#### 117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1435

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide Temporary Resident Status for certain parents and spouses of citizens or lawful residents of the United States, and for other purposes.

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 26, 2021

Mr. Rush introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

## A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide Temporary Resident Status for certain parents and spouses of citizens or lawful residents 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.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "American Right to
- 5 Family Act".

1	SEC. 2. TEMPORARY RESIDENT STATUS FOR CERTAIN
2	LONG-TERM RESIDENT PARENTS.
3	Section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nation-
4	ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)) is amended by adding
5	at the end the following:
6	"(W) TEMPORARY RESIDENT STATUS FOR
7	CERTAIN LONG-TERM RESIDENT PARENTS.—
8	"(i) In general.—Subject to section
9	214(s), an alien who files a petition for
10	status under this subparagraph, if the Sec-
11	retary of Homeland Security determines
12	that—
13	"(I) the alien—
14	"(aa) has been physically
15	present in the United States for
16	a continuous period of not less
17	than 10 years immediately pre-
18	ceding the date of the alien's ap-
19	plication;
20	"(bb) has been granted de-
21	ferred action pursuant to the De-
22	ferred Action for Childhood Ar-
23	rivals Memorandum announced
24	by the Secretary of Homeland
25	Security on June 15, 2012, or
26	would have otherwise qualified

1	for the Deferred Action for
2	Childhood Arrivals announced by
3	the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
4	rity pursuant to the November
5	14, 2014, Memorandum; and
6	"(cc) is a covered person;
7	"(II) the alien—
8	"(aa) was issued an order of
9	removal from the United States
10	under sections 235 or 240 of the
11	Immigration and Nationality Act,
12	and—
13	"(AA) remained in the
14	United States;
15	"(BB) was removed,
16	deported, or permitted to de-
17	part voluntarily from the
18	United States;
19	"(CC) resides outside of
20	the United States; or
21	"(DD) unlawfully reen-
22	tered the United States
23	after being issued an order
24	of removal under section

1	235 or 240 of the Immigra-
2	tion and Nationality Act;
3	"(bb) was physically present
4	in the United States for a contin-
5	uous presence of not less than 10
6	years immediately preceding the
7	date of the alien's order of re-
8	moval; and
9	"(cc) is a covered person.
10	"(ii) Definition.—For purposes of
11	this subparagraph, a covered person is an
12	alien who is—
13	"(I) the parent of a child who—
14	"(aa) is a citizen or national
15	of the United States; or
16	"(bb) initially entered the
17	United States before the age of
18	16 and has been continuously
19	and physically present in the
20	United States since their last
21	entry; or
22	"(II) the spouse of a person
23	who—

1	"(aa) is a citizen or lawful
2	permanent resident of the United
3	States; or
4	"(bb) initially entered the
5	United States before the age of
6	16 and has been continuously
7	and physically present in the
8	United States since their last
9	entry.".
10	SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS FOR TEMPORARY RESIDENT STA-
11	TUS FOR CERTAIN LONG-TERM RESIDENT
12	PARENTS.
13	Section 214 of the Immigration and Nationality Act
14	(8 U.S.C. 1184) is amended by adding the following sub-
15	section:
16	"(s) Requirements Applicable to Section
17	101(a)(15)(W) Visas or Nonimmigrant Status.—
18	"(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a non-
19	immigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(W), the
20	alien—
21	"(A) is not inadmissible under section
22	212(a)(1), (a)(6)(E), (a)(8), or (a)(10) of the
23	Immigration and Nationality Act;

- 1 "(B) is not inadmissible under section 2 212(a)(2), unless eligible for a waiver pursuant 3 to subsection (6) of this section; and
  - "(C) has not ordered, incited assisted or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.
    - "(2) CREDIBLE EVIDENCE CONSIDERED.—In acting on any petition filed under this subsection, the consular officer, Secretary of Homeland Security, or the Attorney General, as appropriate, shall consider any credible evidence relevant to the petition.
    - "(3) Work authorization.—In the case of a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(W), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall authorize the alien to engage in employment in the United States during the period of authorized admission and shall provide the alien with an 'employment authorized' endorsement or other appropriate document signifying authorization of employment. Work authorization provided under this paragraph shall be effective throughout the period the alien is in temporary resident status.

