veteran, if such indi-  
17          vidual—

18               “(A) has served in the Armed Forces for  
19               not fewer than three years;

20               “(B) holds, or has held within the past five  
21               years, a Secret, Top Secret, or Top Secret/Sen-  
22               sitive Compartmented Information clearance;

23               “(C) holds, or has undergone within the  
24               past five years, a current Tier 4 background in-

1           vestigation or current Tier 5 background inves-  
2           tigation;

3           “(D) received, or is eligible to receive, an  
4           honorable discharge from service in the Armed  
5           Forces and has not engaged in criminal activity  
6           or committed a serious military or civil offense  
7           under the Uniform Code of Military Justice;  
8           and

9           “(E) was not granted any waivers to ob-  
10          tain the clearance referred to in subparagraph  
11          (B).

12       “(c) TERMINATION OF WAIVER REQUIREMENT;  
13 SNAP-BACK.—The requirement to issue a waiver under  
14 subsection (b) shall terminate if the Commissioner of U.S.  
15 Customs and Border Protection (CBP) certifies to the  
16 Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Rep-  
17 resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security  
18 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate that CBP has met  
19 all requirements pursuant to section 107 of the Secure the  
20 Border Act of 2023 relating to personnel levels. If at any  
21 time after such certification personnel levels fall below  
22 such requirements, the Commissioner shall waive the ap-  
23 plication of subsection (a)(1) until such time as the Com-  
24 missioner re-certifies to such Committees that CBP has  
25 so met all such requirements.”.

1 (b) SUPPLEMENTAL COMMISSIONER AUTHORITY;  
2 REPORTING; DEFINITIONS.—The Anti-Border Corruption  
3 Act of 2010 is amended by adding at the end the following  
4 new sections:

5 **“SEC. 5. SUPPLEMENTAL COMMISSIONER AUTHORITY.**

6 “(a) NONEXEMPTION.—An individual who receives a  
7 waiver under section 3(b) is not exempt from any other  
8 hiring requirements relating to suitability for employment  
9 and eligibility to hold a national security designated posi-  
10 tion, as determined by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs  
11 and Border Protection.

12 “(b) BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS.—An individual  
13 who receives a waiver under section 3(b) who holds a cur-  
14 rent Tier 4 background investigation shall be subject to  
15 a Tier 5 background investigation.

16 “(c) ADMINISTRATION OF POLYGRAPH EXAMINA-  
17 TION.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border  
18 Protection is authorized to administer a polygraph exam-  
19 ination to an applicant or employee who is eligible for or  
20 receives a waiver under section 3(b) if information is dis-  
21 covered before the completion of a background investiga-  
22 tion that results in a determination that a polygraph ex-  
23 amination is necessary to make a final determination re-  
24 garding suitability for employment or continued employ-  
25 ment, as the case may be.

1 **“SEC. 6. REPORTING.**

2 “(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year  
3 after the date of the enactment of this section and annu-  
4 ally thereafter while the waiver authority under section  
5 3(b) is in effect, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and  
6 Border Protection shall submit to Congress a report that  
7 includes, with respect to each such reporting period, the  
8 following:

9 “(1) Information relating to the number of  
10 waivers granted under such section 3(b).

11 “(2) Information relating to the percentage of  
12 applicants who were hired after receiving such a  
13 waiver.

14 “(3) Information relating to the number of in-  
15 stances that a polygraph was administered to an ap-  
16 plicant who initially received such a waiver and the  
17 results of such polygraph.

18 “(4) An assessment of the current impact of  
19 such waiver authority on filling law enforcement po-  
20 sitions at U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

21 “(5) An identification of additional authorities  
22 needed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to  
23 better utilize such waiver authority for its intended  
24 goals.

25 “(b) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The first report  
26 submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:



1           “(1) An analysis of other methods of employ-  
2           ment suitability tests that detect deception and could  
3           be used in conjunction with traditional background  
4           investigations to evaluate potential applicants or em-  
5           ployees for suitability for employment or continued  
6           employment, as the case may be.

7           “(2) A recommendation regarding whether a  
8           test referred to in paragraph (1) should be adopted  
9           by U.S. Customs and Border Protection when the  
10          polygraph examination requirement is waived pursu-  
11          ant to section 3(b).

12   **“SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

13          “In this Act:

14           “(1) **FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—**  
15          The term ‘Federal law enforcement officer’ means a  
16          ‘law enforcement officer’, as such term is defined in  
17          section 8331(20) or 8401(17) of title 5, United  
18          States Code.

19           “(2) **SERIOUS MILITARY OR CIVIL OFFENSE.—**  
20          The term ‘serious military or civil offense’ means an  
21          offense for which—

22                  “(A) a member of the Armed Forces may  
23                  be discharged or separated from service in the  
24                  Armed Forces; and

1           “(B) a punitive discharge is, or would be,  
2           authorized for the same or a closely related of-  
3           fense under the Manual for Court-Martial, as  
4           pursuant to Army Regulation 635-200, chapter  
5           14-12.

6           “(3) TIER 4; TIER 5.—The terms ‘Tier 4’ and  
7           ‘Tier 5’, with respect to background investigations,  
8           have the meaning given such terms under the 2012  
9           Federal Investigative Standards.

10          “(4) VETERAN.—The term ‘veteran’ has the  
11          meaning given such term in section 101(2) of title  
12          38, United States Code.”.

13          (c) POLYGRAPH EXAMINERS.—Not later than Sep-  
14          tember 30, 2025, the Secretary shall increase to not fewer  
15          than 150 the number of trained full-time equivalent poly-  
16          graph examiners for administering polygraphs under the  
17          Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010, as amended by this  
18          section.

19       **SEC. 109. ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKLOAD STAFFING MOD-**  
20                       **ELS FOR U.S. BORDER PATROL AND AIR AND**  
21                       **MARINE OPERATIONS OF CBP.**

22          (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the  
23          date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner, in  
24          coordination with the Under Secretary for Management,  
25          the Chief Human Capital Officer, and the Chief Financial

1 Officer of the Department, shall implement a workload  
2 staffing model for each of the following:

3 (1) The U.S. Border Patrol.

4 (2) Air and Marine Operations of CBP.

5 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONER.—

6 Subsection (c) of section 411 of the Homeland Security  
7 Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211), is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (18) and (19)  
9 as paragraphs (20) and (21), respectively; and

10 (2) by inserting after paragraph (17) the fol-  
11 lowing new paragraphs:

12 “(18) implement a staffing model for the U.S.  
13 Border Patrol, Air and Marine Operations, and the  
14 Office of Field Operations that includes consider-  
15 ation for essential frontline operator activities and  
16 functions, variations in operating environments,  
17 present and planned infrastructure, present and  
18 planned technology, and required operations support  
19 levels to enable such entities to manage and assign  
20 personnel of such entities to ensure field and sup-  
21 port posts possess adequate resources to carry out  
22 duties specified in this section;

23 “(19) develop standard operating procedures  
24 for a workforce tracking system within the U.S.  
25 Border Patrol, Air and Marine Operations, and the

1 Office of Field Operations, train the workforce of  
2 each of such entities on the use, capabilities, and  
3 purpose of such system, and implement internal con-  
4 trols to ensure timely and accurate scheduling and  
5 reporting of actual completed work hours and activi-  
6 ties;”.

7 (c) REPORT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act with re-  
10 spect to subsection (a) and paragraphs (18) and  
11 (19) of section 411(c) of the Homeland Security Act  
12 of 2002 (as amended by subsection (b)), and annu-  
13 ally thereafter with respect to such paragraphs (18)  
14 and (19), the Secretary shall submit to the appro-  
15 priate congressional committees a report that in-  
16 cludes a status update on the following:

17 (A) The implementation of such subsection

18 (a) and such paragraphs (18) and (19).

19 (B) Each relevant workload staffing model.

20 (2) DATA SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY RE-  
21 QUIRED.—Each report required under paragraph (1)  
22 shall include information relating to the data sources  
23 and methodology used to generate each relevant  
24 staffing model.

1 (d) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later than  
2 90 days after the Commissioner develops the workload  
3 staffing models pursuant to subsection (a), the Inspector  
4 General of the Department shall review such models and  
5 provide feedback to the Secretary and the appropriate con-  
6 gressional committees with respect to the degree to which  
7 such models are responsive to the recommendations of the  
8 Inspector General, including the following:

9 (1) Recommendations from the Inspector Gen-  
10 eral’s February 2019 audit.

11 (2) Any further recommendations to improve  
12 such models.

13 (e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-  
14 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-  
15 sional committees” means—

16 (1) the Committee on Homeland Security of the  
17 House of Representatives; and

18 (2) the Committee on Homeland Security and  
19 Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

20 **SEC. 110. OPERATION STONEGARDEN.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XX of the  
22 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 601 et seq.)  
23 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 2010. OPERATION STONEGARDEN.**

2       “(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the  
3 Department a program to be known as ‘Operation  
4 Stonegarden’, under which the Secretary, acting through  
5 the Administrator, shall make grants to eligible law en-  
6 forcement agencies, through State administrative agen-  
7 cies, to enhance border security in accordance with this  
8 section.

9       “(b) **ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.**—To be eligible to re-  
10 ceive a grant under this section, a law enforcement agency  
11 shall—

12               “(1) be located in—

13                       “(A) a State bordering Canada or Mexico;  
14                       or

15                       “(B) a State or territory with a maritime  
16                       border;

17               “(2) be involved in an active, ongoing, U.S.  
18 Customs and Border Protection operation coordi-  
19 nated through a U.S. Border Patrol sector office;  
20 and

21               “(3) have an agreement in place with U.S. Im-  
22 migration and Customs Enforcement to support en-  
23 forcement operations.

24       “(c) **PERMITTED USES.**—A recipient of a grant  
25 under this section may use such grant for costs associated  
26 with the following:

1           “(1) Equipment, including maintenance and  
2           sustainment.

3           “(2) Personnel, including overtime and backfill,  
4           in support of enhanced border law enforcement ac-  
5           tivities.

6           “(3) Any activity permitted for Operation  
7           Stonegarden under the most recent fiscal year De-  
8           partment of Homeland Security’s Homeland Secu-  
9           rity Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity.

10          “(d) PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.—The Secretary  
11       shall award grants under this section to grant recipients  
12       for a period of not fewer than 36 months.

13          “(e) NOTIFICATION.—Upon denial of a grant to a law  
14       enforcement agency, the Administrator shall provide writ-  
15       ten notice to the Committee on Homeland Security of the  
16       House of Representatives and the Committee on Home-  
17       land Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, in-  
18       cluding the reasoning for such denial.

19          “(f) REPORT.—For each of fiscal years 2024 through  
20       2028 the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on  
21       Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and  
22       the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental  
23       Affairs of the Senate a report that contains—

24               “(1) information on the expenditure of grants  
25               made under this section by each grant recipient; and

1 “(2) recommendations for other uses of such  
2 grants to further support eligible law enforcement  
3 agencies.

4 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
5 is authorized to be appropriated \$110,000,000 for each  
6 of fiscal years 2024 through 2028 for grants under this  
7 section.”.

8 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (a) of  
9 section 2002 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6  
10 U.S.C. 603) is amended to read as follows:

11 “(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary, through  
12 the Administrator, may award grants under sections 2003,  
13 2004, 2009, and 2010 to State, local, and Tribal govern-  
14 ments, as appropriate.”.

15 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
16 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is  
17 amended by inserting after the item relating to section  
18 2009 the following new item:

“Sec. 2010. Operation Stonegarden.”.

19 **SEC. 111. AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS FLIGHT HOURS.**

20 (a) AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS FLIGHT  
21 HOURS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the  
22 enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall ensure that not  
23 fewer than 110,000 annual flight hours are carried out  
24 by Air and Marine Operations of CBP.



1 (b) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.—The Sec-  
2 retary, after coordination with the Administrator of the  
3 Federal Aviation Administration, shall ensure that Air and  
4 Marine Operations operate unmanned aircraft systems on  
5 the southern border of the United States for not less than  
6 24 hours per day.

7 (c) PRIMARY MISSIONS.—The Commissioner shall  
8 ensure the following:

9 (1) The primary missions for Air and Marine  
10 Operations are to directly support the following:

11 (A) U.S. Border Patrol activities along the  
12 borders of the United States.

13 (B) Joint Interagency Task Force South  
14 and Joint Task Force East operations in the  
15 transit zone.

16 (2) The Executive Assistant Commissioner of  
17 Air and Marine Operations assigns the greatest pri-  
18 ority to support missions specified in paragraph (1).

19 (d) HIGH DEMAND FLIGHT HOUR REQUIRE-  
20 MENTS.—The Commissioner shall—

21 (1) ensure that U.S. Border Patrol Sector  
22 Chiefs identify air support mission-critical hours;  
23 and

24 (2) direct Air and Marine Operations to sup-  
25 port requests from such Sector Chiefs as a compo-

1       nent of the primary mission of Air and Marine Op-  
2       erations in accordance with subsection (c)(1)(A).

3       (c) CONTRACT AIR SUPPORT AUTHORIZATIONS.—

4       The Commissioner shall contract for air support mission-  
5       critical hours to meet the requests for such hours, as iden-  
6       tified pursuant to subsection (d).

7       (f) SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief of the U.S. Bor-  
9       der Patrol shall be the executive agent with respect  
10      to the use of small unmanned aircraft by CBP for  
11      the purposes of the following:

12           (A) Meeting the unmet flight hour oper-  
13      ational requirements of the U.S. Border Patrol.

14           (B) Achieving situational awareness and  
15      operational control of the borders of the United  
16      States.

17      (2) COORDINATION.—In carrying out para-  
18      graph (1), the Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol shall  
19      coordinate—

20           (A) flight operations with the Adminis-  
21      trator of the Federal Aviation Administration to  
22      ensure the safe and efficient operation of the  
23      national airspace system; and

1 (B) with the Executive Assistant Commis-  
2 sioner for Air and Marine Operations of CBP  
3 to—

4 (i) ensure the safety of other CBP  
5 aircraft flying in the vicinity of small un-  
6 manned aircraft operated by the U.S. Bor-  
7 der Patrol; and

8 (ii) establish a process to include data  
9 from flight hours in the calculation of got  
10 away statistics.

11 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (3)  
12 of section 411(e) of the Homeland Security Act of  
13 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211(e)) is amended—

14 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
15 “and” after the semicolon at the end;

16 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as  
17 subparagraph (D); and

18 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)  
19 the following new subparagraph:

20 “(C) carry out the small unmanned air-  
21 craft (as such term is defined in section 44801  
22 of title 49, United States Code) requirements  
23 pursuant to subsection (f) of section 111 of the  
24 Secure the Border Act of 2023; and”.

1 (g) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section may  
2 be construed as conferring, transferring, or delegating to  
3 the Secretary, the Commissioner, the Executive Assistant  
4 Commissioner for Air and Marine Operations of CBP, or  
5 the Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol any authority of the  
6 Secretary of Transportation or the Administrator of the  
7 Federal Aviation Administration relating to the use of air-  
8 space or aviation safety.

9 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) GOT AWAY.—The term “got away” has the  
11 meaning given such term in section 1092(a)(3) of  
12 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal  
13 Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 6 U.S.C.  
14 223(a)(3)).

15 (2) TRANSIT ZONE.—The term “transit zone”  
16 has the meaning given such term in section  
17 1092(a)(8) of the National Defense Authorization  
18 Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 6  
19 U.S.C. 223(a)(8)).

20 **SEC. 112. ERADICATION OF CARRIZO CANE AND SALT**  
21 **CEDAR.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the  
23 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordi-  
24 nation with the heads of relevant Federal, State, and local  
25 agencies, shall hire contractors to begin eradicating the

1 carrizo cane plant and any salt cedar along the Rio  
2 Grande River that impedes border security operations.  
3 Such eradication shall be completed—

4 (1) by not later than September 30, 2027, ex-  
5 cept for required maintenance; and

6 (2) in the most expeditious and cost-effective  
7 manner possible to maintain clear fields of view.

8 (b) APPLICATION.—The waiver authority under sub-  
9 section (c) of section 102 of the Illegal Immigration Re-  
10 form and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C.  
11 1103 note), as amended by section 103 of this division,  
12 shall apply to activities carried out pursuant to subsection  
13 (a).

14 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
15 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit  
16 to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of  
17 Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security  
18 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a strategic plan  
19 to eradicate all carrizo cane plant and salt cedar along  
20 the Rio Grande River that impedes border security oper-  
21 ations by not later than September 30, 2027.

22 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
23 authorized to be appropriated \$7,000,000 for each of fis-  
24 cal years 2024 through 2028 to the Secretary to carry  
25 out this subsection.

1 **SEC. 113. BORDER PATROL STRATEGIC PLAN.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the  
3 date of the enactment of this Act and biennially thereafter,  
4 the Commissioner, acting through the Chief of the U.S.  
5 Border Patrol, shall issue a Border Patrol Strategic Plan  
6 (referred to in this section as the “plan”) to enhance the  
7 security of the borders of the United States.

8 (b) ELEMENTS.—The plan shall include the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 (1) A consideration of Border Patrol Capability  
11 Gap Analysis reporting, Border Security Improve-  
12 ment Plans, and any other strategic document au-  
13 thored by the U.S. Border Patrol to address security  
14 gaps between ports of entry, including efforts to  
15 mitigate threats identified in such analyses, plans,  
16 and documents.

17 (2) Information relating to the dissemination of  
18 information relating to border security or border  
19 threats with respect to the efforts of the Department  
20 and other appropriate Federal agencies.

21 (3) Information relating to efforts by U.S. Bor-  
22 der Patrol to—

23 (A) increase situational awareness, includ-  
24 ing—

25 (i) surveillance capabilities, such as  
26 capabilities developed or utilized by the

1 Department of Defense, and any appro-  
2 priate technology determined to be excess  
3 by the Department of Defense; and

4 (ii) the use of manned aircraft and  
5 unmanned aircraft;

6 (B) detect and prevent terrorists and in-  
7 struments of terrorism from entering the  
8 United States;

9 (C) detect, interdict, and disrupt between  
10 ports of entry aliens unlawfully present in the  
11 United States;

12 (D) detect, interdict, and disrupt human  
13 smuggling, human trafficking, drug trafficking,  
14 and other illicit cross-border activity;

15 (E) focus intelligence collection to disrupt  
16 transnational criminal organizations outside of  
17 the international and maritime borders of the  
18 United States; and

19 (F) ensure that any new border security  
20 technology can be operationally integrated with  
21 existing technologies in use by the Department.

22 (4) Information relating to initiatives of the De-  
23 partment with respect to operational coordination,  
24 including any relevant task forces of the Depart-  
25 ment.

1           (5) Information gathered from the lessons  
2           learned by the deployments of the National Guard to  
3           the southern border of the United States.

4           (6) A description of cooperative agreements re-  
5           lating to information sharing with State, local, Trib-  
6           al, territorial, and other Federal law enforcement  
7           agencies that have jurisdiction on the borders of the  
8           United States.

9           (7) Information relating to border security in-  
10          formation received from the following:

11           (A) State, local, Tribal, territorial, and  
12           other Federal law enforcement agencies that  
13           have jurisdiction on the borders of the United  
14           States or in the maritime environment.

15           (B) Border community stakeholders, in-  
16           cluding representatives from the following:

17           (i) Border agricultural and ranching  
18           organizations.

19           (ii) Business and civic organizations.

20           (iii) Hospitals and rural clinics within  
21           150 miles of the borders of the United  
22           States.

23           (iv) Victims of crime committed by  
24           aliens unlawfully present in the United  
25           States.



1 (v) Victims impacted by drugs,  
2 transnational criminal organizations, car-  
3 tels, gangs, or other criminal activity.

4 (vi) Farmers, ranchers, and property  
5 owners along the border.

6 (vii) Other individuals negatively im-  
7 pacted by illegal immigration.

8 (8) Information relating to the staffing require-  
9 ments with respect to border security for the De-  
10 partment.

11 (9) A prioritized list of Department research  
12 and development objectives to enhance the security  
13 of the borders of the United States.

14 (10) An assessment of training programs, in-  
15 cluding such programs relating to the following:

16 (A) Identifying and detecting fraudulent  
17 documents.

18 (B) Understanding the scope of CBP en-  
19 forcement authorities and appropriate use of  
20 force policies.

21 (C) Screening, identifying, and addressing  
22 vulnerable populations, such as children and  
23 victims of human trafficking.

1 **SEC. 114. U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SPIR-**  
2 **ITUAL READINESS.**

3 Not later than one year after the enactment of this  
4 Act and annually thereafter for five years, the Commis-  
5 sioner shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Secu-  
6 rity of the House of Representatives and the Committee  
7 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the  
8 Senate a report on the availability and usage of the assist-  
9 ance of chaplains, prayer groups, houses of worship, and  
10 other spiritual resources for members of CBP who identify  
11 as religiously-affiliated and have attempted suicide, have  
12 suicidal ideation, or are at risk of suicide, and metrics on  
13 the impact such resources have in assisting religiously-af-  
14 filiated members who have access to and utilize such re-  
15 sources compared to religiously-affiliated members who do  
16 not.

17 **SEC. 115. RESTRICTIONS ON FUNDING.**

18 (a) **ARRIVING ALIENS.**—No funds are authorized to  
19 be appropriated to the Department to process the entry  
20 into the United States of aliens arriving in between ports  
21 of entry.

22 (b) **RESTRICTION ON NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANI-**  
23 **ZATION SUPPORT FOR UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY.**—No funds  
24 are authorized to be appropriated to the Department for  
25 disbursement to any nongovernmental organization that  
26 facilitates or encourages unlawful activity, including un-

1 lawful entry, human trafficking, human smuggling, drug  
2 trafficking, and drug smuggling.

3 (c) RESTRICTION ON NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANI-  
4 ZATION FACILITATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.—No  
5 funds are authorized to be appropriated to the Depart-  
6 ment for disbursement to any nongovernmental organiza-  
7 tion to provide, or facilitate the provision of, transpor-  
8 tation, lodging, or immigration legal services to inadmis-  
9 sible aliens who enter the United States after the date of  
10 the enactment of this Act.

11 **SEC. 116. COLLECTION OF DNA AND BIOMETRIC INFORMA-**  
12 **TION AT THE BORDER.**

13 Not later than 14 days after the date of the enact-  
14 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall ensure and certify  
15 to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of  
16 Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security  
17 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate that CBP is fully  
18 compliant with Federal DNA and biometric collection re-  
19 quirements at United States land borders.

