

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10504

To establish in the Department of Homeland Security the Task Force on the Reunification of Families, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 18, 2024

Mrs. RAMIREZ (for herself, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CARSON, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. THANEDAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish in the Department of Homeland Security the Task Force on the Reunification of Families, 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 “Family Reunification
5 Task Force Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TASK FORCE ON THE REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
3 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Home-
4 land Security, in coordination with the Secretary of State,
5 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the At-
6 torney General, shall establish in the Department of
7 Homeland Security a task force on the reunification of
8 families, to be known as the “Task Force on the Reunifi-
9 cation of Families” (in this section referred to as the
10 “Task Force”).

11 (b) ACTIVITIES.—The Task Force shall carry out the
12 following:

13 (1) Identify all covered children.

14 (2) Provide recommendations to the Secretary
15 of Homeland Security concerning the following:

16 (A) The legal authorities necessary to re-
17 unite such covered children with their parents
18 or legal guardians.

19 (B) The exercise of parole under section
20 212(d)(5)(A) of the Immigration and Nation-
21 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)(A)) to reunite
22 such covered children with their parents or legal
23 guardians.

24 (C) The issuance of visas or other immi-
25 gration benefits to reunite such covered children
26 with their parents or legal guardians.

1 (D) The provision of additional services
2 and support to such covered children and their
3 parents or legal guardians, including trauma
4 and mental health services.

5 (E) Reunification of any additional family
6 members of such covered children, such as sib-
7 lings.

8 (c) CONSULTATION.—In developing the recommenda-
9 tions under paragraph (2) of subsection (b), the Task
10 Force shall consult with the following:

11 (1) Relevant stakeholders, including domestic
12 and international non-governmental organizations.

13 (2) Representatives of covered children.

14 (d) REPORTS.—Not later than 60 days after the es-
15 tablishment of the Task Force and every 60 days there-
16 after, the Task Force shall report to the appropriate con-
17 gressional committees on the activities of the Task Force
18 during the immediately preceding 60-day period, including
19 relating to any recommendations under subsection (b)(2)
20 that require congressional action.

21 (e) SUNSET.—This Act shall terminate on the date
22 that is—

23 (1) 120 days after the date on which all covered
24 children have been reunited with their parents or
25 legal guardians, or

1 (2) January 20, 2039,

2 whichever is earliest.

3 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
5 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
6 mittees” means—

7 (A) in the House of Representatives—

8 (i) the Committee on Homeland Secu-
9 rity;

10 (ii) the Committee on the Judiciary;

11 (iii) the Committee on Energy and
12 Commerce; and

13 (iv) the Committee on Foreign Af-
14 fairs; and

15 (B) in the Senate—

16 (i) the Committee on Homeland Secu-
17 rity and Governmental Affairs;

18 (ii) the Committee on the Judiciary;

19 (iii) the Committee on Health, Edu-
20 cation, Labor and Pensions; and

21 (iv) the Committee on Foreign Rela-
22 tions of the Senate.

23 (2) COVERED CHILDREN.—The term “covered
24 children” means all persons who were under the age
25 of 18 who were separated from their parents or legal

1 guardians at the United States–Mexico border be-
2 tween January 20, 2017, and January 20, 2021, in
3 connection with the implementation of the Zero-Tol-
4 erance Policy.

5 (3) ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY.—The term
6 “Zero-Tolerance Policy” means—

7 (A) the policy specified in the Attorney
8 General’s memorandum of April 6, 2018, enti-
9 tled “Zero-Tolerance for Offenses Under 8
10 U.S.C. § 1325(a)”; or

11 (B) any other related policy, program,
12 practice, or initiative.

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