1	"(4) No numerical limitations.—The num-
2	ber of aliens who may be issued visas or otherwise
3	provided status as nonimmigrants under section
4	101(a)(15)(W) shall have no numerical limitations.
5	"(5) Duration of Status.—The authorized
6	period of status of an alien as a nonimmigrant
7	under section 101(a)(15)(W) shall be valid for a pe-
8	riod of 3 years, but the Secretary of Homeland Se-
9	curity shall extend or renew such period, with no
10	limit on the number of such renewals, if—
11	"(A) the alien files a nonfrivolous applica-
12	tion for renewal before the date of expiration of
13	authorized stay determined by the Secretary;
14	and
15	"(B) the Secretary determines that the
16	alien continues to meet the conditions as de-
17	fined by section 101(a)(15)(W) and subject to
18	the requirements provided under this sub-
19	section.
20	Further, in the case of an alien who files a nonfrivo-
21	lous application for renewal before the date of expi-
22	ration of the period of authorized stay by the Sec-
23	retary, the alien's period of temporary resident sta-

tus and work authorization shall be deemed auto-

- 1 matically extended during the pendency of the appli-2 cation.
- 3 "(6) Waivers for Certain Misdemeanors.—
- 4 Include the same or similar language in section
- 5 240A(f)(3)(C), and explain that certain crimes re-
- 6 lated to section 212(a)(2) are also to be expressly
- 7 excluded (and the applicant remains eligible for re-
- 8 lief under this section) if described in section
- 9 240A(f)(D)(i)(ii)(I) (i.e. except simple possession of
- cannabis/paraphernalia, etc.) and include the lan-
- 11 guage in treatment of certain crimes.
- 12 "(7) Nonexclusive relief.—Nothing in this
- subsection limits the ability of aliens who qualify for
- status under section 101(a)(15)(W) to seek any
- other immigration benefit or status for which the
- alien may be eligible.".
- 17 SEC. 4. CANCELLATION OF REMOVAL AND TEMPORARY
- 18 RESIDENT STATUS FOR CERTAIN LONG-TERM
- 19 RESIDENT PARENTS.
- 20 Section 240A of the Immigration and Nationality Act
- 21 (8 U.S.C. 1229b) is amended by adding at the end the
- 22 following:
- 23 "(f) Cancellation of Removal and Temporary
- 24 Resident Status for Certain Long-Term Resident
- 25 Parents.—

1 "(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other 2 provision of law, the Secretary of Homeland Security 3 or the Attorney General shall cancel the removal of, and adjust to the status of an alien having lawful temporary residence, an alien who is inadmissible or 5 6 deportable from the United States if— 7 "(A) the alien— "(i) has been physically present in the 8 9 United States for a continuous period of 10 not less than 10 years immediately pre-11 ceding the date of the alien's application; "(ii) subject to paragraph (7), was re-12 13 moved, deported, or permitted to depart 14 voluntarily from the United States after 15 having been physically present in the United States for a continuous period of 16 17 not less than 10 years; 18 "(iii) has been granted deferred action 19 pursuant to the Deferred Action for Child-20 hood Arrivals Memorandum announced by 21 the Secretary of Homeland Security on 22 June 15, 2012, or would have otherwise 23 qualified for the Deferred Action for Child-24 hood Arrivals announced by the Secretary

1	of Homeland Security pursuant to the No-
2	vember 14, 2014, Memorandum; or
3	"(iv) would have been eligible for a
4	grant of deferred action pursuant to such
5	policy, if the memorandum announcing the
6	policy were fully in effect since the date
7	issued;
8	"(B) the alien is the parent of a son or
9	daughter who—
10	"(i) is a citizen or national of the
11	United States; or
12	"(ii) initially entered the United
13	States while under 16 years of age and has
14	been continuously physically present in the
15	United States since such entry; and
16	"(C) the alien—
17	"(i) is not inadmissible under para-
18	graph $(1)$ , $(6)(E)$ , $(6)(G)$ , $(8)$ , or $(10)$ of
19	section 212(a);
20	"(ii) has not ordered, incited, assisted,
21	or otherwise participated in the persecution
22	of any person on account of race, religion,
23	nationality, membership in a particular so-
24	cial group, or political opinion; and

1	"(iii) is not barred from adjustment of
2	status under this subsection based on the
3	criminal and national security grounds de-
4	scribed under paragraph (3), subject to the
5	provisions of such paragraph.
6	"(2) Determination of continuous pres-
7	ENCE.—
8	"(A) EFFECT OF NOTICE TO APPEAR.—
9	Any period of continuous physical presence in
10	the United States of an alien who applies for
11	temporary resident status under this subsection
12	shall not terminate when the alien is served a
13	notice to appear under section 239(a).
14	"(B) Treatment of certain breaks in
15	PRESENCE OR RESIDENCE.—
16	"(i) In general.—Except as pro-
17	vided in clauses (ii) and (iii), an alien shall
18	be considered to have failed to maintain
19	continuous physical presence in the United
20	States under this subsection if the alien
21	has departed from the United States for
22	any period exceeding 90 days or for any
23	periods, in the aggregate, exceeding 180
24	days.