1 **SEC. 117. ERADICATION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND FORMU-**  
2 **LATING EFFECTIVE NEW TOOLS TO ADDRESS**  
3 **YEARLY LOSSES OF LIFE; ENSURING TIMELY**  
4 **UPDATES TO U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER**  
5 **PROTECTION FIELD MANUALS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the  
7 date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently  
8 than triennially thereafter, the Commissioner of U.S. Cus-  
9 toms and Border Protection shall review and update, as  
10 necessary, the current policies and manuals of the Office  
11 of Field Operations related to inspections at ports of  
12 entry, and the U.S. Border Patrol related to inspections  
13 between ports of entry, to ensure the uniform implementa-  
14 tion of inspection practices that will effectively respond to  
15 technological and methodological changes designed to dis-  
16 guise unlawful activity, such as the smuggling of drugs  
17 and humans, along the border.

18 (b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90  
19 days after each update required under subsection (a), the  
20 Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
21 shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and  
22 the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Rep-  
23 resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security  
24 and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judi-  
25 ciary of the Senate a report that summarizes any policy  
26 and manual changes pursuant to subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 118. PUBLICATION BY U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER**  
2 **PROTECTION OF OPERATIONAL STATISTICS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the seventh day of  
4 each month beginning with the second full month after  
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner  
6 of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall publish on  
7 a publicly available website of the Department of Home-  
8 land Security information relating to the total number of  
9 alien encounters and nationalities, unique alien encounters  
10 and nationalities, gang affiliated apprehensions and na-  
11 tionalities, drug seizures, alien encounters included in the  
12 terrorist screening database and nationalities, arrests of  
13 criminal aliens or individuals wanted by law enforcement  
14 and nationalities, known got aways, encounters with de-  
15 ceased aliens, and all other related or associated statistics  
16 recorded by U.S. Customs and Border Protection during  
17 the immediately preceding month. Each such publication  
18 shall include the following:

19 (1) The aggregate such number, and such num-  
20 ber disaggregated by geographic regions, of such re-  
21 cordings and encounters, including specifications re-  
22 lating to whether such recordings and encounters  
23 were at the southwest, northern, or maritime border.

24 (2) An identification of the Office of Field Op-  
25 erations field office, U.S. Border Patrol sector, or

1 Air and Marine Operations branch making each re-  
2 cording or encounter.

3 (3) Information relating to whether each re-  
4 cording or encounter of an alien was of a single  
5 adult, an unaccompanied alien child, or an individual  
6 in a family unit.

7 (4) Information relating to the processing dis-  
8 position of each alien recording or encounter.

9 (5) Information relating to the nationality of  
10 each alien who is the subject of each recording or  
11 encounter.

12 (6) The total number of individuals included in  
13 the terrorist screening database (as such term is de-  
14 fined in section 2101 of the Homeland Security Act  
15 of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 621)) who have repeatedly at-  
16 tempted to cross unlawfully into the United States.

17 (7) The total number of individuals included in  
18 the terrorist screening database who have been ap-  
19 prehended, including information relating to whether  
20 such individuals were released into the United States  
21 or removed.

22 (b) EXCEPTIONS.—If the Commissioner of U.S. Cus-  
23 toms and Border Protection in any month does not publish  
24 the information required under subsection (a), or does not  
25 publish such information by the date specified in such sub-

1 section, the Commissioner shall brief the Committee on  
2 Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and  
3 the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental  
4 Affairs of the Senate regarding the reason relating there-  
5 to, as the case may be, by not later than the date that  
6 is two business days after the tenth day of such month.

7 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) ALIEN ENCOUNTERS.—The term “alien en-  
9 counters” means aliens apprehended, determined in-  
10 admissible, or processed for removal by U.S. Cus-  
11 toms and Border Protection.

12 (2) GOT AWAY.—The term “got away” has the  
13 meaning given such term in section 1092(a) of the  
14 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year  
15 2017 (6 U.S.C. 223(a)).

16 (3) TERRORIST SCREENING DATABASE.—The  
17 term “terrorist screening database” has the meaning  
18 given such term in section 2101 of the Homeland  
19 Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 621).

20 (4) UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD.—The term  
21 “unaccompanied alien child” has the meaning given  
22 such term in section 462(g) of the Homeland Secu-  
23 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)).

1 **SEC. 119. ALIEN CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than seven days after  
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner  
4 shall certify to the Committee on Homeland Security and  
5 the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Rep-  
6 resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security  
7 and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judi-  
8 ciary of the Senate that CBP has real-time access to the  
9 criminal history databases of all countries of origin and  
10 transit for aliens encountered by CBP to perform criminal  
11 history background checks for such aliens.

12 (b) STANDARDS.—The certification required under  
13 subsection (a) shall also include a determination whether  
14 the criminal history databases of a country are accurate,  
15 up to date, digitized, searchable, and otherwise meet the  
16 standards of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for  
17 criminal history databases maintained by State and local  
18 governments.

19 (c) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall annually  
20 submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the  
21 Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representa-  
22 tives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-  
23 ernmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of  
24 the Senate a certification that each database referred to  
25 in subsection (b) which the Secretary accessed or sought



1 to access pursuant to this section met the standards de-  
2 scribed in subsection (b).

3 **SEC. 120. PROHIBITED IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS AT**  
4 **AIRPORT SECURITY CHECKPOINTS; NOTIFI-**  
5 **CATION TO IMMIGRATION AGENCIES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may not ac-  
7 cept as valid proof of identification a prohibited identifica-  
8 tion document at an airport security checkpoint.

9 (b) NOTIFICATION TO IMMIGRATION AGENCIES.—If  
10 an individual presents a prohibited identification docu-  
11 ment to an officer of the Transportation Security Admin-  
12 istration at an airport security checkpoint, the Adminis-  
13 trator shall promptly notify the Director of U.S. Immigra-  
14 tion and Customs Enforcement, the Director of U.S. Cus-  
15 toms and Border Protection, and the head of the appro-  
16 priate local law enforcement agency to determine whether  
17 the individual is in violation of any term of release from  
18 the custody of any such agency.

19 (c) ENTRY INTO STERILE AREAS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
21 graph (2), if an individual is found to be in violation  
22 of any term of release under subsection (b), the Ad-  
23 ministrator may not permit such individual to enter  
24 a sterile area.

1           (2) EXCEPTION.—An individual presenting a  
2           prohibited identification document under this section  
3           may enter a sterile area if the individual—

4                   (A) is leaving the United States for the  
5                   purposes of removal or deportation; or

6                   (B) presents a covered identification docu-  
7                   ment.

8           (d) COLLECTION OF BIOMETRIC INFORMATION FROM  
9           CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS SEEKING ENTRY INTO THE STER-  
10          ILE AREA OF AN AIRPORT.—Beginning not later than 120  
11          days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-  
12          ministrator shall collect biometric information from an in-  
13          dividual described in subsection (e) prior to authorizing  
14          such individual to enter into a sterile area.

15          (e) INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED.—An individual de-  
16          scribed in this subsection is an individual who—

17                   (1) is seeking entry into the sterile area of an  
18                   airport;

19                   (2) does not present a covered identification  
20                   document; and

21                   (3) the Administrator cannot verify is a na-  
22                   tional of the United States.

23          (f) PARTICIPATION IN IDENT.—Beginning not later  
24          than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
25          the Administrator, in coordination with the Secretary,

1 shall submit biometric data collected under this section to  
2 the Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT).

3 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
5 trator” means the Administrator of the Transpor-  
6 tation Security Administration.

7 (2) BIOMETRIC INFORMATION.—The term “bio-  
8 metric information” means any of the following:

9 (A) A fingerprint.

10 (B) A palm print.

11 (C) A photograph, including—

12 (i) a photograph of an individual’s  
13 face for use with facial recognition tech-  
14 nology; and

15 (ii) a photograph of any physical or  
16 anatomical feature, such as a scar, skin  
17 mark, or tattoo.

18 (D) A signature.

19 (E) A voice print.

20 (F) An iris image.

21 (3) COVERED IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT.—

22 The term “covered identification document” means  
23 any of the following, if the document is valid and  
24 unexpired:

1 (A) A United States passport or passport  
2 card.

3 (B) A biometrically secure card issued by  
4 a trusted traveler program of the Department  
5 of Homeland Security, including—

6 (i) Global Entry;

7 (ii) Nexus;

8 (iii) Secure Electronic Network for  
9 Travelers Rapid Inspection (SENTRI);  
10 and

11 (iv) Free and Secure Trade (FAST).

12 (C) An identification card issued by the  
13 Department of Defense, including such a card  
14 issued to a dependent.

15 (D) Any document required for admission  
16 to the United States under section 211(a) of  
17 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
18 1181(a)).

19 (E) An enhanced driver's license issued by  
20 a State.

21 (F) A photo identification card issued by a  
22 federally recognized Indian Tribe.

23 (G) A personal identity verification creden-  
24 tial issued in accordance with Homeland Secu-  
25 rity Presidential Directive 12.

1 (H) A driver's license issued by a province  
2 of Canada.

3 (I) A Secure Certificate of Indian Status  
4 issued by the Government of Canada.

5 (J) A Transportation Worker Identifica-  
6 tion Credential.

7 (K) A Merchant Mariner Credential issued  
8 by the Coast Guard.

9 (L) A Veteran Health Identification Card  
10 issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

11 (M) Any other document the Administrator  
12 determines, pursuant to a rule making in ac-  
13 cordance with section 553 of title 5, United  
14 States Code, will satisfy the identity verification  
15 procedures of the Transportation Security Ad-  
16 ministration.

17 (4) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term “immigra-  
18 tion laws” has the meaning given that term in sec-  
19 tion 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
20 U.S.C. 1101).

21 (5) PROHIBITED IDENTIFICATION DOCU-  
22 MENT.—The term “prohibited identification docu-  
23 ment” means any of the following (or any applicable  
24 successor form):

1 (A) U.S. Immigration and Customs En-  
2 forcement Form I-200, Warrant for Arrest of  
3 Alien.

4 (B) U.S. Immigration and Customs En-  
5 forcement Form I-205, Warrant of Removal/  
6 Deportation.

7 (C) U.S. Immigration and Customs En-  
8 forcement Form I-220A, Order of Release on  
9 Recognizance.

10 (D) U.S. Immigration and Customs En-  
11 forcement Form I-220B, Order of Supervision.

12 (E) Department of Homeland Security  
13 Form I-862, Notice to Appear.

14 (F) U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
15 Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record (includ-  
16 ing a print-out of an electronic record).

17 (G) Department of Homeland Security  
18 Form I-385, Notice to Report.

19 (H) Any document that directs an indi-  
20 vidual to report to the Department of Home-  
21 land Security.

22 (I) Any Department of Homeland Security  
23 work authorization or employment verification  
24 document.

1           (6) STERILE AREA.—The term “sterile area”  
2           has the meaning given that term in section 1540.5  
3           of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, or any suc-  
4           cessor regulation.

5   **SEC. 121. PROHIBITION AGAINST ANY COVID-19 VACCINE**  
6                           **MANDATE OR ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST**  
7                           **DHS EMPLOYEES.**

8           (a) LIMITATION ON IMPOSITION OF NEW MAN-  
9   DATE.—The Secretary may not issue any COVID-19 vac-  
10   cine mandate unless Congress expressly authorizes such  
11   a mandate.

12          (b) PROHIBITION ON ADVERSE ACTION.—The Sec-  
13   retary may not take any adverse action against a Depart-  
14   ment employee based solely on the refusal of such em-  
15   ployee to receive a vaccine for COVID-19.

16          (c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date  
17   of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall report  
18   to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of  
19   Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security  
20   and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on the following:

21               (1) The number of Department employees who  
22               were terminated or resigned due to the COVID-19  
23               vaccine mandate.

24               (2) An estimate of the cost to reinstate such  
25               employees.

1           (3) How the Department would effectuate rein-  
2       statement of such employees.

3       (d)   RETENTION   AND   DEVELOPMENT   OF  
4   UNVACCINATED EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary shall make  
5   every effort to retain Department employees who are not  
6   vaccinated against COVID–19 and provide such employees  
7   with professional development, promotion and leadership  
8   opportunities, and consideration equal to that of their  
9   peers.

10   **SEC. 122. CBP ONE APP LIMITATION.**

11       (a) LIMITATION.—The Department may use the CBP  
12   One Mobile Application or any other similar program, ap-  
13   plication, internet-based portal, website, device, or initia-  
14   tive only for inspection of perishable cargo.

15       (b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date  
16   of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner shall re-  
17   port to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House  
18   of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Secu-  
19   rity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate the date on  
20   which CBP began using CBP One to allow aliens to sched-  
21   ule interviews at land ports of entry, how many aliens have  
22   scheduled interviews at land ports of entry using CBP  
23   One, the nationalities of such aliens, and the stated final  
24   destinations of such aliens within the United States, if  
25   any.



1 **SEC. 123. REPORT ON DESIGNATION OF MEXICAN CARTELS**  
2 **AS FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.**

3 (a) REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after  
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
6 of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Sec-  
7 retary of State, shall submit to the appropriate con-  
8 gressional committees a report on whether a Mexi-  
9 can drug cartel described in paragraph (2) meets the  
10 criteria for designation as a foreign terrorist organi-  
11 zation.

12 (2) MEXICAN DRUG CARTELS DESCRIBED.—The  
13 Mexican drug cartels described in this paragraph in-  
14 clude the following:

- 15 (A) Jalisco New Generation Cartel.
- 16 (B) Sinaloa Cartel.
- 17 (C) Juarez Cartel.
- 18 (D) Tijuana Cartel.
- 19 (E) Gulf Cartel.
- 20 (F) Los Zetas.
- 21 (G) Las Moicas.
- 22 (H) Los Caballeros Templarios.
- 23 (I) Beltran-Leyva Organization.
- 24 (J) Los Rojos.
- 25 (K) La Familia Michoacana.

26 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
2       TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
3       mittees” means—

4           (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the  
5       Committee on Homeland Security, and the  
6       Committee on the Judiciary of the House of  
7       Representatives; and

8           (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,  
9       the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-  
10      ernmental Affairs, and the Committee on the  
11      Judiciary of the Senate.

12       (2) FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.—The  
13      term “foreign terrorist organization” means an or-  
14      ganization described in section 219 of the Immigra-  
15      tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

16      (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
17      tion may be construed to expand the eligibility for asylum  
18      of any alien by reason of the designation of a drug cartel  
19      as a foreign terrorist organization.

20   **SEC. 124. GAO STUDY ON COSTS INCURRED BY STATES TO**  
21       **SECURE THE SOUTHWEST BORDER.**

22      (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the  
23      date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
24      of the United States shall conduct a study to examine the  
25      costs incurred by individual States as a result of actions

1 taken by such States in support of the Federal mission  
2 to secure the southwest border, and the feasibility of a  
3 program to reimburse such States for such costs.

4 (b) CONTENTS.—The study required under sub-  
5 section (a) shall include consideration of the following:

6 (1) Actions taken by the Department of Home-  
7 land Security that have contributed to costs de-  
8 scribed in such subsection incurred by States to se-  
9 cure the border in the absence of Federal action, in-  
10 cluding the termination of the Migrant Protection  
11 Protocols and cancellation of border wall construc-  
12 tion.

13 (2) Actions taken by individual States along the  
14 southwest border to secure their borders, and the  
15 costs associated with such actions.

16 (3) The feasibility of a program within the De-  
17 partment of Homeland Security to reimburse States  
18 for the costs incurred in support of the Federal mis-  
19 sion to secure the southwest border.

20 **SEC. 125. REPORT BY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DE-**  
21 **PARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

22 (a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date  
23 of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for  
24 five years, the Inspector General of the Department of  
25 Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on

1 Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and  
2 the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental  
3 Affairs of the Senate a report examining the economic and  
4 security impact of mass migration to municipalities and  
5 States along the southwest border. Such report shall in-  
6 clude information regarding costs incurred by the fol-  
7 lowing:

8           (1) State and local law enforcement to secure  
9       the southwest border.

10          (2) Public school districts to educate students  
11       who are aliens unlawfully present in the United  
12       States.

13          (3) Healthcare providers to provide care to  
14       aliens unlawfully present in the United States who  
15       have not paid for such care.

16          (4) Farmers and ranchers due to migration im-  
17       pacts to their properties.

18       (b) CONSULTATION.—To produce the report required  
19   under subsection (a), the Inspector General of the Depart-  
20   ment of Homeland Security shall consult with the individ-  
21   uals and representatives of the entities described in para-  
22   graphs (1) through (4) of such subsection.

1 **SEC. 126. OFFSETTING AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIA-**  
2 **TIONS.**

3 (a) OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY AND EMERGENCY  
4 MANAGEMENT.—No funds are authorized to be appro-  
5 priated for the Alternatives to Detention Case Manage-  
6 ment Pilot Program or the Office of the Immigration De-  
7 tention Ombudsman for the Office of the Secretary and  
8 Emergency Management of the Department of Homeland  
9 Security.

10 (b) MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE.—No funds are au-  
11 thorized to be appropriated for electric vehicles or St. Eliz-  
12 abeths campus construction for the Management Direc-  
13 torate of the Department of Homeland Security.

14 (c) INTELLIGENCE, ANALYSIS, AND SITUATIONAL  
15 AWARENESS.—There is authorized to be appropriated  
16 \$216,000,000 for Intelligence, Analysis, and Situational  
17 Awareness of the Department of Homeland Security.

18 (d) U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION.—No  
19 funds are authorized to be appropriated for the Shelter  
20 Services Program for U.S. Customs and Border Protec-  
21 tion.

22 **SEC. 127. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON FOREIGN TERRORIST**  
23 **ORGANIZATIONS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the  
25 date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter  
26 for five years, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall

1 submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the  
2 House of Representatives and the Committee on Home-  
3 land Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an  
4 assessment of foreign terrorist organizations attempting  
5 to move their members or affiliates into the United States  
6 through the southern, northern, or maritime border.

7 (b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “foreign  
8 terrorist organization” means an organization described in  
9 section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
10 U.S.C. 1189).

11 **SEC. 128. ASSESSMENT BY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE**  
12 **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ON**  
13 **THE MITIGATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT**  
14 **SYSTEMS AT THE SOUTHWEST BORDER.**

15 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-  
16 ment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department  
17 of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on  
18 Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and  
19 the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental  
20 Affairs of the Senate an assessment of U.S. Customs and  
21 Border Protection’s ability to mitigate unmanned aircraft  
22 systems at the southwest border. Such assessment shall  
23 include information regarding any intervention between  
24 January 1, 2021, and the date of the enactment of this  
25 Act, by any Federal agency affecting in any manner U.S.

1 Customs and Border Protection's authority to so mitigate  
2 such systems.

3 **DIVISION B—IMMIGRATION EN-**  
4 **FORCEMENT AND FOREIGN**  
5 **AFFAIRS**

6 **TITLE I—ASYLUM REFORM AND**  
7 **BORDER PROTECTION**

8 **SEC. 101. SAFE THIRD COUNTRY.**

9 Section 208(a)(2)(A) of the Immigration and Nation-  
10 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(a)(2)(A)) is amended—

11 (1) by striking “if the Attorney General deter-  
12 mines” and inserting “if the Attorney General or the  
13 Secretary of Homeland Security determines—”;

14 (2) by striking “that the alien may be removed”  
15 and inserting the following:

16 “(i) that the alien may be removed”;

17 (3) by striking “, pursuant to a bilateral or  
18 multilateral agreement, to” and inserting “to”;

19 (4) by inserting “or the Secretary, on a case by  
20 case basis,” before “finds that”;

21 (5) by striking the period at the end and insert-  
22 ing “; or”; and

23 (6) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(ii) that the alien entered, attempted to enter,  
25 or arrived in the United States after transiting

1 through at least one country outside the alien's  
2 country of citizenship, nationality, or last lawful ha-  
3 bitual residence en route to the United States, un-  
4 less—

5 “(I) the alien demonstrates that he or she  
6 applied for protection from persecution or tor-  
7 ture in at least one country outside the alien's  
8 country of citizenship, nationality, or last lawful  
9 habitual residence through which the alien  
10 transited en route to the United States, and the  
11 alien received a final judgment denying the  
12 alien protection in each country;

13 “(II) the alien demonstrates that he or she  
14 was a victim of a severe form of trafficking in  
15 which a commercial sex act was induced by  
16 force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person  
17 induced to perform such act was under the age  
18 of 18 years; or in which the trafficking included  
19 the recruitment, harboring, transportation, pro-  
20 vision, or obtaining of a person for labor or  
21 services through the use of force, fraud, or coer-  
22 cion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary  
23 servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery,  
24 and was unable to apply for protection from  
25 persecution in each country through which the



1 alien transited en route to the United States as  
2 a result of such severe form of trafficking; or  
3 “(III) the only countries through which the  
4 alien transited en route to the United States  
5 were, at the time of the transit, not parties to  
6 the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to  
7 the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Re-  
8 lating to the Status of Refugees, or the United  
9 Nations Convention against Torture and Other  
10 Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or  
11 Punishment.”.

12 **SEC. 102. CREDIBLE FEAR INTERVIEWS.**

13 Section 235(b)(1)(B)(v) of the Immigration and Na-  
14 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(1)(B)(v)) is amended by  
15 striking “there is a significant possibility” and all that fol-  
16 lows, and inserting “, taking into account the credibility  
17 of the statements made by the alien in support of the  
18 alien’s claim, as determined pursuant to section  
19 208(b)(1)(B)(iii), and such other facts as are known to  
20 the officer, the alien more likely than not could establish  
21 eligibility for asylum under section 208, and it is more  
22 likely than not that the statements made by, and on behalf  
23 of, the alien in support of the alien’s claim are true.”.

1 **SEC. 103. CLARIFICATION OF ASYLUM ELIGIBILITY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 208(b)(1)(A) of the Im-  
3 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(b)(1)(A))  
4 is amended by inserting after “section 101(a)(42)(A)” the  
5 following: “(in accordance with the rules set forth in this  
6 section), and is eligible to apply for asylum under sub-  
7 section (a)”.

8 (b) PLACE OF ARRIVAL.—Section 208(a)(1) of the  
9 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(a)(1))  
10 is amended—

11 (1) by striking “or who arrives in the United  
12 States (whether or not at a designated port of ar-  
13 rival and including an alien who is brought to the  
14 United States after having been interdicted in inter-  
15 national or United States waters),”; and

16 (2) by inserting after “United States” the fol-  
17 lowing: “and has arrived in the United States at a  
18 port of entry (including an alien who is brought to  
19 the United States after having been interdicted in  
20 international or United States waters),”.

