

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7298

To provide for a pilot program to accord lawful permanent residence.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Mr. RYAN (for himself and Mr. JAMES) introduced the following bill; which
was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide for a pilot program to accord lawful permanent
residence.

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 “Courage to Serve Act
5 of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland
9 Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense,
10 shall establish a pilot program (hereinafter in this Act re-

1 ferred to as “the program”) to provide for an expedited
2 process for adjustment of status for certain aliens.

3 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—An alien is eligible to participate
4 in the program if the alien—

5 (1) successfully completes a background inves-
6 tigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Inves-
7 tigation;

8 (2) submits an application for participation in
9 the program at such time, in such form, and includ-
10 ing such information as the Secretary may by rule
11 require; and

12 (3) as of the date of application to the pro-
13 gram—

14 (A) has—

15 (i) no lawful status under the immi-
16 gration laws; or

17 (ii) temporary protected status under
18 section 244 of the Immigration and Na-
19 tionality Act;

20 (B) is not inadmissible to the United
21 States; and

22 (C) is otherwise eligible for enlistment in
23 the Armed Forces.

24 (c) EXPEDITED PROCESS.—In the case of a partici-
25 pant in the program, the following shall apply:

1 (1) Not later than 180 days after the date of
2 enlistment in the Armed Forces, the participant
3 shall submit an application for adjustment of status
4 to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent
5 residency, at such time, in such form, and including
6 such information as the Secretary may by rule re-
7 quire.

8 (2) The Secretary shall provide technical assist-
9 ance with the preparation of an application referred
10 to under paragraph (1).

11 (3) If the alien completes 3 years of honorable
12 service in the Armed Forces or if the alien completes
13 1 year of honorable service in an active-duty status
14 in the Armed Forces or if the alien completes 30-
15 days of honorable service in a designated combat
16 zone, the Secretary shall provide expedited consider-
17 ation of such an application.

18 (d) NOT SUBJECT TO NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—
19 An alien whose status is adjusted to that of an alien law-
20 fully admitted for permanent residency under this section
21 is not subject to the worldwide levels or numerical limita-
22 tions of section 201(a) of the Immigration and Nationality
23 Act.

24 (e) STATUS DURING PARTICIPATION.—A participant
25 in the program may not be detained under the immigra-

1 tion laws, and no removal proceeding may be commenced
2 or continued against such participant.

3 (f) EFFECT ON OTHER IMMIGRATION BENEFITS.—

4 Nothing in this Act may be construed to provide that ap-
5 plication to or participation in the program precludes an
6 alien from applying for asylum or parole.

7 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8 For purposes of this Act:

9 (1) Terms used have the meanings given such
10 terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nation-
11 ality Act.

12 (2) The term “Armed Forces” means the
13 Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Air
14 Force, including the reserve components.

15 (3) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
16 of Homeland Security.

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