1	"(ii) Extensions for extenuating
2	CIRCUMSTANCES.—The Secretary may ex-
3	tend the time period described in clause (i)
4	for an alien who demonstrates that the
5	failure to timely return to the United
6	States was due to extenuating cir-
7	cumstances beyond the alien's control, in-
8	cluding the serious illness of the alien, or
9	death or serious illness of a parent, grand-
10	parent, sibling, or child of the alien.
11	"(iii) Travel authorized by the
12	SECRETARY.—Any period of travel outside
13	of the United States by an alien that was
14	authorized by the Secretary of Homeland
15	Secretary may not be counted toward any
16	period of departure from the United States
17	under clause (i).
18	"(3) Criminal and National Security
19	BARS.—
20	"(A) Grounds of ineligibility.—Ex-
21	cept as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C),
22	an alien is ineligible for cancellation of removal
23	and adjustment of status under this subsection
24	if any of the following apply:

1	"(i) The alien is inadmissible under
2	paragraph (2) or (3) of section 212(a) of
3	the Immigration and Nationality Act.
4	"(ii) Excluding any offense under
5	State law for which an essential element is
6	the alien's immigration status, and any
7	minor traffic offense, the alien has been
8	convicted of—
9	"(I) any felony offense;
10	"(II) three or more misdemeanor
11	offenses (excluding simple possession
12	of cannabis or cannabis-related para-
13	phernalia, any offense involving can-
14	nabis or cannabis-related para-
15	phernalia which is no longer prosecut-
16	able in the State in which the convic-
17	tion was entered, and any offense in-
18	volving civil disobedience without vio-
19	lence) not occurring on the same date,
20	and not arising out of the same act,
21	omission, or scheme of misconduct; or
22	"(III) a misdemeanor offense of
23	domestic violence, unless the alien
24	demonstrates that such crime is re-
25	lated to the alien having been—

1	"(aa) a victim of domestic
2	violence, sexual assault, stalking,
3	child abuse or neglect, abuse or
4	neglect in later life, or human
5	trafficking;
6	"(bb) battered or subjected
7	to extreme cruelty; or
8	"(ce) a victim of criminal ac-
9	tivity described in section
10	101(a)(15)(U)(iii).
11	"(B) Treatment of Certain of-
12	FENSES.—
13	"(i) In General.—Notwithstanding
14	section 101(h), a crime described in clause
15	(ii) shall only be considered for purposes of
16	this subsection if—
17	"(I) such crime involves personal
18	injury or death to another; or
19	"(II) the alien has been convicted
20	of such a crime more than once dur-
21	ing the 10 years immediately pre-
22	ceding the date of the alien's applica-
23	tion.
24	"(ii) Crime described.—A crime de-
25	scribed in this clause is—

1	"(I) a crime of reckless driving
2	or of driving while intoxicated or
3	under the influence of alcohol or of
4	controlled substances; or
5	"(II) a crime involving controlled
6	substances.
7	"(C) Waivers for Certain Mis-
8	DEMEANORS.—For humanitarian purposes,
9	family unity, or if otherwise in the public inter-
10	est, the Secretary may—
11	"(i) waive the grounds of inadmis-
12	sibility under subparagraphs (A), (C), and
13	(D) of section 212(a)(2), unless the convic-
14	tion forming the basis for inadmissibility
15	would otherwise render the alien ineligible
16	under subparagraph (A)(ii) (subject to
17	clause (ii)); and
18	"(ii) for purposes of subclauses (II)
19	and (III) of subparagraph (A)(ii), waive
20	consideration of—
21	"(I) one misdemeanor offense if
22	the alien has not been convicted of
23	any offense in the 5-year period pre-
24	ceding the date on which the alien ap-

1	plies for adjustment of status under
2	this subsection; or
3	"(II) up to two misdemeanor of-
4	fenses if the alien has not been con-
5	victed of any offense in the 10-year
6	period preceding the date on which
7	the alien applies for adjustment of
8	status under this subsection.
9	"(D) Authority to conduct sec-
10	ONDARY REVIEW.—
11	"(i) In General.—Notwithstanding
12	an alien's eligibility for adjustment of sta-
13	tus under this subsection, and subject to
14	the procedures described in this subpara-
15	graph, the Secretary of Homeland Security
16	or the Attorney General may, as a matter
17	of non-delegable discretion, provisionally
18	deny an application for adjustment of sta-
19	tus if the Secretary or the Attorney Gen-
20	eral, based on clear and convincing evi-
21	dence, which shall include credible law en-
22	forcement information, determines that the
23	alien is described in clause (ii) or (iv).
24	"(ii) Public safety.—An alien is de-
25	scribed in this clause if—

