

HR 1520

Uniting Families Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Mar 13, 2017

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security. (Mar 21, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1520>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]

Party: Democratic • **State:** WI • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (2 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28] | D · CA | | May 25, 2017 |
| Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-8] | R · PA | | Oct 24, 2017 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Judiciary Committee | House | Referred to | Mar 21, 2017 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Uniting Families Act of 2017

This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish a non-immigrant W-visa category for an alien who: (1) is 18 or older and is the genetic son or daughter of a U.S. citizen who served in the Armed Forces on active duty abroad, or (2) is the spouse or child of such alien and is accompanying, or following to join, such alien.

A visa shall not be issued until a petition has been filed in the United States by the applicant's citizen parent and approved by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Such petition shall include:

- DNA evidence establishing that the alien is the petitioner's genetic child,
- a written agreement that the parent will provide financial support until the alien's status is adjusted to lawful permanent resident status, and
- information establishing that the petitioner is a U.S. citizen who served in the Armed Forces on active duty abroad.

The bill provides that: (1) the period of authorized admission for a W-visa alien is five years, which may be extended for one additional two-year period; and (2) the total number of principal W-visa aliens who may be admitted during any fiscal is 5,000.

The bill prescribes the criteria that a W-visa alien must meet in order to adjust to lawful permanent resident status, including an understanding of the English language and U.S. history. (Such language and history requirements for naturalization purposes shall not apply to a person who has satisfied them in adjusting from W-visa status to lawful permanent resident status.)

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 21, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.
- **Mar 13, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 13, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.