

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2625

To authorize the admission of a limited number of Kurdish Syrians and other Syrian partners as special immigrants, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 17, 2019

Mr. WARNER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To authorize the admission of a limited number of Kurdish Syrians and other Syrian partners as special immigrants, 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 “Syrian Allies Protec-
5 tion Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS FOR PERSONS WORK-**
7 **ING DIRECTLY WITH THE UNITED STATES**
8 **ARMED FORCES IN SYRIA.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c)(1), the
10 Secretary of Homeland Security may provide an alien de-

1 scribed in subsection (b) with the status of a special immi-
2 grant under section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and
3 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) if the alien—

4 (1) submits a petition under section 204 of
5 such Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) for classification under
6 section 203(b)(4) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(4));
7 and

8 (2) is otherwise eligible to receive an immigrant
9 visa and is otherwise admissible to the United States
10 for permanent residence, except in determining such
11 admissibility, the grounds for inadmissibility speci-
12 fied in section 212(a)(4) of such Act (8 U.S.C.
13 1182(a)(4)) shall not apply.

14 (b) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—An alien described in this
15 subsection—

16 (1)(A) is a national of Syria;

17 (B) worked directly with the United States
18 Armed Forces as a translator or in another role that
19 was vital to the success of the United States military
20 mission in Syria, as determined by the Secretary of
21 Defense or his designee, for a period of at least 6
22 months between September 13, 2014, and October
23 15, 2019;

24 (C) obtained a favorable written recommenda-
25 tion from a general or flag officer in the chain of

1 command of the United States Armed Forces unit
2 that was supported by the alien; and

3 (D) cleared a background check and screening
4 before filing a petition under subsection (a)(1), as
5 determined by a general or flag officer in the chain
6 of command of the United States Armed Forces unit
7 that was supported by the alien; or

8 (2)(A) is the spouse or child of a principal alien
9 described in paragraph (1); and

10 (B) is following or accompanying to join such
11 principal alien.

12 (c) NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The total number of prin-
14 cipal aliens who may be provided special immigrant
15 status under this section during any fiscal year may
16 not exceed 250.

17 (2) COUNTING AGAINST SPECIAL IMMIGRANT
18 CAP.—For purposes of the application of sections
19 201 through 203 of the Immigration and Nationality
20 Act (8 U.S.C. 1151 through 1153) in any fiscal
21 year, aliens eligible for special immigrant status
22 under this section—

23 (A) shall be treated as special immigrants
24 described in section 101(a)(27) of such Act (8
25 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) who are not described in

1 subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (K) of such sec-
2 tion; and

3 (B) shall not be counted against the nu-
4 merical limitations under sections 201(d),
5 202(a), and 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and
6 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(d), 1152(a),
7 and 1153(b)(4)).

8 (d) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—Notwithstanding
9 paragraphs (2), (7), and (8) of section 245(c) of the Immi-
10 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255(c)), the Sec-
11 retary of Homeland Security may adjust the status of an
12 alien to that of a lawful permanent resident under section
13 245(a) of such Act if the alien—

14 (1) was paroled or admitted as a nonimmigrant
15 into the United States; and

16 (2) is otherwise eligible for special immigrant
17 status under this section and under the Immigration
18 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

19 **SEC. 3. EVACUATION FRAMEWORK.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in con-
21 sultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary
22 of Homeland Security, shall develop and implement a
23 framework for—

24 (1) temporarily resettling individuals applying
25 for special immigrant status whose lives or safety is

1 at risk if they remain in their country of origin or
2 country of last habitual residence in a safe third
3 country while appropriate background checks are
4 conducted on such individuals; and

5 (2) granting humanitarian parole to individuals
6 described in paragraph (1) pursuant to section
7 212(d)(5)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality
8 Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)(B)).

9 (b) EFFECT OF RECOMMENDATION.—If the Sec-
10 retary of Homeland Security determines that an alien who
11 has obtained a favorable written recommendation pursu-
12 ant to subparagraph (C) of section 2(b)(1), or the spouse
13 or child of such alien, would be exposed to significant risk
14 to his or her life or safety while waiting for the results
15 of the background check and screening described in sub-
16 paragraph (D) of such section, such recommendation shall
17 be deemed to constitute sufficient evidence of a compelling
18 reason—

19 (1) to temporarily resettle the alien and his or
20 her spouse and children, if applicable, in a safe third
21 country; or

22 (2) to parole the alien and his or her spouse
23 and children, if applicable, pursuant to section
24 212(d)(5)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality
25 Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)(B)).

1 **SEC. 4. RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE.**

2 Syrian aliens granted special immigrant status under
3 section 2 shall be eligible for resettlement assistance, enti-
4 tlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees
5 admitted under section 207 of the Immigration and Na-
6 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) for a period not to exceed
7 6 months.

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