1	"(I) excluding simple possession
2	of cannabis or cannabis-related para-
3	phernalia, any offense involving can-
4	nabis or cannabis-related para-
5	phernalia which is no longer prosecut-
6	able in the State in which the convic-
7	tion was entered, any offense under
8	State law for which an essential ele-
9	ment is the alien's immigration sta-
10	tus, any offense involving civil disobe-
11	dience without violence, and any
12	minor traffic offense, the alien—
13	"(aa) has been convicted of
14	a misdemeanor offense punish-
15	able by a term of imprisonment
16	of more than 30 days; or
17	"(bb) has been adjudicated
18	delinquent in a State or local ju-
19	venile court proceeding that re-
20	sulted in a disposition ordering
21	placement in a secure facility;
22	and
23	"(II) the alien poses a significant
24	and continuing threat to public safety

related to such conviction or adjudication.

"(iii) Public safety determination.—For purposes of clause (ii)(II), the Secretary shall consider the recency of the conviction or adjudication; the length of any imposed sentence or placement; the nature and seriousness of the conviction or adjudication, including whether the elements of the offense include the unlawful possession or use of a deadly weapon to commit an offense or other conduct intended to cause serious bodily injury; and any mitigating factors pertaining to the alien's role in the commission of the offense.

"(iv) Gang participation.—An alien is described in this clause if the alien has, within the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application, knowingly, willfully, and voluntarily participated in offenses committed by a criminal street gang (as described in subsections (a) and (c) of section 521 of title 18, United States

1 Code) with the intent to promote or fur-2 ther the commission of such offenses.

"(v) EVIDENTIARY LIMITATION.—For purposes of clause (iv), allegations of gang membership obtained from a State or Federal in-house or local database, or a network of databases used for the purpose of recording and sharing activities of alleged gang members across law enforcement agencies, shall not establish the participation described in such clause.

#### "(vi) Notice.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—Prior to rendering a discretionary decision under this subparagraph, the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General shall provide written notice of the intent to provisionally deny the application to the alien (or the alien's counsel of record, if any) by certified mail and, if an electronic mail address is provided, by electronic mail (or other form of electronic communication). Such notice shall—

1 "(aa) articulate with speci-
2 ficity all grounds for the prelimi-
nary determination, including the
evidence relied upon to support
5 the determination; and
6 "(bb) provide the alien with
not less than 90 days to respond.
8 "(II) SECOND NOTICE.—Not
9 more than 30 days after the issuance
of the notice under subclause (I), the
1 Secretary of Homeland Security or
the Attorney General shall provide a
second written notice that meets the
4 requirements of such clause.
5 "(III) Notice not received.—
Notwithstanding any other provision
of law, if an applicant provides good
cause for not contesting a provisional
denial under this paragraph, including
a failure to receive notice as required
under this subparagraph, the Sec-
retary of Homeland Security or the
Attorney General shall, upon a motion
filed by the alien, reopen an applica-
tion for adjustment of status under

1	this subsection and allow the appli-
2	cant an opportunity to respond, con-
3	sistent with subclause (I)(bb).
4	"(E) Definitions.—For purposes of this
5	paragraph—
6	"(i) the term 'felony offense' means
7	an offense under Federal or State law that
8	is punishable by a maximum term of im-
9	prisonment of more than 1 year;
10	"(ii) the term 'misdemeanor offense'
11	means an offense under Federal or State
12	law that is punishable by a term of impris-
13	onment of more than 5 days but not more
14	than 1 year;
15	"(iii) the term 'crime of domestic vio-
16	lence' means any offense that has as an
17	element the use, attempted use, or threat-
18	ened use of physical force against a person
19	committed by a current or former spouse
20	of the person, by an individual with whom
21	the person shares a child in common, by
22	an individual who is cohabiting with or has
23	cohabited with the person as a spouse, by
24	an individual similarly situated to a spouse
25	of the person under the domestic or family

violence laws of the jurisdiction where the
offense occurs, or by any other individual
against a person who is protected from
that individual's acts under the domestic
or family violence laws of the United
States or any State, Indian tribal govern-
ment, or unit of local government; and
"(iv) the terms 'convicted', 'convic-
tion', 'adjudicated', and 'adjudication' do
not include a judgment that has been ex-
punged or set aside, that resulted in a re-
habilitative disposition, or the equivalent.
"(4) Work authorization.—In the case of an
alien who has temporary resident status under this
subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall
authorize the alien to engage in employment in the
United States and provide the alien with an 'employ-
ment authorized' endorsement or other appropriate
work permit. Work authorization provided under this
paragraph shall be effective throughout the period
the alien is in temporary resident status under this
subsection.
"(5) Terms of status.—
"(A) In General.—Temporary resident

