

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To provide Nicaraguan political prisoners who arrived in the United States on February 9, 2023, and their immediate family members with certain benefits available to refugees.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KAINE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To provide Nicaraguan political prisoners who arrived in the United States on February 9, 2023, and their immediate family members with certain benefits available to refugees.

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 “Nicaragua Political  
5 Prisoner Support Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINED TERM.**

7 In this section, the term “eligible Nicaraguan na-  
8 tional” means an alien—

1           (1)(A)(i) who is a citizen or national of Nica-  
2           ragua; or

3           (ii) in the case of an alien having no nation-  
4           ality, whose former or last habitual residence was in  
5           Nicaragua; and

6           (B) who arrived in the United States on Feb-  
7           ruary 9, 2023, as part of a political prisoner release,  
8           and was granted a 2-year humanitarian parole by  
9           the United States Government; or

10          (2) who is the parent, spouse, or child of an in-  
11          dividual described in paragraph (1).

12 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**

13          Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an eligi-  
14          ble Nicaraguan national is eligible for the benefits de-  
15          scribed in section 4 if—

16          (1) such individual has completed security and  
17          law enforcement background checks to the satisfac-  
18          tion of the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

19          (2) such individual's parole—

20                  (A) has not been terminated by the Sec-  
21                  retary of Homeland Security; or

22                  (B) was terminated while a renewal appli-  
23                  cation was pending for such parole and the sole  
24                  reason for such termination was that the re-  
25                  newal application had not yet been processed.

1 **SEC. 4. BENEFITS.**

2 An individual described in section 3 is eligible for—

3 (1) resettlement assistance, entitlement pro-  
4 grams, and other benefits that are available to refu-  
5 gees admitted under section 207 of the Immigration  
6 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) to the same ex-  
7 tent as such refugees;

8 (2) child welfare services described in section  
9 412(d)(2) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(d)(2)); and

10 (3) a driver's license or identification card  
11 under section 202 of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (di-  
12 vision B of Public Law 109–13; 49 U.S.C. 30301  
13 note), notwithstanding subsection (c)(2)(B) of such  
14 Act.

15 **SEC. 5. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act may be con-  
17 strued—

18 (1) to preclude an eligible Nicaraguan national  
19 from applying for or receiving any immigration bene-  
20 fits to which such individual is otherwise eligible; or

21 (2) to entitle an eligible Nicaraguan national to  
22 lawful permanent resident status.

23 (b) CALCULATION OF INCOME FOR MEANS-TESTED  
24 PUBLIC BENEFITS PROGRAMS.—Section 421(a) of the  
25 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconcili-  
26 ation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1631(a)) shall not apply with

1 respect to determining the eligibility for any benefits de-  
2 scribed in section 4 or the amount of such benefits.

3 **SEC. 6. EXEMPTION FROM THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION**

4 **ACT.**

5 The requirements under chapter 35 of title 44,  
6 United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Paper-  
7 work Reduction Act”) shall not apply to any action taken  
8 to implement this section involving the translation of an  
9 approved collection of information into a new language.