

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 457

To prohibit Executive agencies from using the derogatory term “alien” to refer to an individual who is not a citizen or national of the United States, to amend chapter 1 of title 1, United States Code, to establish a uniform definition for the term “foreign national”, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 25, 2021

Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. AGUILAR, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Mr. GALLEG0) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To prohibit Executive agencies from using the derogatory term “alien” to refer to an individual who is not a citizen or national of the United States, to amend chapter 1 of title 1, United States Code, to establish a uniform definition for the term “foreign national”, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Correcting Hurtful and
3 Alienating Names in Government Expression (CHANGE)
4 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. MODERNIZATION OF LANGUAGE REFERRING TO IN-**
6 **DIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT CITIZENS OR NA-**
7 **TIONALS OF THE UNITED STATES.**

8 An Executive agency (as defined in section 105 of
9 title 5, United States Code) shall not use the following
10 terms in any proposed or final rule, regulation, interpreta-
11 tion, publication, other document, display, or sign issued
12 by the agency after the date of the enactment of this Act,
13 except to the extent that the term is used in quoting or
14 reproducing text written by a source other than an officer
15 (as defined in section 2104 of title 5, United States Code)
16 or employee (as defined in section 2105 of title 5, United
17 States Code) of the agency:

18 (1) The term “alien”, when used to refer to an
19 individual who is not a citizen or national of the
20 United States.

21 (2) The term “illegal alien” when used to refer
22 to an individual who is unlawfully present in the
23 United States or who lacks a lawful immigration
24 status in the United States.

1 **SEC. 3. UNIFORM DEFINITION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 1, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 **“§ 9. Definition of ‘foreign national’**

6 “In determining the meaning of any Act of Congress,
7 or of any ruling, regulation, or interpretation of various
8 administrative bureaus and agencies of the United States,
9 the term ‘foreign national’ means any individual other
10 than an individual—

11 “(1) who is a citizen of the United States; or

12 “(2) though not a citizen of the United States,
13 who owes permanent allegiance to the United
14 States.”.

15 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
16 for chapter 1 of title 1, United States Code, is amended
17 by adding at the end the following:

“9. Definition of ‘foreign national’.”.

18 **SEC. 4. REFERENCES.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Any reference in any Federal
20 statute, rule, regulation, Executive order, publication, or
21 other document of the United States—

22 (1) to the term “alien”, when used to refer to
23 an individual who is not a citizen or national of the
24 United States, is deemed to refer to the term “for-
25 eign national”; and

(2) to the term “illegal alien”, when used to refer to an individual who is unlawfully present in the United States or who lacks a lawful immigration status in the United States, is deemed to refer to the term “undocumented foreign national”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 421(5)(A)(ii)(II) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658(5)(A)(ii)(II)) is amended by striking “illegal aliens” and inserting “undocumented foreign nationals”.

(2) Section 432(e) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 240(e)) is amended by striking “illegal alien” and inserting “undocumented foreign national”.

(3) Section 439 of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1252c) is amended in the section heading by striking “**ILLEGAL ALIENS**” and inserting “**UNDOCUMENTED FOREIGN NATIONALS**”.

(4) Section 280(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1330(b)(3)(A)(iii)) is amended by striking “illegal aliens” and inserting “undocumented foreign nationals”.

1 (5) Section 286(r)(3)(ii) of the Immigration
2 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(r)(3)(ii)) is
3 amended by striking “illegal aliens” and inserting
4 “undocumented foreign nationals”.

5 (6) Section 501 of the Immigration Reform and
6 Control Act of 1986 (8 U.S.C. 1365) is amended—

7 (A) in the section heading, by striking “**IL-**
8 **LEGAL ALIENS**” and inserting “**UNDOCU-**
9 **MENTED FOREIGN NATIONALS**”;

10 (B) in the subsection heading for sub-
11 section (b), by striking “**ILLEGAL ALIENS**” and
12 inserting “**UNDOCUMENTED FOREIGN NATION-**
13 **ALS**”; and

14 (C) by striking “illegal alien” each place
15 such term appears and inserting “undocu-
16 mented foreign national”.

17 (7) Section 332 of the Omnibus Consolidated
18 Appropriations Act, 1997 (8 U.S.C. 1366) is amend-
19 ed by striking “illegal aliens” each place such term
20 appears and inserting “undocumented foreign na-
21 tionals”.

22 (8) Section 411(d) of the Personal Responsi-
23 bility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of
24 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1621(d)) is amended in the sub-

1 section heading by striking “ILLEGAL ALIENS” and
2 inserting “UNDOCUMENTED FOREIGN NATIONALS”.

3 (9) Section 106(e) of the Public Works Employ-
4 ment Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6705(e)) is amended
5 in the subsection heading by striking “ILLEGAL
6 ALIENS” and inserting “UNDOCUMENTED FOREIGN
7 NATIONALS”.

8 (10) Section 40125(a)(2) of title 49, United
9 States Code, is amended by striking “illegal aliens”
10 and inserting “undocumented foreign nationals”.

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