21 **SEC. 104. EXCEPTIONS.**

22 Paragraph (2) of section 208(b) of the Immigration  
23 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(b)(2)) is amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 “(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) shall  
2           not apply to an alien if the Secretary of Home-  
3           land Security or the Attorney General deter-  
4           mines that—

5                 “(i) the alien ordered, incited, as-  
6                 sisted, or otherwise participated in the per-  
7                 secution of any person on account of race,  
8                 religion, nationality, membership in a par-  
9                 ticular social group, or political opinion;

10                “(ii) the alien has been convicted of  
11                any felony under Federal, State, tribal, or  
12                local law;

13                “(iii) the alien has been convicted of  
14                any misdemeanor offense under Federal,  
15                State, tribal, or local law involving—

16                         “(I) the unlawful possession or  
17                         use of an identification document, au-  
18                         thentication feature, or false identi-  
19                         fication document (as those terms and  
20                         phrases are defined in the jurisdiction  
21                         where the conviction occurred), unless  
22                         the alien can establish that the convic-  
23                         tion resulted from circumstances  
24                         showing that—

1           “(aa) the document or fea-  
2           ture was presented before board-  
3           ing a common carrier;

4           “(bb) the document or fea-  
5           ture related to the alien’s eligi-  
6           bility to enter the United States;

7           “(cc) the alien used the doc-  
8           ument or feature to depart a  
9           country wherein the alien has  
10          claimed a fear of persecution;  
11          and

12          “(dd) the alien claimed a  
13          fear of persecution without delay  
14          upon presenting himself or her-  
15          self to an immigration officer  
16          upon arrival at a United States  
17          port of entry;

18          “(II) the unlawful receipt of a  
19          Federal public benefit (as defined in  
20          section 401(c) of the Personal Re-  
21          sponsibility and Work Opportunity  
22          Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C.  
23          1611(e))), from a Federal entity, or  
24          the unlawful receipt of similar public

1 benefits from a State, tribal, or local  
2 entity; or

3 “(III) possession or trafficking of  
4 a controlled substance or controlled  
5 substance paraphernalia, as those  
6 phrases are defined under the law of  
7 the jurisdiction where the conviction  
8 occurred, other than a single offense  
9 involving possession for one’s own use  
10 of 30 grams or less of marijuana (as  
11 marijuana is defined under the law of  
12 the jurisdiction where the conviction  
13 occurred);

14 “(iv) the alien has been convicted of  
15 an offense arising under paragraph (1)(A)  
16 or (2) of section 274(a), or under section  
17 276;

18 “(v) the alien has been convicted of a  
19 Federal, State, tribal, or local crime that  
20 the Attorney General or Secretary of  
21 Homeland Security knows, or has reason  
22 to believe, was committed in support, pro-  
23 motion, or furtherance of the activity of a  
24 criminal street gang (as defined under the  
25 law of the jurisdiction where the conviction

1 occurred or in section 521(a) of title 18,  
2 United States Code);

3 “(vi) the alien has been convicted of  
4 an offense for driving while intoxicated or  
5 impaired, as those terms are defined under  
6 the law of the jurisdiction where the con-  
7 viction occurred (including a conviction for  
8 driving while under the influence of or im-  
9 paired by alcohol or drugs), without regard  
10 to whether the conviction is classified as a  
11 misdemeanor or felony under Federal,  
12 State, tribal, or local law, in which such in-  
13 toxicated or impaired driving was a cause  
14 of serious bodily injury or death of another  
15 person;

16 “(vii) the alien has been convicted of  
17 more than one offense for driving while in-  
18 toxicated or impaired, as those terms are  
19 defined under the law of the jurisdiction  
20 where the conviction occurred (including a  
21 conviction for driving while under the in-  
22 fluence of or impaired by alcohol or drugs),  
23 without regard to whether the conviction is  
24 classified as a misdemeanor or felony  
25 under Federal, State, tribal, or local law;

1                   “(viii) the alien has been convicted of  
2                   a crime—

3                   “(I) that involves conduct  
4                   amounting to a crime of stalking;

5                   “(II) of child abuse, child ne-  
6                   glect, or child abandonment; or

7                   “(III) that involves conduct  
8                   amounting to a domestic assault or  
9                   battery offense, including—

10                   “(aa) a misdemeanor crime  
11                   of domestic violence, as described  
12                   in section 921(a)(33) of title 18,  
13                   United States Code;

14                   “(bb) a crime of domestic vi-  
15                   olence, as described in section  
16                   40002(a)(12) of the Violence  
17                   Against Women Act of 1994 (34  
18                   U.S.C. 12291(a)(12)); or

19                   “(cc) any crime based on  
20                   conduct in which the alien har-  
21                   assed, coerced, intimidated, vol-  
22                   untarily or recklessly used (or  
23                   threatened to use) force or vio-  
24                   lence against, or inflicted phys-

1           ical injury or physical pain, how-  
2           ever slight, upon a person—

3                   “(AA) who is a current  
4                   or former spouse of the  
5                   alien;

6                   “(BB) with whom the  
7                   alien shares a child;

8                   “(CC) who is cohabi-  
9                   tating with, or who has  
10                  cohabitated with, the alien  
11                  as a spouse;

12                  “(DD) who is similarly  
13                  situated to a spouse of the  
14                  alien under the domestic or  
15                  family violence laws of the  
16                  jurisdiction where the of-  
17                  fense occurred; or

18                  “(EE) who is protected  
19                  from that alien’s acts under  
20                  the domestic or family vio-  
21                  lence laws of the United  
22                  States or of any State, tribal  
23                  government, or unit of local  
24                  government;



1           “(ix) the alien has engaged in acts of  
2           battery or extreme cruelty upon a person  
3           and the person—

4           “(I) is a current or former  
5           spouse of the alien;

6           “(II) shares a child with the  
7           alien;

8           “(III) cohabitates or has  
9           cohabitated with the alien as a spouse;

10          “(IV) is similarly situated to a  
11          spouse of the alien under the domestic  
12          or family violence laws of the jurisdic-  
13          tion where the offense occurred; or

14          “(V) is protected from that  
15          alien’s acts under the domestic or  
16          family violence laws of the United  
17          States or of any State, tribal govern-  
18          ment, or unit of local government;

19          “(x) the alien, having been convicted  
20          by a final judgment of a particularly seri-  
21          ous crime, constitutes a danger to the com-  
22          munity of the United States;

23          “(xi) there are serious reasons for be-  
24          lieving that the alien has committed a seri-  
25          ous nonpolitical crime outside the United

1 States prior to the arrival of the alien in  
2 the United States;

3 “(xii) there are reasonable grounds  
4 for regarding the alien as a danger to the  
5 security of the United States;

6 “(xiii) the alien is described in sub-  
7 clause (I), (II), (III), (IV), or (VI) of sec-  
8 tion 212(a)(3)(B)(i) or section  
9 237(a)(4)(B) (relating to terrorist activ-  
10 ity), unless, in the case only of an alien in-  
11 admissible under subclause (IV) of section  
12 212(a)(3)(B)(i), the Secretary of Home-  
13 land Security or the Attorney General de-  
14 termines, in the Secretary’s or the Attor-  
15 ney General’s discretion, that there are not  
16 reasonable grounds for regarding the alien  
17 as a danger to the security of the United  
18 States;

19 “(xiv) the alien was firmly resettled in  
20 another country prior to arriving in the  
21 United States; or

22 “(xv) there are reasonable grounds for  
23 concluding the alien could avoid persecu-  
24 tion by relocating to another part of the  
25 alien’s country of nationality or, in the

1 case of an alien having no nationality, an-  
2 other part of the alien's country of last ha-  
3 bitual residence.

4 “(B) SPECIAL RULES.—

5 “(i) PARTICULARLY SERIOUS CRIME;  
6 SERIOUS NONPOLITICAL CRIME OUTSIDE  
7 THE UNITED STATES.—

8 “(I) IN GENERAL.—For purposes  
9 of subparagraph (A)(x), the Attorney  
10 General or Secretary of Homeland Se-  
11 curity, in their discretion, may deter-  
12 mine that a conviction constitutes a  
13 particularly serious crime based on—

14 “(aa) the nature of the con-  
15 viction;

16 “(bb) the type of sentence  
17 imposed; or

18 “(cc) the circumstances and  
19 underlying facts of the convic-  
20 tion.

21 “(II) DETERMINATION.—In mak-  
22 ing a determination under subclause  
23 (I), the Attorney General or Secretary  
24 of Homeland Security may consider  
25 all reliable information and is not lim-

1           ited to facts found by the criminal  
2           court or provided in the underlying  
3           record of conviction.

4           “(III) TREATMENT OF FELO-  
5           NIES.—In making a determination  
6           under subelause (I), an alien who has  
7           been convicted of a felony (as defined  
8           under this section) or an aggravated  
9           felony (as defined under section  
10          101(a)(43)), shall be considered to  
11          have been convicted of a particularly  
12          serious crime.

13          “(IV) INTERPOL RED NOTICE.—  
14          In making a determination under sub-  
15          paragraph (A)(xi), an Interpol Red  
16          Notice may constitute reliable evi-  
17          dence that the alien has committed a  
18          serious nonpolitical crime outside the  
19          United States.

20          “(ii) CRIMES AND EXCEPTIONS.—

21                 “(I) DRIVING WHILE INTOXI-  
22                 CATED OR IMPAIRED.—A finding  
23                 under subparagraph (A)(vi) does not  
24                 require the Attorney General or Sec-  
25                 retary of Homeland Security to find

1 the first conviction for driving while  
2 intoxicated or impaired (including a  
3 conviction for driving while under the  
4 influence of or impaired by alcohol or  
5 drugs) as a predicate offense. The At-  
6 torney General or Secretary of Home-  
7 land Security need only make a fac-  
8 tual determination that the alien pre-  
9 viously was convicted for driving while  
10 intoxicated or impaired as those terms  
11 are defined under the jurisdiction  
12 where the conviction occurred (includ-  
13 ing a conviction for driving while  
14 under the influence of or impaired by  
15 alcohol or drugs).

16 “(II) STALKING AND OTHER  
17 CRIMES.—In making a determination  
18 under subparagraph (A)(viii), includ-  
19 ing determining the existence of a do-  
20 mestic relationship between the alien  
21 and the victim, the underlying conduct  
22 of the crime may be considered, and  
23 the Attorney General or Secretary of  
24 Homeland Security is not limited to  
25 facts found by the criminal court or

1 provided in the underlying record of  
2 conviction.

3 “(III) BATTERY OR EXTREME  
4 CRUELTY.—In making a determina-  
5 tion under subparagraph (A)(ix), the  
6 phrase ‘battery or extreme cruelty’ in-  
7 cludes—

8 “(aa) any act or threatened  
9 act of violence, including any  
10 forceful detention, which results  
11 or threatens to result in physical  
12 or mental injury;

13 “(bb) psychological or sexual  
14 abuse or exploitation, including  
15 rape, molestation, incest, or  
16 forced prostitution, shall be con-  
17 sidered acts of violence; and

18 “(cc) other abusive acts, in-  
19 cluding acts that, in and of them-  
20 selves, may not initially appear  
21 violent, but that are a part of an  
22 overall pattern of violence.

23 “(IV) EXCEPTION FOR VICTIMS  
24 OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.—An alien  
25 who was convicted of an offense de-

1           scribed in clause (viii) or (ix) of sub-  
2           paragraph (A) is not ineligible for  
3           asylum on that basis if the alien satis-  
4           fies the criteria under section  
5           237(a)(7)(A).

6           “(C) SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES.—Para-  
7           graph (1) shall not apply to an alien whose  
8           claim is based on—

9                   “(i) personal animus or retribution,  
10           including personal animus in which the al-  
11           leged persecutor has not targeted, or mani-  
12           fested an animus against, other members  
13           of an alleged particular social group in ad-  
14           dition to the member who has raised the  
15           claim at issue;

16                   “(ii) the applicant’s generalized dis-  
17           approval of, disagreement with, or opposi-  
18           tion to criminal, terrorist, gang, guerilla,  
19           or other non-state organizations absent ex-  
20           pressive behavior in furtherance of a dis-  
21           crete cause against such organizations re-  
22           lated to control of a State or expressive be-  
23           havior that is antithetical to the State or  
24           a legal unit of the State;

1 “(iii) the applicant’s resistance to re-  
2ruitment or coercion by guerrilla, crimi-  
3nal, gang, terrorist, or other non-state or-  
4ganizations;

5 “(iv) the targeting of the applicant for  
6criminal activity for financial gain based  
7on wealth or affluence or perceptions of  
8wealth or affluence;

9 “(v) the applicant’s criminal activity;  
10or

11 “(vi) the applicant’s perceived, past or  
12present, gang affiliation.

13 “(D) DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICA-  
14TIONS.—

15 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of  
16this paragraph:

17 “(I) FELONY.—The term ‘felony’  
18means—

19 “(aa) any crime defined as a  
20felony by the relevant jurisdiction  
21(Federal, State, tribal, or local)  
22of conviction; or

23 “(bb) any crime punishable  
24by more than one year of impris-  
25onment.



1 “(II) MISDEMEANOR.—The term  
2 ‘misdemeanor’ means—

3 “(aa) any crime defined as a  
4 misdemeanor by the relevant ju-  
5 risdiction (Federal, State, tribal,  
6 or local) of conviction; or

7 “(bb) any crime not punish-  
8 able by more than one year of  
9 imprisonment.

10 “(ii) CLARIFICATIONS.—

11 “(I) CONSTRUCTION.—For pur-  
12 poses of this paragraph, whether any  
13 activity or conviction also may con-  
14 stitute a basis for removal is immate-  
15 rial to a determination of asylum eli-  
16 gibility.

17 “(II) ATTEMPT, CONSPIRACY, OR  
18 SOLICITATION.—For purposes of this  
19 paragraph, all references to a criminal  
20 offense or criminal conviction shall be  
21 deemed to include any attempt, con-  
22 spiracy, or solicitation to commit the  
23 offense or any other inchoate form of  
24 the offense.

1                   “(III) EFFECT OF CERTAIN OR-  
2                   DERS.—

3                   “(aa) IN GENERAL.—No  
4                   order vacating a conviction,  
5                   modifying a sentence, clarifying a  
6                   sentence, or otherwise altering a  
7                   conviction or sentence shall have  
8                   any effect under this paragraph  
9                   unless the Attorney General or  
10                  Secretary of Homeland Security  
11                  determines that—

12                  “(AA) the court issuing  
13                  the order had jurisdiction  
14                  and authority to do so; and

15                  “(BB) the order was  
16                  not entered for rehabilitative  
17                  purposes or for purposes of  
18                  ameliorating the immigra-  
19                  tion consequences of the  
20                  conviction or sentence.

21                  “(bb) AMELIORATING IMMI-  
22                  GRATION CONSEQUENCES.—For  
23                  purposes of item (aa)(BB), the  
24                  order shall be presumed to be for

1 the purpose of ameliorating im-  
2 migration consequences if—

3 “(AA) the order was  
4 entered after the initiation  
5 of any proceeding to remove  
6 the alien from the United  
7 States; or

8 “(BB) the alien moved  
9 for the order more than one  
10 year after the date of the  
11 original order of conviction  
12 or sentencing, whichever is  
13 later.

14 “(cc) AUTHORITY OF IMMI-  
15 GRATION JUDGE.—An immigra-  
16 tion judge is not limited to con-  
17 sideration only of material in-  
18 cluded in any order vacating a  
19 conviction, modifying a sentence,  
20 or clarifying a sentence to deter-  
21 mine whether such order should  
22 be given any effect under this  
23 paragraph, but may consider  
24 such additional information as

1 the immigration judge determines  
2 appropriate.

3 “(E) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—The  
4 Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney  
5 General may by regulation establish additional  
6 limitations and conditions, consistent with this  
7 section, under which an alien shall be ineligible  
8 for asylum under paragraph (1).

9 “(F) NO JUDICIAL REVIEW.—There shall  
10 be no judicial review of a determination of the  
11 Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney  
12 General under subparagraph (A)(xiii).”.

13 **SEC. 105. EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.**

14 Paragraph (2) of section 208(d) of the Immigration  
15 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(d)) is amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 . “(2) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—

18 “(A) AUTHORIZATION PERMITTED.—An  
19 applicant for asylum is not entitled to employ-  
20 ment authorization, but such authorization may  
21 be provided under regulation by the Secretary  
22 of Homeland Security. An applicant who is not  
23 otherwise eligible for employment authorization  
24 shall not be granted such authorization prior to

1 the date that is 180 days after the date of filing  
2 of the application for asylum.

3 “(B) TERMINATION.—Each grant of em-  
4 ployment authorization under subparagraph  
5 (A), and any renewal or extension thereof, shall  
6 be valid for a period of 6 months, except that  
7 such authorization, renewal, or extension shall  
8 terminate prior to the end of such 6 month pe-  
9 riod as follows:

10 “(i) Immediately following the denial  
11 of an asylum application by an asylum offi-  
12 cer, unless the case is referred to an immi-  
13 gration judge.

14 “(ii) 30 days after the date on which  
15 an immigration judge denies an asylum ap-  
16 plication, unless the alien timely appeals to  
17 the Board of Immigration Appeals.

18 “(iii) Immediately following the denial  
19 by the Board of Immigration Appeals of an  
20 appeal of a denial of an asylum applica-  
21 tion.

22 “(C) RENEWAL.—The Secretary of Home-  
23 land Security may not grant, renew, or extend  
24 employment authorization to an alien if the  
25 alien was previously granted employment au-

1           thorization under subparagraph (A), and the  
2           employment authorization was terminated pur-  
3           suant to a circumstance described in subpara-  
4           graph (B)(i), (ii), or (iii), unless a Federal  
5           court of appeals remands the alien's case to the  
6           Board of Immigration Appeals.

7           “(D) INELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary of  
8           Homeland Security may not grant employment  
9           authorization to an alien under this paragraph  
10          if the alien—

11                 “(i) is ineligible for asylum under sub-  
12                 section (b)(2)(A); or

13                 “(ii) entered or attempted to enter the  
14                 United States at a place and time other  
15                 than lawfully through a United States port  
16                 of entry.”.

17   **SEC. 106. ASYLUM FEES.**

18          Paragraph (3) of section 208(d) of the Immigration  
19   and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(d)) is amended to  
20   read as follows:

21                 “(3) FEES.—

22                         “(A) APPLICATION FEE.—A fee of not less  
23                         than \$50 for each application for asylum shall  
24                         be imposed. Such fee shall not exceed the cost  
25                         of adjudicating the application. Such fee shall

1 not apply to an unaccompanied alien child who  
2 files an asylum application in proceedings under  
3 section 240.

4 “(B) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—A  
5 fee may also be imposed for the consideration  
6 of an application for employment authorization  
7 under this section and for adjustment of status  
8 under section 209(b). Such a fee shall not ex-  
9 ceed the cost of adjudicating the application.

10 “(C) PAYMENT.—Fees under this para-  
11 graph may be assessed and paid over a period  
12 of time or by installments.

13 “(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing  
14 in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the  
15 authority of the Attorney General or Secretary  
16 of Homeland Security to set adjudication and  
17 naturalization fees in accordance with section  
18 286(m).”.

19 **SEC. 107. RULES FOR DETERMINING ASYLUM ELIGIBILITY.**

20 Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
21 (8 U.S.C. 1158) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
22 lowing:

23 “(f) RULES FOR DETERMINING ASYLUM ELIGI-  
24 BILITY.—In making a determination under subsection  
25 (b)(1)(A) with respect to whether an alien is a refugee

1 within the meaning of section 101(a)(42)(A), the following  
2 shall apply:

3           “(1) PARTICULAR SOCIAL GROUP.—The Sec-  
4 retary of Homeland Security or the Attorney Gen-  
5 eral shall not determine that an alien is a member  
6 of a particular social group unless the alien articu-  
7 lates on the record, or provides a basis on the record  
8 for determining, the definition and boundaries of the  
9 alleged particular social group, establishes that the  
10 particular social group exists independently from the  
11 alleged persecution, and establishes that the alien’s  
12 claim of membership in a particular social group  
13 does not involve—

14           “(A) past or present criminal activity or  
15 association (including gang membership);

16           “(B) presence in a country with general-  
17 ized violence or a high crime rate;

18           “(C) being the subject of a recruitment ef-  
19 fort by criminal, terrorist, or persecutory  
20 groups;

21           “(D) the targeting of the applicant for  
22 criminal activity for financial gain based on per-  
23 ceptions of wealth or affluence;



1           “(E) interpersonal disputes of which gov-  
2           ernmental authorities in the relevant society or  
3           region were unaware or uninvolved;

4           “(F) private criminal acts of which govern-  
5           mental authorities in the relevant society or re-  
6           gion were unaware or uninvolved;

7           “(G) past or present terrorist activity or  
8           association;

9           “(H) past or present persecutory activity  
10          or association; or

11          “(I) status as an alien returning from the  
12          United States.

13          “(2) POLITICAL OPINION.—The Secretary of  
14          Homeland Security or the Attorney General may not  
15          determine that an alien holds a political opinion with  
16          respect to which the alien is subject to persecution  
17          if the political opinion is constituted solely by gener-  
18          alized disapproval of, disagreement with, or opposi-  
19          tion to criminal, terrorist, gang, guerilla, or other  
20          non-state organizations and does not include expres-  
21          sive behavior in furtherance of a cause against such  
22          organizations related to efforts by the State to con-  
23          trol such organizations or behavior that is antithet-  
24          ical to or otherwise opposes the ruling legal entity of  
25          the State or a unit thereof.

1           “(3) PERSECUTION.—The Secretary of Home-  
2           land Security or the Attorney General may not de-  
3           termine that an alien has been subject to persecution  
4           or has a well-founded fear of persecution based only  
5           on—

6                   “(A) the existence of laws or government  
7                   policies that are unenforced or infrequently en-  
8                   forced, unless there is credible evidence that  
9                   such a law or policy has been or would be ap-  
10                  plied to the applicant personally; or

11                  “(B) the conduct of rogue foreign govern-  
12                  ment officials acting outside the scope of their  
13                  official capacity.

14           “(4) DISCRETIONARY DETERMINATION.—

15                   “(A) ADVERSE DISCRETIONARY FAC-  
16                   TORS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or  
17                   the Attorney General may only grant asylum to  
18                   an alien if the alien establishes that he or she  
19                   warrants a favorable exercise of discretion. In  
20                   making such a determination, the Attorney  
21                   General or Secretary of Homeland Security  
22                   shall consider, if applicable, an alien’s use of  
23                   fraudulent documents to enter the United  
24                   States, unless the alien arrived in the United  
25                   States by air, sea, or land directly from the ap-

1           plicant's home country without transiting  
2           through any other country.