status under this subsection shall be valid for a

1	period of 3 years, unless such period is ex-
2	tended or renewed.
3	"(B) Renewal.—In the case of an alien
4	who has temporary resident status under this
5	subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security
6	shall renew the status in 3-year increments,
7	with no limit on the number of such renewals,
8	if—
9	"(i) the alien files a nonfrivolous ap-
10	plication for renewal before the date of ex-
11	piration of the period of stay authorized by
12	the Secretary; and
13	"(ii) the Secretary determines that
14	the alien continues to meet the conditions
15	for adjustment of status under this sub-
16	section.
17	"(C) Automatic extension during
18	PENDENCY OF APPLICATION.—In the case of an
19	alien who files a nonfrivolous application for re-
20	newal before the date of expiration of the period
21	of stay authorized by the Secretary, the alien's
22	period of temporary resident status and work
23	authorization shall be deemed extended during

the pendency of the application.

1	"(6) Documents establishing continuous
2	PHYSICAL PRESENCE.—To establish that an alien
3	has been continuously physically present in the
4	United States, as required under paragraph (1), the
5	alien may submit the following forms of evidence:
6	"(A) Passport entries, including admission
7	stamps on the alien's passport.
8	"(B) Any document from the Department
9	of Justice or the Department of Homeland Se-
10	curity noting the alien's date of entry into the
11	United States.
12	"(C) Records from any educational institu-
13	tion the alien has attended in the United
14	States.
15	"(D) Employment records of the alien that
16	include the employer's name and contact infor-
17	mation, or other records demonstrating earned
18	income.
19	"(E) Records of service from the Uni-
20	formed Services.
21	"(F) Official records from a religious enti-
22	ty confirming the alien's participation in a reli-
23	gious ceremony.
24	"(G) A birth certificate for a child who
25	was born in the United States.

1	"(H) Hospital or medical records showing
2	medical treatment or hospitalization, the name
3	of the medical facility or physician, and the
4	date of the treatment or hospitalization.
5	"(I) Automobile license receipts or reg-
6	istration.
7	"(J) Deeds, mortgages, or rental agree-
8	ment contracts.
9	"(K) Rent receipts or utility bills bearing
10	the alien's name or the name of an immediate
11	family member of the alien, and the alien's ad-
12	dress.
13	"(L) Tax receipts.
14	"(M) Insurance policies.
15	"(N) Remittance records, including copies
16	of money order receipts sent in or out of the
17	country.
18	"(O) Travel records.
19	"(P) Dated bank transactions.
20	"(Q) Two or more sworn affidavits from
21	individuals who are not related to the alien who
22	have direct knowledge of the alien's continuous
23	physical presence in the United States, that
24	contain—

1	"(i) the name, address, and telephone
2	number of the affiant; and
3	"(ii) the nature and duration of the
4	relationship between the affiant and the
5	alien.
6	"(R) Any other evidence determined to be
7	credible by the Secretary of Homeland Security
8	or the Attorney General.
9	"(7) Eligibility of removed, deported, or
10	VOLUNTARILY DEPARTED ALIENS.—An alien who
11	was removed, deported, or permitted to depart vol-
12	untarily from the United States may apply for relief
13	under this subsection from abroad if the reason for
14	their removal, deportation, or voluntary departure
15	was that the alien—
16	"(A) was present in the United States
17	after the expiration of the period of stay au-
18	thorized by the Secretary of Homeland Security
19	or was present in the United States without
20	being admitted or paroled; or
21	"(B) committed an offense, if that offense
22	does not render the alien ineligible for relief
23	under this subsection pursuant to the provisions
24	of paragraph (3).
25	"(8) Construction.—

1	"(A) In general.—A denial of cancella-
2	tion of removal under any other provision of
3	this section shall not prejudice a decision under
4	this subsection. An alien's eligibility for tem-
5	porary resident status under this subsection
6	shall not preclude the alien from seeking any
7	status under any other provision of law for
8	which the alien may otherwise be eligible.

- "(B) DETERMINATION OF CONTINUOUS PRESENCE AND RESIDENCE.—Subsection (d) shall not apply to cancellation of removal or adjustment of status under this subsection.
- "(C) Annual Limitation.—Subsection
  (e) shall not apply to cancellation of removal or adjustment of status under this subsection.".

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