

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5587

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 18 (legislative day, DECEMBER 16), 2024

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. MARKEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and 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”.

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

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Home-
9 land Security, in coordination with the Secretary of State,

1 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the At-
2 torney General, shall establish in the Department of
3 Homeland Security a task force on the reunification of
4 families, to be known as the “Task Force on the Reunifi-
5 cation of Families” (in this section referred to as the
6 “Task Force”).

7 (b) ACTIVITIES.—The Task Force shall carry out the
8 following:

9 (1) Identify all covered children.

10 (2) Provide recommendations to the Secretary
11 of Homeland Security concerning the following:

12 (A) The legal authorities necessary to re-
13 unite such covered children with their parents
14 or legal guardians.

15 (B) The exercise of parole under section
16 212(d)(5)(A) of the Immigration and Nation-
17 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)(A)) to reunite
18 such covered children with their parents or legal
19 guardians.

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

23 (D) The provision of additional services
24 and support to such covered children and their

1 parents or legal guardians, including trauma
2 and mental health services.

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

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

9 (1) Relevant stakeholders, including domestic
10 and international non-governmental organizations.

11 (2) Representatives of covered children.

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

19 (e) SUNSET.—This Act shall terminate on the earliest
20 of—

21 (1) the date that is 120 days after the date on
22 which all covered children have been reunited with
23 their parents or legal guardians; or

24 (2) January 20, 2039.

25 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Homeland Security
5 and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on
6 the Judiciary, the Committee on Health, Edu-
7 cation, Labor and Pensions, and the Committee
8 on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

9 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security,
10 the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee
11 on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee
12 on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-
13 tives.

14 (2) COVERED CHILDREN.—The term “covered
15 children” means all persons who, between January
16 20, 2017, and January 20, 2021, were—

17 (A) under the age of 18; and

18 (B) separated from their parents or legal
19 guardians at the United States–Mexico border
20 in connection with the implementation of the
21 Zero-Tolerance Policy.

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

24 (A) the policy specified in the memo-
25 randum issued by the Attorney General on

1 April 6, 2018, entitled “Zero-Tolerance for Of-
2 fenses Under 8 U.S.C. § 1325(a)”;

3 (B) any other related policy, program,
4 practice, or initiative.

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