3           “(B) FAVORABLE EXERCISE OF DISCRE-  
4           TION NOT PERMITTED.—Except as provided in  
5           subparagraph (C), the Attorney General or Sec-  
6           retary of Homeland Security shall not favorably  
7           exercise discretion under this section for any  
8           alien who—

9                     “(i) has accrued more than one year  
10                    of unlawful presence in the United States,  
11                    as defined in sections 212(a)(9)(B)(ii) and  
12                    (iii), prior to filing an application for asy-  
13                    lum;

14                   “(ii) at the time the asylum applica-  
15                    tion is filed with the immigration court or  
16                    is referred from the Department of Home-  
17                    land Security, has—

18                             “(I) failed to timely file (or time-  
19                            ly file a request for an extension of  
20                            time to file) any required Federal,  
21                            State, or local income tax returns;

22                           “(II) failed to satisfy any out-  
23                           standing Federal, State, or local tax  
24                           obligations; or

1                   “(III) income that would result  
2                   in tax liability under section 1 of the  
3                   Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and  
4                   that was not reported to the Internal  
5                   Revenue Service;

6                   “(iii) has had two or more prior asy-  
7                   lum applications denied for any reason;

8                   “(iv) has withdrawn a prior asylum  
9                   application with prejudice or been found to  
10                  have abandoned a prior asylum application;

11                  “(v) failed to attend an interview re-  
12                  garding his or her asylum application with  
13                  the Department of Homeland Security, un-  
14                  less the alien shows by a preponderance of  
15                  the evidence that—

16                  “(I) exceptional circumstances  
17                  prevented the alien from attending the  
18                  interview; or

19                  “(II) the interview notice was not  
20                  mailed to the last address provided by  
21                  the alien or the alien’s representative  
22                  and neither the alien nor the alien’s  
23                  representative received notice of the  
24                  interview; or

1           “(vi) was subject to a final order of  
2           removal, deportation, or exclusion and did  
3           not file a motion to reopen to seek asylum  
4           based on changed country conditions with-  
5           in one year of the change in country condi-  
6           tions.

7           “(C) EXCEPTIONS.—If one or more of the  
8           adverse discretionary factors set forth in sub-  
9           paragraph (B) are present, the Attorney Gen-  
10          eral or the Secretary, may, notwithstanding  
11          such subparagraph (B), favorably exercise dis-  
12          cretion under section 208—

13                 “(i) in extraordinary circumstances,  
14                 such as those involving national security or  
15                 foreign policy considerations; or

16                 “(ii) if the alien, by clear and con-  
17                 vincing evidence, demonstrates that the de-  
18                 nial of the application for asylum would re-  
19                 sult in exceptional and extremely unusual  
20                 hardship to the alien.

21           “(5) LIMITATION.—If the Secretary or the At-  
22           torney General determines that an alien fails to sat-  
23           isfy the requirement under paragraph (1), the alien  
24           may not be granted asylum based on membership in  
25           a particular social group, and may not appeal the

1 determination of the Secretary or Attorney General,  
2 as applicable. A determination under this paragraph  
3 shall not serve as the basis for any motion to reopen  
4 or reconsider an application for asylum or with-  
5 holding of removal for any reason, including a claim  
6 of ineffective assistance of counsel, unless the alien  
7 complies with the procedural requirements for such  
8 a motion and demonstrates that counsel's failure to  
9 define, or provide a basis for defining, a formulation  
10 of a particular social group was both not a strategic  
11 choice and constituted egregious conduct.

12 “(6) STEREOTYPES.—Evidence offered in sup-  
13 port of an application for asylum that promotes cul-  
14 tural stereotypes about a country, its inhabitants, or  
15 an alleged persecutor, including stereotypes based on  
16 race, religion, nationality, or gender, shall not be ad-  
17 missible in adjudicating that application, except that  
18 evidence that an alleged persecutor holds  
19 stereotypical views of the applicant shall be admis-  
20 sible.

21 “(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 “(A) The term ‘membership in a particular  
23 social group’ means membership in a group  
24 that is—

1                   “(i) composed of members who share  
2                   a common immutable characteristic;

3                   “(ii) defined with particularity; and

4                   “(iii) socially distinct within the soci-  
5                   ety in question.

6                   “(B) The term ‘political opinion’ means an  
7                   ideal or conviction in support of the furtherance  
8                   of a discrete cause related to political control of  
9                   a state or a unit thereof.

10                  “(C) The term ‘persecution’ means the in-  
11                  fliction of a severe level of harm constituting an  
12                  exigent threat by the government of a country  
13                  or by persons or an organization that the gov-  
14                  ernment was unable or unwilling to control.  
15                  Such term does not include—

16                  “(i) generalized harm or violence that  
17                  arises out of civil, criminal, or military  
18                  strife in a country;

19                  “(ii) all treatment that the United  
20                  States regards as unfair, offensive, unjust,  
21                  unlawful, or unconstitutional;

22                  “(iii) intermittent harassment, includ-  
23                  ing brief detentions;

24                  “(iv) threats with no actual effort to  
25                  carry out the threats, except that particu-

1 larized threats of severe harm of an imme-  
2 diate and menacing nature made by an  
3 identified entity may constitute persecu-  
4 tion; or

5 “(v) non-severe economic harm or  
6 property damage.”.

7 **SEC. 108. FIRM RESETTLEMENT.**

8 Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
9 (8 U.S.C. 1158), as amended by this title, is further  
10 amended by adding at the end the following:

11 “(g) FIRM RESETTLEMENT.—In determining wheth-  
12 er an alien was firmly resettled in another country prior  
13 to arriving in the United States under subsection  
14 (b)(2)(A)(xiv), the following shall apply:

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien shall be consid-  
16 ered to have firmly resettled in another country if,  
17 after the events giving rise to the alien’s asylum  
18 claim—

19 “(A) the alien resided in a country through  
20 which the alien transited prior to arriving in or  
21 entering the United States and—

22 “(i) received or was eligible for any  
23 permanent legal immigration status in that  
24 country;



1           “(ii) resided in such a country with  
2           any non-permanent but indefinitely renew-  
3           able legal immigration status (including  
4           asylee, refugee, or similar status, but ex-  
5           cluding status of a tourist); or

6           “(iii) resided in such a country and  
7           could have applied for and obtained an im-  
8           migration status described in clause (ii);

9           “(B) the alien physically resided volun-  
10          tarily, and without continuing to suffer persecu-  
11          tion or torture, in any one country for one year  
12          or more after departing his country of nation-  
13          ality or last habitual residence and prior to ar-  
14          rival in or entry into the United States, except  
15          for any time spent in Mexico by an alien who  
16          is not a native or citizen of Mexico solely as a  
17          direct result of being returned to Mexico pursu-  
18          ant to section 235(b)(3) or of being subject to  
19          metering; or

20          “(C) the alien is a citizen of a country  
21          other than the country in which the alien al-  
22          leges a fear of persecution, or was a citizen of  
23          such a country in the case of an alien who re-  
24          nounces such citizenship, and the alien was  
25          present in that country after departing his

1 country of nationality or last habitual residence  
2 and prior to arrival in or entry into the United  
3 States;

4 “(2) BURDEN OF PROOF.—If an immigration  
5 judge determines that an alien has firmly resettled  
6 in another country under paragraph (1), the alien  
7 shall bear the burden of proving the bar does not  
8 apply.

9 “(3) FIRM RESETTLEMENT OF PARENT.—An  
10 alien shall be presumed to have been firmly resettled  
11 in another country if the alien’s parent was firmly  
12 resettled in another country, the parent’s resettlement  
13 occurred before the alien turned 18 years of  
14 age, and the alien resided with such parent at the  
15 time of the firm resettlement, unless the alien establishes  
16 that he or she could not have derived any permanent  
17 legal immigration status or any non-permanent  
18 but indefinitely renewable legal immigration  
19 status (including asylum, refugee, or similar status,  
20 but excluding status of a tourist) from the alien’s  
21 parent.”.

1 **SEC. 109. NOTICE CONCERNING FRIVOLOUS ASYLUM AP-**  
2 **PLICATIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 208(d)(4) of the Immi-  
4 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(d)(4)) is  
5 amended—

6 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
7 by inserting “the Secretary of Homeland Security  
8 or” before “the Attorney General”;

9 (2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and of  
10 the consequences, under paragraph (6), of knowingly  
11 filing a frivolous application for asylum; and” and  
12 inserting a semicolon;

13 (3) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period  
14 and inserting “; and”; and

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

16 “(C) ensure that a written warning ap-  
17 pears on the asylum application advising the  
18 alien of the consequences of filing a frivolous  
19 application and serving as notice to the alien of  
20 the consequence of filing a frivolous applica-  
21 tion.”.

22 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 208(d)(6)  
23 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
24 1158(d)(6)) is amended by striking “If the” and all that  
25 follows and inserting:

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of  
2           Homeland Security or the Attorney General de-  
3           termines that an alien has knowingly made a  
4           frivolous application for asylum and the alien  
5           has received the notice under paragraph (4)(C),  
6           the alien shall be permanently ineligible for any  
7           benefits under this chapter, effective as the date  
8           of the final determination of such an applica-  
9           tion.

10          “(B) CRITERIA.—An application is frivo-  
11          lous if the Secretary of Homeland Security or  
12          the Attorney General determines, consistent  
13          with subparagraph (C), that—

14               “(i) it is so insufficient in substance  
15               that it is clear that the applicant know-  
16               ingly filed the application solely or in part  
17               to delay removal from the United States,  
18               to seek employment authorization as an  
19               applicant for asylum pursuant to regula-  
20               tions issued pursuant to paragraph (2), or  
21               to seek issuance of a Notice to Appear in  
22               order to pursue Cancellation of Removal  
23               under section 240A(b); or

24               “(ii) any of the material elements are  
25               knowingly fabricated.

1 “(C) SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY TO CLAR-  
2 IFY.—In determining that an application is friv-  
3 olous, the Secretary or the Attorney General,  
4 must be satisfied that the applicant, during the  
5 course of the proceedings, has had sufficient op-  
6 portunity to clarify any discrepancies or implau-  
7 sible aspects of the claim.

8 “(D) WITHHOLDING OF REMOVAL NOT  
9 PRECLUDED.—For purposes of this section, a  
10 finding that an alien filed a frivolous asylum  
11 application shall not preclude the alien from  
12 seeking withholding of removal under section  
13 241(b)(3) or protection pursuant to the Con-  
14 vention Against Torture.”.

15 **SEC. 110. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

16 Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
17 (8 U.S.C. 1158) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a)—

19 (A) in paragraph (2)(D), by inserting  
20 “Secretary of Homeland Security or the” before  
21 “Attorney General”; and

22 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “Sec-  
23 retary of Homeland Security or the” before  
24 “Attorney General”;

25 (2) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Attor-  
2 ney General” each place such term appears and  
3 inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”;

4 (B) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-  
5 ceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “Sec-  
6 retary of Homeland Security or the” before  
7 “Attorney General”; and

8 (C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “Sec-  
9 retary of Homeland Security or the” before  
10 “Attorney General”; and

11 (3) in subsection (d)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “Sec-  
13 retary of Homeland Security or the” before  
14 “Attorney General” each place such term ap-  
15 pears; and

16 (B) in paragraph (5)—

17 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
18 “Attorney General” and inserting “Sec-  
19 retary of Homeland Security”; and

20 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
21 “Secretary of Homeland Security or the”  
22 before “Attorney General”.

1 **SEC. 111. REQUIREMENT FOR PROCEDURES RELATING TO**  
2 **CERTAIN ASYLUM APPLICATIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the  
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General  
5 shall establish procedures to expedite the adjudication of  
6 asylum applications for aliens—

7 (1) who are subject to removal proceedings  
8 under section 240 of the Immigration and Nation-  
9 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a); and

10 (2) who are nationals of a Western Hemisphere  
11 country sanctioned by the United States, as de-  
12 scribed in subsection (b), as of January 1, 2023.

13 (b) WESTERN HEMISPHERE COUNTRY SANCTIONED  
14 BY THE UNITED STATES DESCRIBED.—Subsection (a)  
15 shall apply only to an asylum application filed by an alien  
16 who is a national of a Western Hemisphere country sub-  
17 ject to sanctions pursuant to—

18 (1) the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Soli-  
19 darity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6021  
20 note);

21 (2) the Reinforcing Nicaragua's Adherence to  
22 Conditions for Electoral Reform Act of 2021 or the  
23 RENACER Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); or

24 (3) Executive Order 13692 (80 Fed. Reg.  
25 12747; declaring a national emergency with respect  
26 to the situation in Venezuela).

1 (c) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall only apply to  
2 an alien who files an application for asylum after the date  
3 of the enactment of this Act.

4 **TITLE II—BORDER SAFETY AND**  
5 **MIGRANT PROTECTION**

6 **SEC. 201. INSPECTION OF APPLICANTS FOR ADMISSION.**

7 Section 235 of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
8 (8 U.S.C. 1225) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (b)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

12 (I) in clauses (i) and (ii), by  
13 striking “section 212(a)(6)(C)” in-  
14 serting “subparagraph (A) or (C) of  
15 section 212(a)(6)”; and

16 (II) by adding at the end the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(iv) INELIGIBILITY FOR PAROLE.—

19 An alien described in clause (i) or (ii) shall  
20 not be eligible for parole except as ex-  
21 pressly authorized pursuant to section  
22 212(d)(5), or for parole or release pursu-  
23 ant to section 236(a).”; and

24 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—



1 (I) in clause (ii), by striking  
2 “asylum.” and inserting “asylum and  
3 shall not be released (including pursu-  
4 ant to parole or release pursuant to  
5 section 236(a) but excluding as ex-  
6 pressly authorized pursuant to section  
7 212(d)(5)) other than to be removed  
8 or returned to a country as described  
9 in paragraph (3).”; and

10 (II) in clause (iii)(IV)—

11 (aa) in the header by strik-  
12 ing “DETENTION” and inserting  
13 “DETENTION, RETURN, OR RE-  
14 MOVAL”; and

15 (bb) by adding at the end  
16 the following: “The alien shall  
17 not be released (including pursu-  
18 ant to parole or release pursuant  
19 to section 236(a) but excluding  
20 as expressly authorized pursuant  
21 to section 212(d)(5)) other than  
22 to be removed or returned to a  
23 country as described in para-  
24 graph (3).”;

25 (B) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

2 (I) by striking “Subject to sub-  
3 paragraphs (B) and (C),” and insert-  
4 ing “Subject to subparagraph (B) and  
5 paragraph (3),”; and

6 (II) by adding at the end the fol-  
7 lowing: “The alien shall not be re-  
8 leased (including pursuant to parole  
9 or release pursuant to section 236(a)  
10 but excluding as expressly authorized  
11 pursuant to section 212(d)(5)) other  
12 than to be removed or returned to a  
13 country as described in paragraph  
14 (3).”; and

15 (ii) by striking subparagraph (C);

16 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as  
17 paragraph (5); and

18 (D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
19 following:

20 “(3) RETURN TO FOREIGN TERRITORY CONTIG-  
21 UOUS TO THE UNITED STATES.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of  
23 Homeland Security may return to a foreign ter-  
24 ritory contiguous to the United States any alien  
25 arriving on land from that territory (whether or

1 not at a designated port of entry) pending a  
2 proceeding under section 240 or review of a de-  
3 termination under subsection (b)(1)(B)(iii)(III).

4 “(B) MANDATORY RETURN.—If at any  
5 time the Secretary of Homeland Security can-  
6 not—

7 “(i) comply with its obligations to de-  
8 tain an alien as required under clause (ii)  
9 and (iii)(IV) of subsection (b)(1)(B) and  
10 subsection (b)(2)(A); or

11 “(ii) remove an alien to a country de-  
12 scribed in section 208(a)(2)(A),

13 the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, with-  
14 out exception, including pursuant to parole or  
15 release pursuant to section 236(a) but exclud-  
16 ing as expressly authorized pursuant to section  
17 212(d)(5), return to a foreign territory contig-  
18 uous to the United States any alien arriving on  
19 land from that territory (whether or not at a  
20 designated port of entry) pending a proceeding  
21 under section 240 or review of a determination  
22 under subsection (b)(1)(B)(iii)(III).

23 “(4) ENFORCEMENT BY STATE ATTORNEYS  
24 GENERAL.—The attorney general of a State, or  
25 other authorized State officer, alleging a violation of

1 the detention, return, or removal requirements under  
2 paragraph (1), (2), or (3) that affects such State or  
3 its residents, may bring an action against the Sec-  
4 retary of Homeland Security on behalf of the resi-  
5 dents of the State in an appropriate United States  
6 district court to obtain appropriate injunctive re-  
7 lief.”; and

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

9 “(c) **AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT INTRODUCTION OF**  
10 **CERTAIN ALIENS.**—If the Secretary of Homeland Security  
11 determines, in his discretion, that the prohibition of the  
12 introduction of aliens who are inadmissible under subpara-  
13 graph (A) or (C) of section 212(a)(6) or under section  
14 212(a)(7) at an international land or maritime border of  
15 the United States is necessary to achieve operational con-  
16 trol (as defined in section 2 of the Secure Fence Act of  
17 2006 (8 U.S.C. 1701 note)) of such border, the Secretary  
18 may prohibit, in whole or in part, the introduction of such  
19 aliens at such border for such period of time as the Sec-  
20 retary determines is necessary for such purpose.”.

21 **SEC. 202. OPERATIONAL DETENTION FACILITIES.**

22 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than September 30,  
23 2023, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall take all  
24 necessary actions to reopen or restore all U.S. Immigra-  
25 tion and Customs Enforcement detention facilities that

1 were in operation on January 20, 2021, that subsequently  
2 closed or with respect to which the use was altered, re-  
3 duced, or discontinued after January 20, 2021. In car-  
4 rying out the requirement under this subsection, the Sec-  
5 retary may use the authority under section 103(a)(11) of  
6 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
7 1103(a)(11)).

8 (b) SPECIFIC FACILITIES.—The requirement under  
9 subsection (a) shall include at a minimum, reopening, or  
10 restoring, the following facilities:

11 (1) Irwin County Detention Center in Georgia.

12 (2) C. Carlos Carreiro Immigration Detention  
13 Center in Bristol County, Massachusetts.

14 (3) Etowah County Detention Center in Gads-  
15 den, Alabama.

16 (4) Glades County Detention Center in Moore  
17 Haven, Florida.

18 (5) South Texas Family Residential Center.

19 (c) EXCEPTION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
21 graphs (2) and (3), the Secretary of Homeland Se-  
22 curity is authorized to obtain equivalent capacity for  
23 detention facilities at locations other than those list-  
24 ed in subsection (b).

1           (2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not take  
2           action under paragraph (1) unless the capacity ob-  
3           tained would result in a reduction of time and cost  
4           relative to the cost and time otherwise required to  
5           obtain such capacity.

6           (3) SOUTH TEXAS FAMILY RESIDENTIAL CEN-  
7           TER.—The exception under paragraph (1) shall not  
8           apply to the South Texas Family Residential Center.  
9           The Secretary shall take all necessary steps to mod-  
10          ify and operate the South Texas Family Residential  
11          Center in the same manner and capability it was op-  
12          erating on January 20, 2021.

13          (d) PERIODIC REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after  
14          the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days  
15          thereafter until September 30, 2027, the Secretary of  
16          Homeland Security shall submit to the appropriate con-  
17          gressional committees a detailed plan for and a status re-  
18          port on—

19                 (1) compliance with the deadline under sub-  
20                 section (a);

21                 (2) the increase in detention capabilities re-  
22                 quired by this section—

23                         (A) for the 90 day period immediately pre-  
24                         ceding the date such report is submitted; and

1 (B) for the period beginning on the first  
2 day of the fiscal year during which the report  
3 is submitted, and ending on the date such re-  
4 port is submitted;

5 (3) the number of detention beds that were  
6 used and the number of available detention beds  
7 that were not used during—

8 (A) the 90 day period immediately pre-  
9 ceeding the date such report is submitted; and

10 (B) the period beginning on the first day  
11 of the fiscal year during which the report is  
12 submitted, and ending on the date such report  
13 is submitted;

14 (4) the number of aliens released due to a lack  
15 of available detention beds; and

16 (5) the resources the Department of Homeland  
17 Security needs in order to comply with the require-  
18 ments under this section.

19 (c) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Se-  
20 curity shall notify Congress, and include with such notifi-  
21 cation a detailed description of the resources the Depart-  
22 ment of Homeland Security needs in order to detain all  
23 aliens whose detention is mandatory or nondiscretionary  
24 under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
25 1101 et seq.)—

1       (1) not later than 5 days after all U.S. Immi-  
2       gration and Customs Enforcement detention facili-  
3       ties reach 90 percent of capacity;

4       (2) not later than 5 days after all U.S. Immi-  
5       gration and Customs Enforcement detention facili-  
6       ties reach 95 percent of capacity; and

7       (3) not later than 5 days after all U.S. Immi-  
8       gration and Customs Enforcement detention facili-  
9       ties reach full capacity.

10      (f) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—

11   In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-  
12   mittees” means—

13      (1) the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
14      House of Representatives;

15      (2) the Committee on Appropriations of the  
16      House of Representatives;

17      (3) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Sen-  
18      ate; and

19      (4) the Committee on Appropriations of the  
20      Senate.



1 **TITLE III—PREVENTING UNCON-**  
2 **TROLLED MIGRATION FLOWS**  
3 **IN THE WESTERN HEMI-**  
4 **SPHERE**

5 **SEC. 301. UNITED STATES POLICY REGARDING WESTERN**  
6 **HEMISPHERE COOPERATION ON IMMIGRA-**  
7 **TION AND ASYLUM.**

8 It is the policy of the United States to enter into  
9 agreements, accords, and memoranda of understanding  
10 with countries in the Western Hemisphere, the purposes  
11 of which are to advance the interests of the United States  
12 by reducing costs associated with illegal immigration and  
13 to protect the human capital, societal traditions, and eco-  
14 nomic growth of other countries in the Western Hemi-  
15 sphere. It is further the policy of the United States to  
16 ensure that humanitarian and development assistance  
17 funding aimed at reducing illegal immigration is not ex-  
18 pended on programs that have not proven to reduce illegal  
19 immigrant flows in the aggregate.

20 **SEC. 302. NEGOTIATIONS BY SECRETARY OF STATE.**

21 (a) **AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE.**—The Secretary  
22 of State shall seek to negotiate agreements, accords, and  
23 memoranda of understanding between the United States,  
24 Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and other  
25 countries in the Western Hemisphere with respect to co-

1 operation and burden sharing required for effective re-  
2 gional immigration enforcement, expediting legal claims by  
3 aliens for asylum, and the processing, detention, and repa-  
4 triation of foreign nationals seeking to enter the United  
5 States unlawfully. Such agreements shall be designed to  
6 facilitate a regional approach to immigration enforcement  
7 and shall, at a minimum, provide that—

8       (1) the Government of Mexico authorize and ac-  
9       cept the rapid entrance into Mexico of nationals of  
10      countries other than Mexico who seek asylum in  
11      Mexico, and process the asylum claims of such na-  
12      tionals inside Mexico, in accordance with both do-  
13      mestic law and international treaties and conven-  
14      tions governing the processing of asylum claims;

15      (2) the Government of Mexico authorize and ac-  
16      cept both the rapid entrance into Mexico of all na-  
17      tionals of countries other than Mexico who are ineli-  
18      gible for asylum in Mexico and wish to apply for  
19      asylum in the United States, whether or not at a  
20      port of entry, and the continued presence of such  
21      nationals in Mexico while they wait for the adjudica-  
22      tion of their asylum claims to conclude in the United  
23      States;

1           (3) the Government of Mexico commit to pro-  
2       vide the individuals described in paragraphs (1) and  
3       (2) with appropriate humanitarian protections;

4           (4) the Government of Honduras, the Govern-  
5       ment of El Salvador, and the Government of Guate-  
6       mala each authorize and accept the entrance into  
7       the respective countries of nationals of other coun-  
8       tries seeking asylum in the applicable such country  
9       and process such claims in accordance with applica-  
10      ble domestic law and international treaties and con-  
11      ventions governing the processing of asylum claims;

12          (5) the Government of the United States com-  
13      mit to work to accelerate the adjudication of asylum  
14      claims and to conclude removal proceedings in the  
15      wake of asylum adjudications as expeditiously as  
16      possible;

17          (6) the Government of the United States com-  
18      mit to continue to assist the governments of coun-  
19      tries in the Western Hemisphere, such as the Gov-  
20      ernment of Honduras, the Government of El Sal-  
21      vador, and the Government of Guatemala, by sup-  
22      porting the enhancement of asylum capacity in those  
23      countries; and

24          (7) the Government of the United States com-  
25      mit to monitoring developments in hemispheric im-

1 migration trends and regional asylum capabilities to  
2 determine whether additional asylum cooperation  
3 agreements are warranted.

4 (b) NOTIFICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH CASE-ZA-  
5 BLOCKI ACT.—The Secretary of State shall, in accordance  
6 with section 112b of title 1, United States Code, promptly  
7 inform the relevant congressional committees of each  
8 agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a). Such  
9 notifications shall be submitted not later than 48 hours  
10 after such agreements are signed.

11 (c) ALIEN DEFINED.—In this section, the term  
12 “alien” has the meaning given such term in section 101  
13 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

14 **SEC. 303. MANDATORY BRIEFINGS ON UNITED STATES EF-**  
15 **FORTS TO ADDRESS THE BORDER CRISIS.**

16 (a) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days  
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less  
18 frequently than once every 90 days thereafter until the  
19 date described in subsection (b), the Secretary of State,  
20 or the designee of the Secretary of State, shall provide  
21 to the appropriate congressional committees an in-person  
22 briefing on efforts undertaken pursuant to the negotiation  
23 authority provided by section 302 of this title to monitor,  
24 deter, and prevent illegal immigration to the United  
25 States, including by entering into agreements, accords,

1 and memoranda of understanding with foreign countries  
2 and by using United States foreign assistance to stem the  
3 root causes of migration in the Western Hemisphere.

4 (b) TERMINATION OF MANDATORY BRIEFING.—The  
5 date described in this subsection is the date on which the  
6 Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other  
7 relevant Federal departments and agencies, determines  
8 and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees  
9 that illegal immigration flows have subsided to a manage-  
10 able rate.

11 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-  
12 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-  
13 sional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Af-  
14 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee  
15 on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

## 16 **TITLE IV—ENSURING UNITED** 17 **FAMILIES AT THE BORDER**

### 18 **SEC. 401. CLARIFICATION OF STANDARDS FOR FAMILY DE-** 19 **TENTION.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 235 of the William Wil-  
21 berforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization  
22 Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) is amended by adding at  
23 the end the following:

24 “(j) CONSTRUCTION.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
2           provision of law, judicial determination, consent de-  
3           eree, or settlement agreement, the detention of any  
4           alien child who is not an unaccompanied alien child  
5           shall be governed by sections 217, 235, 236, and  
6           241 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
7           U.S.C. 1187, 1225, 1226, and 1231). There is no  
8           presumption that an alien child who is not an unac-  
9           companied alien child should not be detained.

10           “(2) FAMILY DETENTION.—The Secretary of  
11           Homeland Security shall—

12                   “(A) maintain the care and custody of an  
13                   alien, during the period during which the  
14                   charges described in clause (i) are pending,  
15                   who—

16                           “(i) is charged only with a mis-  
17                           demeanor offense under section 275(a) of  
18                           the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
19                           U.S.C. 1325(a)); and

20                           “(ii) entered the United States with  
21                           the alien’s child who has not attained 18  
22                           years of age; and

23                   “(B) detain the alien with the alien’s  
24                   child.”.

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
2 gress that the amendments in this section to section 235  
3 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection  
4 Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) are intended  
5 to satisfy the requirements of the Settlement Agreement  
6 in *Flores v. Meese*, No. 85–4544 (C.D. Cal), as approved  
7 by the court on January 28, 1997, with respect to its in-  
8 terpretation in *Flores v. Johnson*, 212 F. Supp. 3d 864  
9 (C.D. Cal. 2015), that the agreement applies to accom-  
10 panied minors.

11 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
12 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enact-  
13 ment of this Act and shall apply to all actions that occur  
14 before, on, or after such date.

15 (d) PREEMPTION OF STATE LICENSING REQUIRE-  
16 MENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, ju-  
17 dicial determination, consent decree, or settlement agree-  
18 ment, no State may require that an immigration detention  
19 facility used to detain children who have not attained 18  
20 years of age, or families consisting of one or more of such  
21 children and the parents or legal guardians of such chil-  
22 dren, that is located in that State, be licensed by the State  
23 or any political subdivision thereof.

1           **TITLE V—PROTECTION OF**  
2                           **CHILDREN**

3   **SEC. 501. FINDINGS.**

4       Congress makes the following findings:

5           (1) Implementation of the provisions of the  
6       Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act  
7       of 2008 that govern unaccompanied alien children  
8       has incentivized multiple surges of unaccompanied  
9       alien children arriving at the southwest border in the  
10      years since the bill's enactment.

11          (2) The provisions of the Trafficking Victims  
12      Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 that govern  
13      unaccompanied alien children treat unaccompanied  
14      alien children from countries that are contiguous to  
15      the United States disparately by swiftly returning  
16      them to their home country absent indications of  
17      trafficking or a credible fear of return, but allowing  
18      for the release of unaccompanied alien children from  
19      noncontiguous countries into the interior of the  
20      United States, often to those individuals who paid to  
21      smuggle them into the country in the first place.

22          (3) The provisions of the Trafficking Victims  
23      Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 governing  
24      unaccompanied alien children have enriched the car-  
25      tels, who profit hundreds of millions of dollars each



1       year by smuggling unaccompanied alien children to  
2       the southwest border, exploiting and sexually abus-  
3       ing many such unaccompanied alien children on the  
4       perilous journey.

5       (4) Prior to 2008, the number of unaccom-  
6       panied alien children encountered at the southwest  
7       border never exceeded 1,000 in a single year.

8       (5) The United States is currently in the midst  
9       of the worst crisis of unaccompanied alien children  
10      in our nation's history, with over 350,000 such un-  
11      accompanied alien children encountered at the  
12      southwest border since Joe Biden became President.

13      (6) In 2022, during the Biden Administration,  
14      152,057 unaccompanied alien children were encoun-  
15      tered, the most ever in a single year and an over  
16      400 percent increase compared to the last full fiscal  
17      year of the Trump Administration in which 33,239  
18      unaccompanied alien children were encountered.

19      (7) The Biden Administration has lost contact  
20      with at least 85,000 unaccompanied alien children  
21      who entered the United States since Joe Biden took  
22      office.

23      (8) The Biden Administration dismantled effec-  
24      tive safeguards put in place by the Trump Adminis-  
25      tration that protected unaccompanied alien children

1 from being abused by criminals or exploited for ille-  
2 gal and dangerous child labor.

3 (9) A recent New York Times investigation  
4 found that unaccompanied alien children are being  
5 exploited in the labor market and “are ending up in  
6 some of the most punishing jobs in the country.”

7 (10) The Times investigation found unaccom-  
8 panied alien children, “under intense pressure to  
9 earn money” in order to “send cash back to their  
10 families while often being in debt to their sponsors  
11 for smuggling fees, rent, and living expenses,”  
12 feared “that they had become trapped in cir-  
13 cumstances they never could have imagined.”

14 (11) The Biden Administration’s Department of  
15 Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier  
16 Becerra compared placing unaccompanied alien chil-  
17 dren with sponsors, to widgets in an assembly line,  
18 stating that, “If Henry Ford had seen this in his  
19 plant, he would have never become famous and rich.  
20 This is not the way you do an assembly line.”

21 (12) Department of Health and Human Serv-  
22 ices employees working under Secretary Xavier  
23 Becerra’s leadership penned a July 2021 memo-  
24 randum expressing serious concern that “labor traf-  
25 ficking was increasing” and that the agency had be-

1       come “one that rewards individuals for making quick  
2       releases, and not one that rewards individuals for  
3       preventing unsafe releases.”

4           (13) Despite this, Secretary Xavier Becerra  
5       pressured then-Director of the Office of Refugee Re-  
6       settlement Cindy Huang to prioritize releases of un-  
7       accompanied alien children over ensuring their safe-  
8       ty, telling her “if she could not increase the number  
9       of discharges he would find someone who could” and  
10      then-Director Huang resigned one month later.

11          (14) In June 2014, the Obama-Biden Adminis-  
12      tration requested legal authority to exercise discre-  
13      tion in returning and removing unaccompanied alien  
14      children from non-contiguous countries back to their  
15      home countries.

16          (15) In August 2014, the House of Representa-  
17      tives passed H.R. 5320, which included the Protec-  
18      tion of Children Act.

19          (16) This title ends the disparate policies of the  
20      Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act  
21      of 2008 by ensuring the swift return of all unaccom-  
22      panied alien children to their country of origin if  
23      they are not victims of trafficking and do not have  
24      a fear of return.

1 **SEC. 502. REPATRIATION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHIL-**  
2 **DREN.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 235 of the William Wil-  
4 berforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization  
5 Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (2)—

8 (i) by amending the heading to read  
9 as follows: “RULES FOR UNACCOMPANIED  
10 ALIEN CHILDREN.—”;

11 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

12 (I) in the matter preceding clause  
13 (i), by striking “who is a national or  
14 habitual resident of a country that is  
15 contiguous with the United States”;

16 (II) in clause (i), by inserting  
17 “and” at the end;

18 (III) in clause (ii), by striking “;  
19 and” and inserting a period; and

20 (IV) by striking clause (iii); and  
21 (iii) in subparagraph (B)—

22 (I) in the matter preceding clause  
23 (i), by striking “(8 U.S.C. 1101 et  
24 seq.) may—” and inserting “(8  
25 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.)—”;

1 (II) in clause (i), by inserting be-  
2 fore “permit such child to withdraw”  
3 the following: “may”; and

4 (III) in clause (ii), by inserting  
5 before “return such child” the fol-  
6 lowing: “shall”; and

7 (B) in paragraph (5)(D)—

8 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
9 by striking “, except for an unaccompanied  
10 alien child from a contiguous country sub-  
11 ject to exceptions under subsection (a)(2),”  
12 and inserting “who does not meet the cri-  
13 teria listed in paragraph (2)(A)”; and

14 (ii) in clause (i), by inserting before  
15 the semicolon at the end the following: “,  
16 which shall include a hearing before an im-  
17 migration judge not later than 14 days  
18 after being screened under paragraph (4)”;  
19

(2) in subsection (b)—

20 (A) in paragraph (2)—

21 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
22 before the semicolon the following: “be-  
23 lieved not to meet the criteria listed in sub-  
24 section (a)(2)(A)”; and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
2 before the period the following: “and does  
3 not meet the criteria listed in subsection  
4 (a)(2)(A)”;

5 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “an un-  
6 accompanied alien child in custody shall” and  
7 all that follows, and inserting the following: “an  
8 unaccompanied alien child in custody—

9 “(A) in the case of a child who does not  
10 meet the criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A),  
11 shall transfer the custody of such child to the  
12 Secretary of Health and Human Services not  
13 later than 30 days after determining that such  
14 child is an unaccompanied alien child who does  
15 not meet such criteria; or

16 “(B) in the case of a child who meets the  
17 criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A), may  
18 transfer the custody of such child to the Sec-  
19 retary of Health and Human Services after de-  
20 termining that such child is an unaccompanied  
21 alien child who meets such criteria.”;

22 (3) in subsection (c)—

23 (A) in paragraph (3), by inserting at the  
24 end the following:

1           “(D) INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS  
2           WITH WHOM CHILDREN ARE PLACED.—

3           “(i) INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED  
4           TO HOMELAND SECURITY.—Before placing  
5           a child with an individual, the Secretary of  
6           Health and Human Services shall provide  
7           to the Secretary of Homeland Security, re-  
8           garding the individual with whom the child  
9           will be placed, information on—

10           “(I) the name of the individual;

11           “(II) the social security number  
12           of the individual;

13           “(III) the date of birth of the in-  
14           dividual;

15           “(IV) the location of the individ-  
16           ual’s residence where the child will be  
17           placed;

18           “(V) the immigration status of  
19           the individual, if known; and

20           “(VI) contact information for the  
21           individual.

22           “(ii) ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARY  
23           OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—Not later than  
24           30 days after receiving the information  
25           listed in clause (i), the Secretary of Home-

1 land Security, upon determining that an  
2 individual with whom a child is placed is  
3 unlawfully present in the United States  
4 and not in removal proceedings pursuant  
5 to chapter 4 of title II of the Immigration  
6 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1221 et  
7 seq.), shall initiate such removal pro-  
8 ceedings.”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (5)—

10 (i) by inserting after “to the greatest  
11 extent practicable” the following: “(at no  
12 expense to the Government)”; and

13 (ii) by striking “have counsel to rep-  
14 resent them” and inserting “have access to  
15 counsel to represent them”.

16 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by  
17 this section shall apply to any unaccompanied alien child  
18 (as such term is defined in section 462(g) of the Home-  
19 land Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g))) apprehended  
20 on or after the date that is 30 days after the date of the  
21 enactment of this Act.



1 **SEC. 503. SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS FOR IM-**  
2 **MIGRANTS UNABLE TO REUNITE WITH EI-**  
3 **THIER PARENT.**

4 Section 101(a)(27)(J) of the Immigration and Na-  
5 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(J)) is amended—

6 (1) in clause (i), by striking “, and whose reuni-  
7 fication with 1 or both of the immigrant’s parents  
8 is not viable due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or  
9 a similar basis found under State law”; and

10 (2) in clause (iii)—

11 (A) in subclause (I), by striking “and” at  
12 the end;

13 (B) in subclause (II), by inserting “and”  
14 after the semicolon; and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(III) an alien may not be grant-  
17 ed special immigrant status under this  
18 subparagraph if the alien’s reunifica-  
19 tion with any one parent or legal  
20 guardian is not precluded by abuse,  
21 neglect, abandonment, or any similar  
22 cause under State law;”.

23 **SEC. 504. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

24 Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit the  
25 following procedures or practices relating to an unaccom-

1 panied alien child (as defined in section 462(g)(2) of the  
2 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))):

3 (1) Screening of such a child for a credible fear  
4 of return to his or her country of origin.

5 (2) Screening of such a child to determine  
6 whether he or she was a victim of trafficking.

7 (3) Department of Health and Human Services  
8 policy in effect on the date of the enactment of this  
9 Act requiring a home study for such a child if he or  
10 she is under 12 years of age.

## 11 **TITLE VI—VISA OVERSTAYS**

### 12 **PENALTIES**

#### 13 **SEC. 601. EXPANDED PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY OR**

#### 14 **PRESENCE.**

15 Section 275 of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
16 (8 U.S.C. 1325) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a) by inserting after “for a  
18 subsequent commission of any such offense” the fol-  
19 lowing: “or if the alien was previously convicted of  
20 an offense under subsection (e)(2)(A)”;

21 (2) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “at least  
23 \$50 and not more than \$250” and inserting  
24 “not less than \$500 and not more than  
25 \$1,000”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting after  
2 “in the case of an alien who has been previously  
3 subject to a civil penalty under this subsection”  
4 the following: “or subsection (e)(2)(B)”; and  
5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(e) VISA OVERSTAYS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien who was admitted  
8 as a nonimmigrant has violated this paragraph if the  
9 alien, for an aggregate of 10 days or more, has  
10 failed—

11 “(A) to maintain the nonimmigrant status  
12 in which the alien was admitted, or to which it  
13 was changed under section 248, including com-  
14 plying with the period of stay authorized by the  
15 Secretary of Homeland Security in connection  
16 with such status; or

17 “(B) to comply otherwise with the condi-  
18 tions of such nonimmigrant status.

19 “(2) PENALTIES.—An alien who has violated  
20 paragraph (1)—

21 “(A) shall—

22 “(i) for the first commission of such a  
23 violation, be fined under title 18, United  
24 States Code, or imprisoned not more than  
25 6 months, or both; and

1           “(ii) for a subsequent commission of  
2           such a violation, or if the alien was pre-  
3           viously convicted of an offense under sub-  
4           section (a), be fined under such title 18, or  
5           imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both;  
6           and

7           “(B) in addition to, and not in lieu of, any  
8           penalty under subparagraph (A) and any other  
9           criminal or civil penalties that may be imposed,  
10          shall be subject to a civil penalty of—

11          “(i) not less than \$500 and not more  
12          than \$1,000 for each violation; or

13          “(ii) twice the amount specified in  
14          clause (i), in the case of an alien who has  
15          been previously subject to a civil penalty  
16          under this subparagraph or subsection  
17          (b).”.

18                   **TITLE VII—IMMIGRATION**  
19                   **PAROLE REFORM**

20   **SEC. 701. IMMIGRATION PAROLE REFORM.**

21           Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality  
22   Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

23           “(5)(A) Except as provided in subparagraphs (B)  
24   and (C) and section 214(f), the Secretary of Homeland  
25   Security, in the discretion of the Secretary, may tempo-

1 rarely parole into the United States any alien applying for  
2 admission to the United States who is not present in the  
3 United States, under such conditions as the Secretary may  
4 prescribe, on a case-by-case basis, and not according to  
5 eligibility criteria describing an entire class of potential  
6 parole recipients, for urgent humanitarian reasons or sig-  
7 nificant public benefit. Parole granted under this subpara-  
8 graph may not be regarded as an admission of the alien.  
9 When the purposes of such parole have been served in the  
10 opinion of the Secretary, the alien shall immediately re-  
11 turn or be returned to the custody from which the alien  
12 was paroled. After such return, the case of the alien shall  
13 be dealt with in the same manner as the case of any other  
14 applicant for admission to the United States.

15 “(B) The Secretary of Homeland Security may grant  
16 parole to any alien who—

17 “(i) is present in the United States without  
18 lawful immigration status;

19 “(ii) is the beneficiary of an approved petition  
20 under section 203(a);

21 “(iii) is not otherwise inadmissible or remov-  
22 able; and

23 “(iv) is the spouse or child of a member of the  
24 Armed Forces serving on active duty.

1       “(C) The Secretary of Homeland Security may grant  
2 parole to any alien—

3           “(i) who is a national of the Republic of Cuba  
4 and is living in the Republic of Cuba;

5           “(ii) who is the beneficiary of an approved peti-  
6 tion under section 203(a);

7           “(iii) for whom an immigrant visa is not imme-  
8 diately available;

9           “(iv) who meets all eligibility requirements for  
10 an immigrant visa;

11           “(v) who is not otherwise inadmissible; and

12           “(vi) who is receiving a grant of parole in fur-  
13 therance of the commitment of the United States to  
14 the minimum level of annual legal migration of  
15 Cuban nationals to the United States specified in  
16 the U.S.-Cuba Joint Communiqué on Migration,  
17 done at New York September 9, 1994, and re-  
18 affirmed in the Cuba-United States: Joint Statement  
19 on Normalization of Migration, Building on the  
20 Agreement of September 9, 1994, done at New York  
21 May 2, 1995.

22       “(D) The Secretary of Homeland Security may grant  
23 parole to an alien who is returned to a contiguous country  
24 under section 235(b)(3) to allow the alien to attend the  
25 alien’s immigration hearing. The grant of parole shall not

1 exceed the time required for the alien to be escorted to,  
2 and attend, the alien's immigration hearing scheduled on  
3 the same calendar day as the grant, and to immediately  
4 thereafter be escorted back to the contiguous country. A  
5 grant of parole under this subparagraph shall not be con-  
6 sidered for purposes of determining whether the alien is  
7 inadmissible under this Act.

8       “(E) For purposes of determining an alien's eligi-  
9 bility for parole under subparagraph (A), an urgent hu-  
10 manitarian reason shall be limited to circumstances in  
11 which the alien establishes that—

12           “(i)(I) the alien has a medical emergency; and

13           “(II)(aa) the alien cannot obtain necessary  
14 treatment in the foreign state in which the alien is  
15 residing; or

16           “(bb) the medical emergency is life-threatening  
17 and there is insufficient time for the alien to be ad-  
18 mitted to the United States through the normal visa  
19 process;

20           “(ii) the alien is the parent or legal guardian of  
21 an alien described in clause (i) and the alien de-  
22 scribed in clause (i) is a minor;

23           “(iii) the alien is needed in the United States  
24 in order to donate an organ or other tissue for  
25 transplant and there is insufficient time for the alien

1 to be admitted to the United States through the nor-  
2 mal visa process;

3 “(iv) the alien has a close family member in the  
4 United States whose death is imminent and the alien  
5 could not arrive in the United States in time to see  
6 such family member alive if the alien were to be ad-  
7 mitted to the United States through the normal visa  
8 process;

9 “(v) the alien is seeking to attend the funeral  
10 of a close family member and the alien could not ar-  
11 rive in the United States in time to attend such fu-  
12 neral if the alien were to be admitted to the United  
13 States through the normal visa process;

14 “(vi) the alien is an adopted child with an ur-  
15 gent medical condition who is in the legal custody of  
16 the petitioner for a final adoption-related visa and  
17 whose medical treatment is required before the ex-  
18 pected award of a final adoption-related visa; or

19 “(vii) the alien is a lawful applicant for adjust-  
20 ment of status under section 245 and is returning  
21 to the United States after temporary travel abroad.

22 “(F) For purposes of determining an alien’s eligi-  
23 bility for parole under subparagraph (A), a significant  
24 public benefit may be determined to result from the parole  
25 of an alien only if—



1           “(i) the alien has assisted (or will assist, wheth-  
2           er knowingly or not) the United States Government  
3           in a law enforcement matter;

4           “(ii) the alien’s presence is required by the Gov-  
5           ernment in furtherance of such law enforcement  
6           matter; and

7           “(iii) the alien is inadmissible, does not satisfy  
8           the eligibility requirements for admission as a non-  
9           immigrant, or there is insufficient time for the alien  
10          to be admitted to the United States through the nor-  
11          mal visa process.

12          “(G) For purposes of determining an alien’s eligi-  
13          bility for parole under subparagraph (A), the term ‘case-  
14          by-case basis’ means that the facts in each individual case  
15          are considered and parole is not granted based on mem-  
16          bership in a defined class of aliens to be granted parole.  
17          The fact that aliens are considered for or granted parole  
18          one-by-one and not as a group is not sufficient to establish  
19          that the parole decision is made on a ‘case-by-case basis’.

20          “(H) The Secretary of Homeland Security may not  
21          use the parole authority under this paragraph to parole  
22          an alien into the United States for any reason or purpose  
23          other than those described in subparagraphs (B), (C), (D),  
24          (E), and (F).

1       “(I) An alien granted parole may not accept employ-  
2 ment, except that an alien granted parole pursuant to sub-  
3 paragraph (B) or (C) is authorized to accept employment  
4 for the duration of the parole, as evidenced by an employ-  
5 ment authorization document issued by the Secretary of  
6 Homeland Security.

7       “(J) Parole granted after a departure from the  
8 United States shall not be regarded as an admission of  
9 the alien. An alien granted parole, whether as an initial  
10 grant of parole or parole upon reentry into the United  
11 States, is not eligible to adjust status to lawful permanent  
12 residence or for any other immigration benefit if the immi-  
13 gration status the alien had at the time of departure did  
14 not authorize the alien to adjust status or to be eligible  
15 for such benefit.

16       “(K)(i) Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii),  
17 parole shall be granted to an alien under this paragraph  
18 for the shorter of—

19               “(I) a period of sufficient length to accomplish  
20 the activity described in subparagraph (D), (E), or  
21 (F) for which the alien was granted parole; or

22               “(II) 1 year.

23       “(ii) Grants of parole pursuant to subparagraph (A)  
24 may be extended once, in the discretion of the Secretary,  
25 for an additional period that is the shorter of—

1           “(I) the period that is necessary to accomplish  
2           the activity described in subparagraph (E) or (F) for  
3           which the alien was granted parole; or

4           “(II) 1 year.

5           “(iii) Aliens who have a pending application to adjust  
6           status to permanent residence under section 245 may re-  
7           quest extensions of parole under this paragraph, in 1-year  
8           increments, until the application for adjustment has been  
9           adjudicated. Such parole shall terminate immediately upon  
10          the denial of such adjustment application.

11          “(L) Not later than 90 days after the last day of each  
12          fiscal year, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall sub-  
13          mit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and  
14          the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Rep-  
15          resentatives and make available to the public, a report—

16               “(i) identifying the total number of aliens pa-  
17               roled into the United States under this paragraph  
18               during the previous fiscal year; and

19               “(ii) containing information and data regarding  
20               all aliens paroled during such fiscal year, includ-  
21               ing—

22                       “(I) the duration of parole;

23                       “(II) the type of parole; and

24                       “(III) the current status of the aliens so  
25               paroled.”.

1 **SEC. 702. IMPLEMENTATION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection

3 (b), this title and the amendments made by this title shall  
4 take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of  
5 the enactment of this Act.

6 (b) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),  
7 each of the following exceptions apply:

8 (1) Any application for parole or advance parole  
9 filed by an alien before the date of the enactment of  
10 this Act shall be adjudicated under the law that was  
11 in effect on the date on which the application was  
12 properly filed and any approved advance parole shall  
13 remain valid under the law that was in effect on the  
14 date on which the advance parole was approved.

15 (2) Section 212(d)(5)(J) of the Immigration  
16 and Nationality Act, as added by section 701 of this  
17 title, shall take effect on the date of the enactment  
18 of this Act.

19 (3) Aliens who were paroled into the United  
20 States pursuant to section 212(d)(5)(A) of the Im-  
21 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
22 1182(d)(5)(A)) before January 1, 2023, shall con-  
23 tinue to be subject to the terms of parole that were  
24 in effect on the date on which their respective parole  
25 was approved.

1 **SEC. 703. CAUSE OF ACTION.**

2 Any person, State, or local government that experi-  
3 ences financial harm in excess of \$1,000 due to a failure  
4 of the Federal Government to lawfully apply the provisions  
5 of this title or the amendments made by this title shall  
6 have standing to bring a civil action against the Federal  
7 Government in an appropriate district court of the United  
8 States for appropriate relief.

9 **SEC. 704. SEVERABILITY.**

10 If any provision of this title or any amendment by  
11 this title, or the application of such provision or amend-  
12 ment to any person or circumstance, is held to be uncon-  
13 stitutional, the remainder of this title and the application  
14 of such provision or amendment to any other person or  
15 circumstance shall not be affected.

16 **TITLE VIII—LEGAL WORKFORCE**

17 **SEC. 801. EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION PROC-**  
18 **ESS.**

19 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 274A(b) of the Immigra-  
20 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(b)) is amended  
21 to read as follows:

22 “(b) **EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION**  
23 **PROCESS.**—

24 “(1) **NEW HIRES, RECRUITMENT, AND REFER-**  
25 **RAL.**—The requirements referred to in paragraphs  
26 (1)(B) and (3) of subsection (a) are, in the case of

1 a person or other entity hiring, recruiting, or refer-  
2 ring an individual for employment in the United  
3 States, the following:

4 “(A) ATTESTATION AFTER EXAMINATION  
5 OF DOCUMENTATION.—

6 “(i) ATTESTATION.—During the  
7 verification period (as defined in subpara-  
8 graph (E)), the person or entity shall at-  
9 test, under penalty of perjury and on a  
10 form, including electronic format, des-  
11 ignated or established by the Secretary by  
12 regulation not later than 6 months after  
13 the date of the enactment of title VIII of  
14 division B of the Secure the Border Act of  
15 2023, that it has verified that the indi-  
16 vidual is not an unauthorized alien by—

17 “(I) obtaining from the indi-  
18 vidual the individual’s social security  
19 account number or United States  
20 passport number and recording the  
21 number on the form (if the individual  
22 claims to have been issued such a  
23 number), and, if the individual does  
24 not attest to United States nationality  
25 under subparagraph (B), obtaining

1 such identification or authorization  
2 number established by the Depart-  
3 ment of Homeland Security for the  
4 alien as the Secretary of Homeland  
5 Security may specify, and recording  
6 such number on the form; and

7 “(II) examining—

8 “(aa) a document relating to  
9 the individual presenting it de-  
10 scribed in clause (ii); or

11 “(bb) a document relating to  
12 the individual presenting it de-  
13 scribed in clause (iii) and a docu-  
14 ment relating to the individual  
15 presenting it described in clause  
16 (iv).

17 “(ii) DOCUMENTS EVIDENCING EM-  
18 PLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION AND ESTAB-  
19 LISHING IDENTITY.—A document de-  
20 scribed in this subparagraph is an individ-  
21 ual’s—

22 “(I) unexpired United States  
23 passport or passport card;

24 “(II) unexpired permanent resi-  
25 dent card that contains a photograph;

1           “(III) unexpired employment au-  
2           thorization card that contains a pho-  
3           tograph;

4           “(IV) in the case of a non-  
5           immigrant alien authorized to work  
6           for a specific employer incident to sta-  
7           tus, a foreign passport with Form I-  
8           94 or Form I-94A, or other docu-  
9           mentation as designated by the Sec-  
10          retary specifying the alien’s non-  
11          immigrant status as long as the pe-  
12          riod of status has not yet expired and  
13          the proposed employment is not in  
14          conflict with any restrictions or limita-  
15          tions identified in the documentation;

16          “(V) passport from the Fed-  
17          erated States of Micronesia (FSM) or  
18          the Republic of the Marshall Islands  
19          (RMI) with Form I-94 or Form I-  
20          94A, or other documentation as des-  
21          ignated by the Secretary, indicating  
22          nonimmigrant admission under the  
23          Compact of Free Association Between  
24          the United States and the FSM or  
25          RMI; or



1 “(VI) other document designated  
2 by the Secretary of Homeland Secu-  
3 rity, if the document—

4 “(aa) contains a photograph  
5 of the individual and biometric  
6 identification data from the indi-  
7 vidual and such other personal  
8 identifying information relating  
9 to the individual as the Secretary  
10 of Homeland Security finds, by  
11 regulation, sufficient for purposes  
12 of this clause;

13 “(bb) is evidence of author-  
14 ization of employment in the  
15 United States; and

16 “(cc) contains security fea-  
17 tures to make it resistant to tam-  
18 pering, counterfeiting, and fraud-  
19 ulent use.

20 “(iii) DOCUMENTS EVIDENCING EM-  
21 PLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—A document  
22 described in this subparagraph is an indi-  
23 vidual’s social security account number  
24 card (other than such a card which speci-  
25 fies on the face that the issuance of the

1 card does not authorize employment in the  
2 United States).

3 “(iv) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING  
4 IDENTITY OF INDIVIDUAL.—A document  
5 described in this subparagraph is—

6 “(I) an individual’s unexpired  
7 State issued driver’s license or identi-  
8 fication card if it contains a photo-  
9 graph and information such as name,  
10 date of birth, gender, height, eye  
11 color, and address;

12 “(II) an individual’s unexpired  
13 United States military identification  
14 card;

15 “(III) an individual’s unexpired  
16 Native American tribal identification  
17 document issued by a tribal entity rec-  
18 ognized by the Bureau of Indian Af-  
19 fairs; or

20 “(IV) in the case of an individual  
21 under 18 years of age, a parent or  
22 legal guardian’s attestation under  
23 penalty of law as to the identity and  
24 age of the individual.

1                   “(v) AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT USE OF  
2                   CERTAIN DOCUMENTS.—If the Secretary of  
3                   Homeland Security finds, by regulation,  
4                   that any document described in clause (i),  
5                   (ii), or (iii) as establishing employment au-  
6                   thorization or identity does not reliably es-  
7                   tablish such authorization or identity or is  
8                   being used fraudulently to an unacceptable  
9                   degree, the Secretary may prohibit or place  
10                  conditions on its use for purposes of this  
11                  paragraph.

12               “(vi) SIGNATURE.—Such attestation  
13               may be manifested by either a handwritten  
14               or electronic signature.

15               “(B) INDIVIDUAL ATTESTATION OF EM-  
16               PLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—During the  
17               verification period (as defined in subparagraph  
18               (E)), the individual shall attest, under penalty  
19               of perjury on the form designated or established  
20               for purposes of subparagraph (A), that the indi-  
21               vidual is a citizen or national of the United  
22               States, an alien lawfully admitted for perma-  
23               nent residence, or an alien who is authorized  
24               under this Act or by the Secretary of Homeland  
25               Security to be hired, recruited, or referred for

1 such employment. Such attestation may be  
2 manifested by either a handwritten or electronic  
3 signature. The individual shall also provide that  
4 individual's social security account number or  
5 United States passport number (if the indi-  
6 vidual claims to have been issued such a num-  
7 ber), and, if the individual does not attest to  
8 United States nationality under this subpara-  
9 graph, such identification or authorization num-  
10 ber established by the Department of Homeland  
11 Security for the alien as the Secretary may  
12 specify.

13 “(C) RETENTION OF VERIFICATION FORM  
14 AND VERIFICATION.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—After completion  
16 of such form in accordance with subpara-  
17 graphs (A) and (B), the person or entity  
18 shall—

19 “(I) retain a paper or electronic  
20 version of the form and make it avail-  
21 able for inspection by officers of the  
22 Department of Homeland Security,  
23 the Department of Justice, or the De-  
24 partment of Labor during a period be-  
25 ginning on the date of the recruiting

1 or referral of the individual, or, in the  
2 case of the hiring of an individual, the  
3 date on which the verification is com-  
4 pleted, and ending—

5 “(aa) in the case of the re-  
6 cruiting or referral of an indi-  
7 vidual, 3 years after the date of  
8 the recruiting or referral; and

9 “(bb) in the case of the hir-  
10 ing of an individual, the later of  
11 3 years after the date the  
12 verification is completed or one  
13 year after the date the individ-  
14 ual’s employment is terminated;  
15 and

16 “(II) during the verification pe-  
17 riod (as defined in subparagraph (E)),  
18 make an inquiry, as provided in sub-  
19 section (d), using the verification sys-  
20 tem to seek verification of the identity  
21 and employment eligibility of an indi-  
22 vidual.

23 “(ii) CONFIRMATION.—

24 “(I) CONFIRMATION RE-  
25 CEIVED.—If the person or other entity

1 receives an appropriate confirmation  
2 of an individual's identity and work  
3 eligibility under the verification sys-  
4 tem within the time period specified,  
5 the person or entity shall record on  
6 the form an appropriate code that is  
7 provided under the system and that  
8 indicates a final confirmation of such  
9 identity and work eligibility of the in-  
10 dividual.

11 “(II) TENTATIVE NONCONFIRMA-  
12 TION RECEIVED.—If the person or  
13 other entity receives a tentative non-  
14 confirmation of an individual's iden-  
15 tity or work eligibility under the  
16 verification system within the time pe-  
17 riod specified, the person or entity  
18 shall so inform the individual for  
19 whom the verification is sought. If the  
20 individual does not contest the non-  
21 confirmation within the time period  
22 specified, the nonconfirmation shall be  
23 considered final. The person or entity  
24 shall then record on the form an ap-  
25 propriate code which has been pro-

1           vided under the system to indicate a  
2           final nonconfirmation. If the indi-  
3           vidual does contest the nonconfirma-  
4           tion, the individual shall utilize the  
5           process for secondary verification pro-  
6           vided under subsection (d). The non-  
7           confirmation will remain tentative  
8           until a final confirmation or noncon-  
9           firmation is provided by the  
10          verification system within the time pe-  
11          riod specified. In no case shall an em-  
12          ployer terminate employment of an in-  
13          dividual because of a failure of the in-  
14          dividual to have identity and work eli-  
15          gibility confirmed under this section  
16          until a nonconfirmation becomes final.  
17          Nothing in this clause shall apply to a  
18          termination of employment for any  
19          reason other than because of such a  
20          failure. In no case shall an employer  
21          rescind the offer of employment to an  
22          individual because of a failure of the  
23          individual to have identity and work  
24          eligibility confirmed under this sub-  
25          section until a nonconfirmation be-

1 comes final. Nothing in this subclause  
2 shall apply to a rescission of the offer  
3 of employment for any reason other  
4 than because of such a failure.

5 “(III) FINAL CONFIRMATION OR  
6 NONCONFIRMATION RECEIVED.—If a  
7 final confirmation or nonconfirmation  
8 is provided by the verification system  
9 regarding an individual, the person or  
10 entity shall record on the form an ap-  
11 propriate code that is provided under  
12 the system and that indicates a con-  
13 firmation or nonconfirmation of iden-  
14 tity and work eligibility of the indi-  
15 vidual.

16 “(IV) EXTENSION OF TIME.—If  
17 the person or other entity in good  
18 faith attempts to make an inquiry  
19 during the time period specified and  
20 the verification system has registered  
21 that not all inquiries were received  
22 during such time, the person or entity  
23 may make an inquiry in the first sub-  
24 sequent working day in which the  
25 verification system registers that it



1 has received all inquiries. If the  
2 verification system cannot receive in-  
3 quires at all times during a day, the  
4 person or entity merely has to assert  
5 that the entity attempted to make the  
6 inquiry on that day for the previous  
7 sentence to apply to such an inquiry,  
8 and does not have to provide any ad-  
9 ditional proof concerning such inquiry.

10 “(V) CONSEQUENCES OF NON-  
11 CONFIRMATION.—

12 “(aa) TERMINATION OR NO-  
13 TIFICATION OF CONTINUED EM-  
14 PLOYMENT.—If the person or  
15 other entity has received a final  
16 nonconfirmation regarding an in-  
17 dividual, the person or entity  
18 may terminate employment of the  
19 individual (or decline to recruit  
20 or refer the individual). If the  
21 person or entity does not termi-  
22 nate employment of the indi-  
23 vidual or proceeds to recruit or  
24 refer the individual, the person or  
25 entity shall notify the Secretary

1 of Homeland Security of such  
2 fact through the verification sys-  
3 tem or in such other manner as  
4 the Secretary may specify.

5 “(bb) FAILURE TO NO-  
6 TIFY.—If the person or entity  
7 fails to provide notice with re-  
8 spect to an individual as required  
9 under item (aa), the failure is  
10 deemed to constitute a violation  
11 of subsection (a)(1)(A) with re-  
12 spect to that individual.

13 “(VI) CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT  
14 AFTER FINAL NONCONFIRMATION.—If  
15 the person or other entity continues to  
16 employ (or to recruit or refer) an indi-  
17 vidual after receiving final noncon-  
18 firmation, a rebuttable presumption is  
19 created that the person or entity has  
20 violated subsection (a)(1)(A).

21 “(D) EFFECTIVE DATES OF NEW PROCE-  
22 DURES.—

23 “(i) HIRING.—Except as provided in  
24 clause (iii), the provisions of this para-  
25 graph shall apply to a person or other enti-

1           ty hiring an individual for employment in  
2           the United States as follows:

3                   “(I) With respect to employers  
4                   having 10,000 or more employees in  
5                   the United States on the date of the  
6                   enactment of title VIII of division B  
7                   of the Secure the Border Act of 2023,  
8                   on the date that is 6 months after the  
9                   date of the enactment of title.

10                   “(II) With respect to employers  
11                   having 500 or more employees in the  
12                   United States, but less than 10,000  
13                   employees in the United States, on  
14                   the date of the enactment of title VIII  
15                   of division B of the Secure the Border  
16                   Act of 2023, on the date that is 12  
17                   months after the date of the enact-  
18                   ment of such title.

19                   “(III) With respect to employers  
20                   having 20 or more employees in the  
21                   United States, but less than 500 em-  
22                   ployees in the United States, on the  
23                   date of the enactment of title VIII of  
24                   division B of the Secure the Border  
25                   Act of 2023, on the date that is 18

1 months after the date of the enact-  
2 ment of such title.

3 “(IV) With respect to employers  
4 having one or more employees in the  
5 United States, but less than 20 em-  
6 ployees in the United States, on the  
7 date of the enactment of title VIII of  
8 division B of the Secure the Border  
9 Act of 2023, on the date that is 24  
10 months after the date of the enact-  
11 ment of such title.

12 “(ii) RECRUITING AND REFERRING.—  
13 Except as provided in clause (iii), the pro-  
14 visions of this paragraph shall apply to a  
15 person or other entity recruiting or refer-  
16 ring an individual for employment in the  
17 United States on the date that is 12  
18 months after the date of the enactment of  
19 title VIII of division B of the Secure the  
20 Border Act of 2023.

21 “(iii) AGRICULTURAL LABOR OR SERV-  
22 ICES.—With respect to an employee per-  
23 forming agricultural labor or services, this  
24 paragraph shall not apply with respect to  
25 the verification of the employee until the

1 date that is 36 months after the date of  
2 the enactment of title VIII of division B of  
3 the Secure the Border Act of 2023. For  
4 purposes of the preceding sentence, the  
5 term ‘agricultural labor or services’ has the  
6 meaning given such term by the Secretary  
7 of Agriculture in regulations and includes  
8 agricultural labor as defined in section  
9 3121(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
10 1986, agriculture as defined in section 3(f)  
11 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938  
12 (29 U.S.C. 203(f)), the handling, planting,  
13 drying, packing, packaging, processing,  
14 freezing, or grading prior to delivery for  
15 storage of any agricultural or horticultural  
16 commodity in its unmanufactured state, all  
17 activities required for the preparation,  
18 processing or manufacturing of a product  
19 of agriculture (as such term is defined in  
20 such section 3(f)) for further distribution,  
21 and activities similar to all the foregoing  
22 as they relate to fish or shellfish facilities.  
23 An employee described in this clause shall  
24 not be counted for purposes of clause (i).

25 “(iv) EXTENSIONS.—

1           “(I) ON REQUEST.—Upon re-  
2           quest by an employer having 50 or  
3           fewer employees, the Secretary shall  
4           allow a one-time 6-month extension of  
5           the effective date set out in this sub-  
6           paragraph applicable to such em-  
7           ployer. Such request shall be made to  
8           the Secretary and shall be made prior  
9           to such effective date.

10           “(II) FOLLOWING REPORT.—If  
11           the study under section 814 of title  
12           VIII of division B of the Secure the  
13           Border Act of 2023 has been sub-  
14           mitted in accordance with such sec-  
15           tion, the Secretary of Homeland Secu-  
16           rity may extend the effective date set  
17           out in clause (iii) on a one-time basis  
18           for 12 months.

19           “(v) TRANSITION RULE.—Subject to  
20           paragraph (4), the following shall apply to  
21           a person or other entity hiring, recruiting,  
22           or referring an individual for employment  
23           in the United States until the effective  
24           date or dates applicable under clauses (i)  
25           through (iii):

1           “(I) This subsection, as in effect  
2 before the enactment of title VIII of  
3 division B of the Secure the Border  
4 Act of 2023.

5           “(II) Subtitle A of title IV of the  
6 Illegal Immigration Reform and Im-  
7 migrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8  
8 U.S.C. 1324a note), as in effect be-  
9 fore the effective date in section  
10 807(e) of title VIII of division B of  
11 the Secure the Border Act of 2023.

12           “(III) Any other provision of  
13 Federal law requiring the person or  
14 entity to participate in the E-Verify  
15 Program described in section 403(a)  
16 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and  
17 Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996  
18 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), as in effect be-  
19 fore the effective date in section  
20 807(e) of title VIII of division B of  
21 the Secure the Border Act of 2023,  
22 including Executive Order 13465 (8  
23 U.S.C. 1324a note; relating to Gov-  
24 ernment procurement).

25           “(E) VERIFICATION PERIOD DEFINED.—

1           “(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of  
2           this paragraph:

3                   “(I) In the case of recruitment or  
4                   referral, the term ‘verification period’  
5                   means the period ending on the date  
6                   recruiting or referring commences.

7                   “(II) In the case of hiring, the  
8                   term ‘verification period’ means the  
9                   period beginning on the date on which  
10                  an offer of employment is extended  
11                  and ending on the date that is three  
12                  business days after the date of hire,  
13                  except as provided in clause (iii). The  
14                  offer of employment may be condi-  
15                  tioned in accordance with clause (ii).

16                  “(ii) JOB OFFER MAY BE CONDI-  
17                  TIONAL.—A person or other entity may  
18                  offer a prospective employee an employ-  
19                  ment position that is conditioned on final  
20                  verification of the identity and employment  
21                  eligibility of the employee using the proce-  
22                  dures established under this paragraph.

23                  “(iii) SPECIAL RULE.—Notwith-  
24                  standing clause (i)(II), in the case of an  
25                  alien who is authorized for employment



1 and who provides evidence from the Social  
2 Security Administration that the alien has  
3 applied for a social security account num-  
4 ber, the verification period ends three busi-  
5 ness days after the alien receives the social  
6 security account number.

7 “(2) REVERIFICATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH  
8 LIMITED WORK AUTHORIZATION.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
10 subparagraph (B), a person or entity shall  
11 make an inquiry, as provided in subsection (d),  
12 using the verification system to seek  
13 reverification of the identity and employment  
14 eligibility of all individuals with a limited period  
15 of work authorization employed by the person  
16 or entity during the three business days after  
17 the date on which the employee’s work author-  
18 ization expires as follows:

19 “(i) With respect to employers having  
20 10,000 or more employees in the United  
21 States on the date of the enactment of title  
22 VIII of division B of the Secure the Border  
23 Act of 2023, beginning on the date that is  
24 6 months after the date of the enactment  
25 of such title.

1           “(ii) With respect to employers having  
2           500 or more employees in the United  
3           States, but less than 10,000 employees in  
4           the United States, on the date of the en-  
5           actment of title VIII of division B of the  
6           Secure the Border Act of 2023, beginning  
7           on the date that is 12 months after the  
8           date of the enactment of such title.

9           “(iii) With respect to employers hav-  
10          ing 20 or more employees in the United  
11          States, but less than 500 employees in the  
12          United States, on the date of the enact-  
13          ment of title VIII of division B of the Se-  
14          cure the Border Act of 2023, beginning on  
15          the date that is 18 months after the date  
16          of the enactment of such title.

17          “(iv) With respect to employers hav-  
18          ing one or more employees in the United  
19          States, but less than 20 employees in the  
20          United States, on the date of the enact-  
21          ment of title VIII of division B of the Se-  
22          cure the Border Act of 2023, beginning on  
23          the date that is 24 months after the date  
24          of the enactment of such title.

1           “(B) AGRICULTURAL LABOR OR SERV-  
2           ICES.—With respect to an employee performing  
3           agricultural labor or services, or an employee  
4           recruited or referred by a farm labor contractor  
5           (as defined in section 3 of the Migrant and Sea-  
6           sonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29  
7           U.S.C. 1801)), subparagraph (A) shall not  
8           apply with respect to the reverification of the  
9           employee until the date that is 36 months after  
10          the date of the enactment of title VIII of divi-  
11          sion B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023.  
12          For purposes of the preceding sentence, the  
13          term ‘agricultural labor or services’ has the  
14          meaning given such term by the Secretary of  
15          Agriculture in regulations and includes agricul-  
16          tural labor as defined in section 3121(g) of the  
17          Internal Revenue Code of 1986, agriculture as  
18          defined in section 3(f) of the Fair Labor Stand-  
19          ards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(f)), the han-  
20          dling, planting, drying, packing, packaging,  
21          processing, freezing, or grading prior to delivery  
22          for storage of any agricultural or horticultural  
23          commodity in its unmanufactured state, all ac-  
24          tivities required for the preparation, processing,  
25          or manufacturing of a product of agriculture

1 (as such term is defined in such section 3(f))  
2 for further distribution, and activities similar to  
3 all the foregoing as they relate to fish or shell-  
4 fish facilities. An employee described in this  
5 subparagraph shall not be counted for purposes  
6 of subparagraph (A).

7 “(C) REVERIFICATION.—Paragraph  
8 (1)(C)(ii) shall apply to reverifications pursuant  
9 to this paragraph on the same basis as it ap-  
10 plies to verifications pursuant to paragraph (1),  
11 except that employers shall—

12 “(i) use a form designated or estab-  
13 lished by the Secretary by regulation for  
14 purposes of this paragraph; and

15 “(ii) retain a paper or electronic  
16 version of the form and make it available  
17 for inspection by officers of the Depart-  
18 ment of Homeland Security, the Depart-  
19 ment of Justice, or the Department of  
20 Labor during the period beginning on the  
21 date the reverification commences and end-  
22 ing on the date that is the later of 3 years  
23 after the date of such reverification or 1  
24 year after the date the individual’s employ-  
25 ment is terminated.

1 “(3) PREVIOUSLY HIRED INDIVIDUALS.—

2 “(A) ON A MANDATORY BASIS FOR CER-  
3 TAIN EMPLOYEES.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the  
5 date that is 6 months after the date of the  
6 enactment of title VIII of division B of the  
7 Secure the Border Act of 2023, an em-  
8 ployer shall make an inquiry, as provided  
9 in subsection (d), using the verification  
10 system to seek verification of the identity  
11 and employment eligibility of any indi-  
12 vidual described in clause (ii) employed by  
13 the employer whose employment eligibility  
14 has not been verified under the E-Verify  
15 Program described in section 403(a) of the  
16 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant  
17 Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C.  
18 1324a note).

19 “(ii) INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED.—An  
20 individual described in this clause is any of  
21 the following:

22 “(I) An employee of any unit of  
23 a Federal, State, or local government.

24 “(II) An employee who requires a  
25 Federal security clearance working in

1 a Federal, State, or local government  
2 building, a military base, a nuclear  
3 energy site, a weapons site, or an air-  
4 port or other facility that requires  
5 workers to carry a Transportation  
6 Worker Identification Credential  
7 (TWIC).

8 “(III) An employee assigned to  
9 perform work in the United States  
10 under a Federal contract, except that  
11 this subelause—

12 “(aa) is not applicable to in-  
13 dividuals who have a clearance  
14 under Homeland Security Presi-  
15 dential Directive 12 (HSPD 12  
16 clearance), are administrative or  
17 overhead personnel, or are work-  
18 ing solely on contracts that pro-  
19 vide Commercial Off The Shelf  
20 goods or services as set forth by  
21 the Federal Acquisition Regu-  
22 latory Council, unless they are  
23 subject to verification under sub-  
24 clause (II); and

1                   “(bb) only applies to con-  
2                   tracts over the simple acquisition  
3                   threshold as defined in section  
4                   2.101 of title 48, Code of Federal  
5                   Regulations.

6                   “(B) ON A MANDATORY BASIS FOR MUL-  
7                   TIPLE USERS OF SAME SOCIAL SECURITY AC-  
8                   COUNT NUMBER.—In the case of an employer  
9                   who is required by this subsection to use the  
10                  verification system described in subsection (d),  
11                  or has elected voluntarily to use such system,  
12                  the employer shall make inquiries to the system  
13                  in accordance with the following:

14                  “(i) The Commissioner of Social Secu-  
15                  rity shall notify annually employees (at the  
16                  employee address listed on the Wage and  
17                  Tax Statement) who submit a social secu-  
18                  rity account number to which more than  
19                  one employer reports income and for which  
20                  there is a pattern of unusual multiple use.  
21                  The notification letter shall identify the  
22                  number of employers to which income is  
23                  being reported as well as sufficient infor-  
24                  mation notifying the employee of the proc-  
25                  ess to contact the Social Security Adminis-

1           tration Fraud Hotline if the employee be-  
2           lieves the employee's identity may have  
3           been stolen. The notice shall not share in-  
4           formation protected as private, in order to  
5           avoid any recipient of the notice from  
6           being in the position to further commit or  
7           begin committing identity theft.

8           “(ii) If the person to whom the social  
9           security account number was issued by the  
10          Social Security Administration has been  
11          identified and confirmed by the Commis-  
12          sioner, and indicates that the social secu-  
13          rity account number was used without  
14          their knowledge, the Secretary and the  
15          Commissioner shall lock the social security  
16          account number for employment eligibility  
17          verification purposes and shall notify the  
18          employers of the individuals who wrong-  
19          fully submitted the social security account  
20          number that the employee may not be  
21          work eligible.

22          “(iii) Each employer receiving such  
23          notification of an incorrect social security  
24          account number under clause (ii) shall use  
25          the verification system described in sub-



1 section (d) to check the work eligibility sta-  
2 tus of the applicable employee within 10  
3 business days of receipt of the notification.  
4 “(C) ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.—Subject to  
5 paragraph (2), and subparagraphs (A) through  
6 (C) of this paragraph, beginning on the date  
7 that is 30 days after the date of the enactment  
8 of title VIII of division B of the Secure the  
9 Border Act of 2023, an employer may make an  
10 inquiry, as provided in subsection (d), using the  
11 verification system to seek verification of the  
12 identity and employment eligibility of any indi-  
13 vidual employed by the employer. If an em-  
14 ployer chooses voluntarily to seek verification of  
15 any individual employed by the employer, the  
16 employer shall seek verification of all individ-  
17 uals employed at the same geographic location  
18 or, at the option of the employer, all individuals  
19 employed within the same job category, as the  
20 employee with respect to whom the employer  
21 seeks voluntarily to use the verification system.  
22 An employer’s decision about whether or not  
23 voluntarily to seek verification of its current  
24 workforce under this subparagraph may not be  
25 considered by any government agency in any

1 proceeding, investigation, or review provided for  
2 in this Act.

3 “(D) VERIFICATION.—Paragraph  
4 (1)(C)(ii) shall apply to verifications pursuant  
5 to this paragraph on the same basis as it ap-  
6 plies to verifications pursuant to paragraph (1),  
7 except that employers shall—

8 “(i) use a form designated or estab-  
9 lished by the Secretary by regulation for  
10 purposes of this paragraph; and

11 “(ii) retain a paper or electronic  
12 version of the form and make it available  
13 for inspection by officers of the Depart-  
14 ment of Homeland Security, the Depart-  
15 ment of Justice, or the Department of  
16 Labor during the period beginning on the  
17 date the verification commences and end-  
18 ing on the date that is the later of 3 years  
19 after the date of such verification or 1 year  
20 after the date the individual’s employment  
21 is terminated.

22 “(4) EARLY COMPLIANCE.—

23 “(A) FORMER E-VERIFY REQUIRED USERS,  
24 INCLUDING FEDERAL CONTRACTORS.—Notwith-  
25 standing the deadlines in paragraphs (1) and

(2), beginning on the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023, the Secretary is authorized to commence requiring employers required to participate in the E-Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), including employers required to participate in such program by reason of Federal acquisition laws (and regulations promulgated under those laws, including the Federal Acquisition Regulation), to commence compliance with the requirements of this subsection (and any additional requirements of such Federal acquisition laws and regulation) in lieu of any requirement to participate in the E-Verify Program.

“(B) FORMER E-VERIFY VOLUNTARY USERS AND OTHERS DESIRING EARLY COMPLIANCE.—Notwithstanding the deadlines in paragraphs (1) and (2), beginning on the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023, the Secretary shall provide for the voluntary compliance with the requirements of this subsection by employ-

1           ers voluntarily electing to participate in the E-  
2           Verify Program described in section 403(a) of  
3           the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant  
4           Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a  
5           note) before such date, as well as by other em-  
6           ployers seeking voluntary early compliance.

7           “(5) COPYING OF DOCUMENTATION PER-  
8           MITTED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of  
9           law, the person or entity may copy a document pre-  
10          sented by an individual pursuant to this subsection  
11          and may retain the copy, but only (except as other-  
12          wise permitted under law) for the purpose of com-  
13          plying with the requirements of this subsection.

14          “(6) LIMITATION ON USE OF FORMS.—A form  
15          designated or established by the Secretary of Home-  
16          land Security under this subsection and any infor-  
17          mation contained in or appended to such form, may  
18          not be used for purposes other than for enforcement  
19          of this Act and any other provision of Federal crimi-  
20          nal law.

21          “(7) GOOD FAITH COMPLIANCE.—

22                  “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise  
23                  provided in this subsection, a person or entity  
24                  is considered to have complied with a require-  
25                  ment of this subsection notwithstanding a tech-

1 nical or procedural failure to meet such require-  
2 ment if there was a good faith attempt to com-  
3 ply with the requirement.

4 “(B) EXCEPTION IF FAILURE TO CORRECT  
5 AFTER NOTICE.—Subparagraph (A) shall not  
6 apply if—

7 “(i) the failure is not de minimus;

8 “(ii) the Secretary of Homeland Secu-  
9 rity has explained to the person or entity  
10 the basis for the failure and why it is not  
11 de minimus;

12 “(iii) the person or entity has been  
13 provided a period of not less than 30 cal-  
14 endar days (beginning after the date of the  
15 explanation) within which to correct the  
16 failure; and

17 “(iv) the person or entity has not cor-  
18 rected the failure voluntarily within such  
19 period.

20 “(C) EXCEPTION FOR PATTERN OR PRAC-  
21 TICE VIOLATORS.—Subparagraph (A) shall not  
22 apply to a person or entity that has engaged or  
23 is engaging in a pattern or practice of violations  
24 of subsection (a)(1)(A) or (a)(2).

1           “(8) SINGLE EXTENSION OF DEADLINES UPON  
2       CERTIFICATION.—In a case in which the Secretary  
3       of Homeland Security has certified to the Congress  
4       that the employment eligibility verification system  
5       required under subsection (d) will not be fully oper-  
6       ational by the date that is 6 months after the date  
7       of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the  
8       Secure the Border Act of 2023, each deadline estab-  
9       lished under this section for an employer to make an  
10      inquiry using such system shall be extended by 6  
11      months. No other extension of such a deadline shall  
12      be made except as authorized under paragraph  
13      (1)(D)(iv).”.

14      (b) DATE OF HIRE.—Section 274A(h) of the Immi-  
15      gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)) is  
16      amended by adding at the end the following:

17           “(4) DEFINITION OF DATE OF HIRE.—As used  
18      in this section, the term ‘date of hire’ means the  
19      date of actual commencement of employment for  
20      wages or other remuneration, unless otherwise speci-  
21      fied.”.

22      **SEC. 802. EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION SYS-**  
23                                      **TEM.**

24      Section 274A(d) of the Immigration and Nationality  
25      Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(d)) is amended to read as follows:

1       “(d) EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION SYS-  
2   TEM.—

3       “(1) IN GENERAL.—Patterned on the employ-  
4   ment eligibility confirmation system established  
5   under section 404 of the Illegal Immigration Reform  
6   and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C.  
7   1324a note), the Secretary of Homeland Security  
8   shall establish and administer a verification system  
9   through which the Secretary (or a designee of the  
10   Secretary, which may be a nongovernmental enti-  
11   ty)—

12       “(A) responds to inquiries made by per-  
13   sons at any time through a toll-free electronic  
14   media concerning an individual’s identity and  
15   whether the individual is authorized to be em-  
16   ployed; and

17       “(B) maintains records of the inquiries  
18   that were made, of verifications provided (or  
19   not provided), and of the codes provided to in-  
20   quirers as evidence of their compliance with  
21   their obligations under this section.

22       “(2) INITIAL RESPONSE.—The verification sys-  
23   tem shall provide confirmation or a tentative non-  
24   confirmation of an individual’s identity and employ-  
25   ment eligibility within 3 working days of the initial

1 inquiry. If providing confirmation or tentative non-  
2 confirmation, the verification system shall provide an  
3 appropriate code indicating such confirmation or  
4 such nonconfirmation.

5 “(3) SECONDARY CONFIRMATION PROCESS IN  
6 CASE OF TENTATIVE NONCONFIRMATION.—In cases  
7 of tentative nonconfirmation, the Secretary shall  
8 specify, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
9 Social Security, an available secondary verification  
10 process to confirm the validity of information pro-  
11 vided and to provide a final confirmation or noncon-  
12 firmation not later than 10 working days after the  
13 date on which the notice of the tentative noncon-  
14 firmation is received by the employee. The Secretary,  
15 in consultation with the Commissioner, may extend  
16 this deadline once on a case-by-case basis for a pe-  
17 riod of 10 working days, and if the time is extended,  
18 shall document such extension within the verification  
19 system. The Secretary, in consultation with the  
20 Commissioner, shall notify the employee and em-  
21 ployer of such extension. The Secretary, in consulta-  
22 tion with the Commissioner, shall create a standard  
23 process of such extension and notification and shall  
24 make a description of such process available to the  
25 public. When final confirmation or nonconfirmation



1 is provided, the verification system shall provide an  
2 appropriate code indicating such confirmation or  
3 noneconfirmation.

4 “(4) DESIGN AND OPERATION OF SYSTEM.—

5 The verification system shall be designed and oper-  
6 ated—

7 “(A) to maximize its reliability and ease of  
8 use by persons and other entities consistent  
9 with insulating and protecting the privacy and  
10 security of the underlying information;

11 “(B) to respond to all inquiries made by  
12 such persons and entities on whether individ-  
13 uals are authorized to be employed and to reg-  
14 ister all times when such inquiries are not re-  
15 ceived;

16 “(C) with appropriate administrative, tech-  
17 nical, and physical safeguards to prevent unau-  
18 thorized disclosure of personal information;

19 “(D) to have reasonable safeguards against  
20 the system’s resulting in unlawful discrimina-  
21 tory practices based on national origin or citi-  
22 zenship status, including—

23 “(i) the selective or unauthorized use  
24 of the system to verify eligibility; or

1           “(ii) the exclusion of certain individ-  
2           uals from consideration for employment as  
3           a result of a perceived likelihood that addi-  
4           tional verification will be required, beyond  
5           what is required for most job applicants;

6           “(E) to maximize the prevention of iden-  
7           tity theft use in the system; and

8           “(F) to limit the subjects of verification to  
9           the following individuals:

10           “(i) Individuals hired, referred, or re-  
11           cruited, in accordance with paragraph (1)  
12           or (4) of subsection (b).

13           “(ii) Employees and prospective em-  
14           ployees, in accordance with paragraph (1),  
15           (2), (3), or (4) of subsection (b).

16           “(iii) Individuals seeking to confirm  
17           their own employment eligibility on a vol-  
18           untary basis.

19           “(5) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMISSIONER OF  
20           SOCIAL SECURITY.—As part of the verification sys-  
21           tem, the Commissioner of Social Security, in con-  
22           sultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security  
23           (and any designee of the Secretary selected to estab-  
24           lish and administer the verification system), shall es-  
25           tablish a reliable, secure method, which, within the

1 time periods specified under paragraphs (2) and (3),  
2 compares the name and social security account num-  
3 ber provided in an inquiry against such information  
4 maintained by the Commissioner in order to validate  
5 (or not validate) the information provided regarding  
6 an individual whose identity and employment eligi-  
7 bility must be confirmed, the correspondence of the  
8 name and number, and whether the individual has  
9 presented a social security account number that is  
10 not valid for employment. The Commissioner shall  
11 not disclose or release social security information  
12 (other than such confirmation or nonconfirmation)  
13 under the verification system except as provided for  
14 in this section or section 205(e)(2)(I) of the Social  
15 Security Act.

16 “(6) RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECRETARY OF  
17 HOMELAND SECURITY.—As part of the verification  
18 system, the Secretary of Homeland Security (in con-  
19 sultation with any designee of the Secretary selected  
20 to establish and administer the verification system),  
21 shall establish a reliable, secure method, which, with-  
22 in the time periods specified under paragraphs (2)  
23 and (3), compares the name and alien identification  
24 or authorization number (or any other information  
25 as determined relevant by the Secretary) which are

1 provided in an inquiry against such information  
2 maintained or accessed by the Secretary in order to  
3 validate (or not validate) the information provided,  
4 the correspondence of the name and number, wheth-  
5 er the alien is authorized to be employed in the  
6 United States, or to the extent that the Secretary  
7 determines to be feasible and appropriate, whether  
8 the records available to the Secretary verify the  
9 identity or status of a national of the United States.

10 “(7) UPDATING INFORMATION.—The Commis-  
11 sioner of Social Security and the Secretary of Home-  
12 land Security shall update their information in a  
13 manner that promotes the maximum accuracy and  
14 shall provide a process for the prompt correction of  
15 erroneous information, including instances in which  
16 it is brought to their attention in the secondary  
17 verification process described in paragraph (3).

18 “(8) LIMITATION ON USE OF THE  
19 VERIFICATION SYSTEM AND ANY RELATED SYS-  
20 TEMS.—

21 “(A) NO NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION  
22 CARD.—Nothing in this section shall be con-  
23 strued to authorize, directly or indirectly, the  
24 issuance or use of national identification cards

1 or the establishment of a national identification  
2 card.

3 “(B) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The  
4 Secretary may authorize or direct any person or  
5 entity responsible for granting access to, pro-  
6 tecting, securing, operating, administering, or  
7 regulating part of the critical infrastructure (as  
8 defined in section 1016(e) of the Critical Infra-  
9 structure Protection Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C.  
10 5195c(e))) to use the verification system to the  
11 extent the Secretary determines that such use  
12 will assist in the protection of the critical infra-  
13 structure.

14 “(9) REMEDIES.—If an individual alleges that  
15 the individual would not have been dismissed from  
16 a job or would have been hired for a job but for an  
17 error of the verification mechanism, the individual  
18 may seek compensation only through the mechanism  
19 of the Federal Tort Claims Act, and injunctive relief  
20 to correct such error. No class action may be  
21 brought under this paragraph.”.

22 **SEC. 803. RECRUITMENT, REFERRAL, AND CONTINUATION**  
23 **OF EMPLOYMENT.**

24 (a) **ADDITIONAL CHANGES TO RULES FOR RECRUIT-**  
25 **MENT, REFERRAL, AND CONTINUATION OF EMPLOY-**

1 MENT.—Section 274A(a) of the Immigration and Nation-  
2 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(a)) is amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “for a fee”;

4 (2) in paragraph (1), by amending subpara-  
5 graph (B) to read as follows:

6 “(B) to hire, continue to employ, or to re-  
7 cruit or refer for employment in the United  
8 States an individual without complying with the  
9 requirements of subsection (b).”; and

10 (3) in paragraph (2), by striking “after hiring  
11 an alien for employment in accordance with para-  
12 graph (1),” and inserting “after complying with  
13 paragraph (1),”.

14 (b) DEFINITION.—Section 274A(h) of the Immigra-  
15 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)), as amended  
16 by section 801(b) of this title, is further amended by add-  
17 ing at the end the following:

18 “(5) DEFINITION OF RECRUIT OR REFER.—As  
19 used in this section, the term ‘refer’ means the act  
20 of sending or directing a person who is in the United  
21 States or transmitting documentation or information  
22 to another, directly or indirectly, with the intent of  
23 obtaining employment in the United States for such  
24 person. Only persons or entities referring for remu-  
25 nation (whether on a retainer or contingency

1 basis) are included in the definition, except that  
2 union hiring halls that refer union members or non-  
3 union individuals who pay union membership dues  
4 are included in the definition whether or not they re-  
5 ceive remuneration, as are labor service entities or  
6 labor service agencies, whether public, private, for-  
7 profit, or nonprofit, that refer, dispatch, or other-  
8 wise facilitate the hiring of laborers for any period  
9 of time by a third party. As used in this section, the  
10 term 'recruit' means the act of soliciting a person  
11 who is in the United States, directly or indirectly,  
12 and referring the person to another with the intent  
13 of obtaining employment for that person. Only per-  
14 sons or entities referring for remuneration (whether  
15 on a retainer or contingency basis) are included in  
16 the definition, except that union hiring halls that  
17 refer union members or nonunion individuals who  
18 pay union membership dues are included in this defi-  
19 nition whether or not they receive remuneration, as  
20 are labor service entities or labor service agencies,  
21 whether public, private, for-profit, or nonprofit that  
22 recruit, dispatch, or otherwise facilitate the hiring of  
23 laborers for any period of time by a third party.”.

24 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
25 this section shall take effect on the date that is 1 year

1 after the date of the enactment of this Act, except that  
2 the amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect  
3 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act inso-  
4 far as such amendments relate to continuation of employ-  
5 ment.

6 **SEC. 804. GOOD FAITH DEFENSE.**

7 Section 274A(a)(3) of the Immigration and Nation-  
8 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(a)(3)) is amended to read as  
9 follows:

10 “(3) GOOD FAITH DEFENSE.—

11 “(A) DEFENSE.—An employer (or person  
12 or entity that hires, employs, recruits, or refers  
13 (as defined in subsection (h)(5)), or is otherwise  
14 obligated to comply with this section) who es-  
15 tablishes that it has complied in good faith with  
16 the requirements of subsection (b)—

17 “(i) shall not be liable to a job appli-  
18 cant, an employee, the Federal Govern-  
19 ment, or a State or local government,  
20 under Federal, State, or local criminal or  
21 civil law for any employment-related action  
22 taken with respect to a job applicant or  
23 employee in good-faith reliance on informa-  
24 tion provided through the system estab-  
25 lished under subsection (d); and



1           “(ii) has established compliance with  
2           its obligations under subparagraphs (A)  
3           and (B) of paragraph (1) and subsection  
4           (b) absent a showing by the Secretary of  
5           Homeland Security, by clear and con-  
6           vincing evidence, that the employer had  
7           knowledge that an employee is an unau-  
8           thorized alien.

9           “(B) MITIGATION ELEMENT.—For pur-  
10          poses of subparagraph (A)(i), if an employer  
11          proves by a preponderance of the evidence that  
12          the employer uses a reasonable, secure, and es-  
13          tablished technology to authenticate the identity  
14          of the new employee, that fact shall be taken  
15          into account for purposes of determining good  
16          faith use of the system established under sub-  
17          section (d).

18          “(C) FAILURE TO SEEK AND OBTAIN  
19          VERIFICATION.—Subject to the effective dates  
20          and other deadlines applicable under subsection  
21          (b), in the case of a person or entity in the  
22          United States that hires, or continues to em-  
23          ploy, an individual, or recruits or refers an indi-  
24          vidual for employment, the following require-  
25          ments apply:

1           “(i)       FAILURE       TO       SEEK  
2           VERIFICATION.—

3                   “(I) IN GENERAL.—If the person  
4           or entity has not made an inquiry,  
5           under the mechanism established  
6           under subsection (d) and in accord-  
7           ance with the timeframes established  
8           under subsection (b), seeking  
9           verification of the identity and work  
10          eligibility of the individual, the de-  
11          fense under subparagraph (A) shall  
12          not be considered to apply with re-  
13          spect to any employment, except as  
14          provided in subclause (II).

15                   “(II) SPECIAL RULE FOR FAIL-  
16          URE OF VERIFICATION MECHANISM.—  
17          If such a person or entity in good  
18          faith attempts to make an inquiry in  
19          order to qualify for the defense under  
20          subparagraph (A) and the verification  
21          mechanism has registered that not all  
22          inquiries were responded to during the  
23          relevant time, the person or entity can  
24          make an inquiry until the end of the  
25          first subsequent working day in which

1 the verification mechanism registers  
2 no nonresponses and qualify for such  
3 defense.

4 “(ii) FAILURE TO OBTAIN  
5 VERIFICATION.—If the person or entity  
6 has made the inquiry described in clause  
7 (i)(I) but has not received an appropriate  
8 verification of such identity and work eligi-  
9 bility under such mechanism within the  
10 time period specified under subsection  
11 (d)(2) after the time the verification in-  
12 quiry was received, the defense under sub-  
13 paragraph (A) shall not be considered to  
14 apply with respect to any employment after  
15 the end of such time period.”.

16 **SEC. 805. PREEMPTION AND STATES' RIGHTS.**

17 Section 274A(h)(2) of the Immigration and Nation-  
18 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(2)) is amended to read as  
19 follows:

20 “(2) PREEMPTION.—

21 “(A) SINGLE, NATIONAL POLICY.—The  
22 provisions of this section preempt any State or  
23 local law, ordinance, policy, or rule, including  
24 any criminal or civil fine or penalty structure,  
25 insofar as they may now or hereafter relate to

1 the hiring, continued employment, or status  
2 verification for employment eligibility purposes,  
3 of unauthorized aliens.

4 “(B) STATE ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL  
5 LAW.—

6 “(i) BUSINESS LICENSING.—A State,  
7 locality, municipality, or political subdivi-  
8 sion may exercise its authority over busi-  
9 ness licensing and similar laws as a pen-  
10 alty for failure to use the verification sys-  
11 tem described in subsection (d) to verify  
12 employment eligibility when and as re-  
13 quired under subsection (b).

14 “(ii) GENERAL RULES.—A State, at  
15 its own cost, may enforce the provisions of  
16 this section, but only insofar as such State  
17 follows the Federal regulations imple-  
18 menting this section, applies the Federal  
19 penalty structure set out in this section,  
20 and complies with all Federal rules and  
21 guidance concerning implementation of this  
22 section. Such State may collect any fines  
23 assessed under this section. An employer  
24 may not be subject to enforcement, includ-  
25 ing audit and investigation, by both a Fed-

1           eral agency and a State for the same viola-  
2           tion under this section. Whichever entity,  
3           the Federal agency or the State, is first to  
4           initiate the enforcement action, has the  
5           right of first refusal to proceed with the  
6           enforcement action. The Secretary must  
7           provide copies of all guidance, training,  
8           and field instructions provided to Federal  
9           officials implementing the provisions of  
10          this section to each State.”.

11 **SEC. 806. REPEAL.**

12       (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title IV of the Illegal  
13 Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of  
14 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is repealed.

15       (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any Federal  
16 law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of au-  
17 thority, or any document of, or pertaining to, the Depart-  
18 ment of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, or the  
19 Social Security Administration, to the employment eligi-  
20 bility confirmation system established under section 404  
21 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Respon-  
22 sibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is deemed to  
23 refer to the employment eligibility confirmation system es-  
24 tablished under section 274A(d) of the Immigration and  
25 Nationality Act, as amended by section 802 of this title.

1 (c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take effect  
2 on the date that is 30 months after the date of the enact-  
3 ment of this Act.

4 (d) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections,  
5 in section 1(d) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Im-  
6 migrant Responsibility Act of 1996, is amended by strik-  
7 ing the items relating to subtitle A of title IV.

8 **SEC. 807. PENALTIES.**

9 Section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
10 (8 U.S.C. 1324a) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (e)(1)—

12 (A) by striking “Attorney General” each  
13 place such term appears and inserting “Sec-  
14 retary of Homeland Security”; and

15 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking  
16 “Service” and inserting “Department of Home-  
17 land Security”;

18 (2) in subsection (e)(4)—

19 (A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter be-  
20 fore clause (i), by inserting “, subject to para-  
21 graph (10),” after “in an amount”;

22 (B) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking  
23 “not less than \$250 and not more than  
24 \$2,000” and inserting “not less than \$2,500  
25 and not more than \$5,000”;

1 (C) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking  
2 “not less than \$2,000 and not more than  
3 \$5,000” and inserting “not less than \$5,000  
4 and not more than \$10,000”;

5 (D) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by striking  
6 “not less than \$3,000 and not more than  
7 \$10,000” and inserting “not less than \$10,000  
8 and not more than \$25,000”; and

9 (E) by moving the margin of the continu-  
10 ation text following subparagraph (B) two ems  
11 to the left and by amending subparagraph (B)  
12 to read as follows:

13 “(B) may require the person or entity to  
14 take such other remedial action as is appro-  
15 priate.”;

16 (3) in subsection (e)(5)—

17 (A) in the paragraph heading, strike “PA-  
18 PERWORK”;

19 (B) by inserting “, subject to paragraphs  
20 (10) through (12),” after “in an amount”;

21 (C) by striking “\$100” and inserting  
22 “\$1,000”;

23 (D) by striking “\$1,000” and inserting  
24 “\$25,000”; and

1 (E) by adding at the end the following:

2 “Failure by a person or entity to utilize the em-  
3 ployment eligibility verification system as re-  
4 quired by law, or providing information to the  
5 system that the person or entity knows or rea-  
6 sonably believes to be false, shall be treated as  
7 a violation of subsection (a)(1)(A).”;

8 (4) by adding at the end of subsection (c) the  
9 following:

10 “(10) EXEMPTION FROM PENALTY FOR GOOD  
11 FAITH VIOLATION.—In the case of imposition of a  
12 civil penalty under paragraph (4)(A) with respect to  
13 a violation of subsection (a)(1)(A) or (a)(2) for hir-  
14 ing or continuation of employment or recruitment or  
15 referral by person or entity and in the case of im-  
16 position of a civil penalty under paragraph (5) for a  
17 violation of subsection (a)(1)(B) for hiring or re-  
18 cruitment or referral by a person or entity, the pen-  
19 alty otherwise imposed may be waived or reduced if  
20 the violator establishes that the violator acted in  
21 good faith.

22 “(11) MITIGATION ELEMENT.—For purposes of  
23 paragraph (4), the size of the business shall be  
24 taken into account when assessing the level of civil  
25 money penalty.



1           “(12) AUTHORITY TO DEBAR EMPLOYERS FOR  
2           CERTAIN VIOLATIONS.—

3           “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a person or entity  
4           is determined by the Secretary of Homeland Se-  
5           curity to be a repeat violator of paragraph  
6           (1)(A) or (2) of subsection (a), or is convicted  
7           of a crime under this section, such person or  
8           entity may be considered for debarment from  
9           the receipt of Federal contracts, grants, or co-  
10          operative agreements in accordance with the de-  
11          barment standards and pursuant to the debar-  
12          ment procedures set forth in the Federal Acqui-  
13          sition Regulation.

14          “(B) DOES NOT HAVE CONTRACT, GRANT,  
15          AGREEMENT.—If the Secretary of Homeland  
16          Security or the Attorney General wishes to have  
17          a person or entity considered for debarment in  
18          accordance with this paragraph, and such a  
19          person or entity does not hold a Federal con-  
20          tract, grant, or cooperative agreement, the Sec-  
21          retary or Attorney General shall refer the mat-  
22          ter to the Administrator of General Services to  
23          determine whether to list the person or entity  
24          on the List of Parties Excluded from Federal

1 Procurement, and if so, for what duration and  
2 under what scope.

3 “(C) HAS CONTRACT, GRANT, AGREE-  
4 MENT.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security  
5 or the Attorney General wishes to have a per-  
6 son or entity considered for debarment in ac-  
7 cordance with this paragraph, and such person  
8 or entity holds a Federal contract, grant, or co-  
9 operative agreement, the Secretary or Attorney  
10 General shall advise all agencies or departments  
11 holding a contract, grant, or cooperative agree-  
12 ment with the person or entity of the Govern-  
13 ment’s interest in having the person or entity  
14 considered for debarment, and after soliciting  
15 and considering the views of all such agencies  
16 and departments, the Secretary or Attorney  
17 General may refer the matter to any appro-  
18 priate lead agency to determine whether to list  
19 the person or entity on the List of Parties Ex-  
20 cluded from Federal Procurement, and if so, for  
21 what duration and under what scope.

22 “(D) REVIEW.—Any decision to debar a  
23 person or entity in accordance with this para-  
24 graph shall be reviewable pursuant to part 9.4  
25 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

1           “(13) OFFICE FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERN-  
2           MENT COMPLAINTS.—The Secretary of Homeland  
3           Security shall establish an office—

4                   “(A) to which State and local government  
5                   agencies may submit information indicating po-  
6                   tential violations of subsection (a), (b), or  
7                   (g)(1) that were generated in the normal course  
8                   of law enforcement or the normal course of  
9                   other official activities in the State or locality;

10                   “(B) that is required to indicate to the  
11                   complaining State or local agency within five  
12                   business days of the filing of such a complaint  
13                   by identifying whether the Secretary will fur-  
14                   ther investigate the information provided;

15                   “(C) that is required to investigate those  
16                   complaints filed by State or local government  
17                   agencies that, on their face, have a substantial  
18                   probability of validity;

19                   “(D) that is required to notify the com-  
20                   plaining State or local agency of the results of  
21                   any such investigation conducted; and

22                   “(E) that is required to report to the Con-  
23                   gress annually the number of complaints re-  
24                   ceived under this paragraph, the States and lo-  
25                   calities that filed such complaints, and the reso-

1 lution of the complaints investigated by the Sec-  
2 retary.”; and

3 (5) by amending paragraph (1) of subsection (f)  
4 to read as follows:

5 “(1) **CRIMINAL PENALTY.**—Any person or enti-  
6 ty which engages in a pattern or practice of viola-  
7 tions of subsection (a) (1) or (2) shall be fined not  
8 more than \$5,000 for each unauthorized alien with  
9 respect to which such a violation occurs, imprisoned  
10 for not more than 18 months, or both, notwith-  
11 standing the provisions of any other Federal law re-  
12 lating to fine levels.”.

13 **SEC. 808. FRAUD AND MISUSE OF DOCUMENTS.**

14 Section 1546(b) of title 18, United States Code, is  
15 amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “identification  
17 document,” and inserting “identification document  
18 or document meant to establish work authorization  
19 (including the documents described in section  
20 274A(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act),”;  
21 and

22 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “identification  
23 document” and inserting “identification document or  
24 document meant to establish work authorization (in-

1 including the documents described in section 274A(b)  
2 of the Immigration and Nationality Act),”.

3 **SEC. 809. PROTECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRA-**  
4 **TION PROGRAMS.**

5 (a) **FUNDING UNDER AGREEMENT.**—Effective for  
6 fiscal years beginning on or after October 1, 2023, the  
7 Commissioner of Social Security and the Secretary of  
8 Homeland Security shall enter into and maintain an  
9 agreement which shall—

10 (1) provide funds to the Commissioner for the  
11 full costs of the responsibilities of the Commissioner  
12 under section 274A(d) of the Immigration and Na-  
13 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(d)), as amended by  
14 section 802 of this title, including—

15 (A) acquiring, installing, and maintaining  
16 technological equipment and systems necessary  
17 for the fulfillment of the responsibilities of the  
18 Commissioner under such section 274A(d), but  
19 only that portion of such costs that are attrib-  
20 utable exclusively to such responsibilities; and

21 (B) responding to individuals who contest  
22 a tentative nonconfirmation provided by the em-  
23 ployment eligibility verification system estab-  
24 lished under such section;

1           (2) provide such funds annually in advance of  
2     the applicable quarter based on estimating method-  
3     ology agreed to by the Commissioner and the Sec-  
4     retary (except in such instances where the delayed  
5     enactment of an annual appropriation may preclude  
6     such quarterly payments); and

7           (3) require an annual accounting and reconcili-  
8     ation of the actual costs incurred and the funds pro-  
9     vided under the agreement, which shall be reviewed  
10    by the Inspectors General of the Social Security Ad-  
11    ministration and the Department of Homeland Secu-  
12    rity.

13       (b) CONTINUATION OF EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION  
14    IN ABSENCE OF TIMELY AGREEMENT.—In any case in  
15    which the agreement required under subsection (a) for any  
16    fiscal year beginning on or after October 1, 2023, has not  
17    been reached as of October 1 of such fiscal year, the latest  
18    agreement between the Commissioner and the Secretary  
19    of Homeland Security providing for funding to cover the  
20    costs of the responsibilities of the Commissioner under  
21    section 274A(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
22    (8 U.S.C. 1324a(d)) shall be deemed in effect on an in-  
23    terim basis for such fiscal year until such time as an  
24    agreement required under subsection (a) is subsequently  
25    reached, except that the terms of such interim agreement

1 shall be modified by the Director of the Office of Manage-  
2 ment and Budget to adjust for inflation and any increase  
3 or decrease in the volume of requests under the employ-  
4 ment eligibility verification system. In any case in which  
5 an interim agreement applies for any fiscal year under this  
6 subsection, the Commissioner and the Secretary shall, not  
7 later than October 1 of such fiscal year, notify the Com-  
8 mittee on Ways and Means, the Committee on the Judici-  
9 ary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House  
10 of Representatives and the Committee on Finance, the  
11 Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Ap-  
12 propriations of the Senate of the failure to reach the  
13 agreement required under subsection (a) for such fiscal  
14 year. Until such time as the agreement required under  
15 subsection (a) has been reached for such fiscal year, the  
16 Commissioner and the Secretary shall, not later than the  
17 end of each 90-day period after October 1 of such fiscal  
18 year, notify such Committees of the status of negotiations  
19 between the Commissioner and the Secretary in order to  
20 reach such an agreement.

21 **SEC. 810. FRAUD PREVENTION.**

22 (a) **BLOCKING MISUSED SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT**  
23 **NUMBERS.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in con-  
24 sultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, shall  
25 establish a program in which social security account num-

1 bers that have been identified to be subject to unusual  
2 multiple use in the employment eligibility verification sys-  
3 tem established under section 274A(d) of the Immigration  
4 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(d)), as amended by  
5 section 802 of this title, or that are otherwise suspected  
6 or determined to have been compromised by identity fraud  
7 or other misuse, shall be blocked from use for such system  
8 purposes unless the individual using such number is able  
9 to establish, through secure and fair additional security  
10 procedures, that the individual is the legitimate holder of  
11 the number.

12 (b) ALLOWING SUSPENSION OF USE OF CERTAIN SO-  
13 CIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS.—The Secretary of  
14 Homeland Security, in consultation with the Commis-  
15 sioner of Social Security, shall establish a program which  
16 shall provide a reliable, secure method by which victims  
17 of identity fraud and other individuals may suspend or  
18 limit the use of their social security account number or  
19 other identifying information for purposes of the employ-  
20 ment eligibility verification system established under sec-  
21 tion 274A(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
22 U.S.C. 1324a(d)), as amended by section 802 of this title.  
23 The Secretary may implement the program on a limited  
24 pilot program basis before making it fully available to all  
25 individuals.



1 (c) ALLOWING PARENTS TO PREVENT THEFT OF  
2 THEIR CHILD'S IDENTITY.—The Secretary of Homeland  
3 Security, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social  
4 Security, shall establish a program which shall provide a  
5 reliable, secure method by which parents or legal guard-  
6 ians may suspend or limit the use of the social security  
7 account number or other identifying information of a  
8 minor under their care for the purposes of the employment  
9 eligibility verification system established under 274A(d) of  
10 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(d)),  
11 as amended by section 802 of this title. The Secretary may  
12 implement the program on a limited pilot program basis  
13 before making it fully available to all individuals.

14 **SEC. 811. USE OF EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY**  
15 **VERIFICATION PHOTO TOOL.**

16 An employer who uses the photo matching tool used  
17 as part of the E-Verify System shall match the photo tool  
18 photograph to both the photograph on the identity or em-  
19 ployment eligibility document provided by the employee  
20 and to the face of the employee submitting the document  
21 for employment verification purposes.

22 **SEC. 812. IDENTITY AUTHENTICATION EMPLOYMENT ELIGI-**  
23 **BILITY VERIFICATION PILOT PROGRAMS.**

24 Not later than 24 months after the date of the enact-  
25 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security,

1 after consultation with the Commissioner of Social Secu-  
2 rity and the Director of the National Institute of Stand-  
3 ards and Technology, shall establish by regulation not less  
4 than 2 Identity Authentication Employment Eligibility  
5 Verification pilot programs, each using a separate and dis-  
6 tinct technology (the “Authentication Pilots”). The pur-  
7 pose of the Authentication Pilots shall be to provide for  
8 identity authentication and employment eligibility  
9 verification with respect to enrolled new employees which  
10 shall be available to any employer that elects to participate  
11 in either of the Authentication Pilots. Any participating  
12 employer may cancel the employer’s participation in the  
13 Authentication Pilot after one year after electing to par-  
14 ticipate without prejudice to future participation. The Sec-  
15 retary shall report to the Committee on the Judiciary of  
16 the House of Representatives and the Committee on the  
17 Judiciary of the Senate the Secretary’s findings on the  
18 Authentication Pilots, including the authentication tech-  
19 nologies chosen, not later than 12 months after com-  
20 mencement of the Authentication Pilots.

21 **SEC. 813. INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDITS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
23 date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General  
24 of the Social Security Administration shall complete audits  
25 of the following categories in order to uncover evidence

1 of individuals who are not authorized to work in the  
2 United States:

3 (1) Workers who dispute wages reported on  
4 their social security account number when they be-  
5 lieve someone else has used such number and name  
6 to report wages.

7 (2) Children's social security account numbers  
8 used for work purposes.

9 (3) Employers whose workers present signifi-  
10 cant numbers of mismatched social security account  
11 numbers or names for wage reporting.

12 (b) SUBMISSION.—The Inspector General of the So-  
13 cial Security Administration shall submit the audits com-  
14 pleted under subsection (a) to the Committee on Ways and  
15 Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee  
16 on Finance of the Senate for review of the evidence of  
17 individuals who are not authorized to work in the United  
18 States. The Chairmen of those Committees shall then de-  
19 termine information to be shared with the Secretary of  
20 Homeland Security so that such Secretary can investigate  
21 the unauthorized employment demonstrated by such evi-  
22 dence.

23 **SEC. 814. AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE STUDY.**

24 Not later than 36 months after the date of the enact-  
25 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of

1 Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of  
2 the Department of Agriculture, shall submit to the Com-  
3 mittee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives  
4 and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, a re-  
5 port that includes the following:

6 (1) The number of individuals in the agricul-  
7 tural workforce.

8 (2) The number of United States citizens in the  
9 agricultural workforce.

10 (3) The number of aliens in the agricultural  
11 workforce who are authorized to work in the United  
12 States.

13 (4) The number of aliens in the agricultural  
14 workforce who are not authorized to work in the  
15 United States.

16 (5) Wage growth in each of the previous ten  
17 years, disaggregated by agricultural sector.

18 (6) The percentage of total agricultural indus-  
19 try costs represented by agricultural labor during  
20 each of the last ten years.

21 (7) The percentage of agricultural costs in-  
22 vested in mechanization during each of the last ten  
23 years.

24 (8) Recommendations, other than a path to  
25 legal status for aliens not authorized to work in the

1 United States, for ensuring United States agricul-  
2 tural employers have a workforce sufficient to cover  
3 industry needs, including recommendations to—

4 (A) increase investments in mechanization;

5 (B) increase the domestic workforce; and

6 (C) reform the H-2A program.

7 **SEC. 815. REPEALING REGULATIONS.**

8 The rules relating to “Temporary Agricultural Em-  
9 ployment of H-2A Nonimmigrants in the United States”  
10 (87 Fed. Reg. 61660 (Oct. 12, 2022)) and to “Adverse  
11 Effect Wage Rate Methodology for the Temporary Em-  
12 ployment of H-2A Nonimmigrants in Non-Range Occupa-  
13 tions in the United States” (88 Fed. Reg. 12760 (Feb.  
14 28, 2023)) shall have no force or effect, may not be re-  
15 issued in substantially the same form, and any new rules  
16 that are substantially the same as such rules may not be  
17 issued.