

## S 2915

### POWER Act

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Immigration

**Introduced:** May 22, 2018

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (May 22, 2018)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2915>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		May 22, 2018
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		May 22, 2018
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		May 22, 2018
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		May 22, 2018

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 22, 2018

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Immigration

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 5908	Related bill	Jul 24, 2018: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.

## Protect Our Workers from Exploitation and Retaliation Act or the POWER Act

This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to expand the nonimmigrant U-visa category (crime victims and their immediate family members) to include an alien who:

- has suffered substantial abuse or harm resulting from a workplace violation claim;
- is a victim of specified criminal activity or a workplace violation and would suffer extreme hardship upon removal;
- has been helpful in a workplace violation investigation; or
- has filed, is a material witness in, or is likely to be helpful in the investigation of, a workplace claim and reasonably fears, or has been the victim of, employer retaliation.

An alien who is a material witness in a workplace claim and who has been helpful in a related law enforcement action may remain and work temporarily in the United States.

In a Department of Homeland Security workplace enforcement action a detained alien: (1) who is necessary as a witness shall not be removed until the appropriate law enforcement agency is notified and has an opportunity to interview such individual, and (2) who is entitled to a stay or abeyance of removal shall not be removed.

An alien in removal proceedings who is a witness in a workplace claim or who has filed for U-visa status shall be entitled to a stay or abeyance of removal and permitted to work until the claim's disposition unless the alien has been convicted of a felony or filed a bad faith claim.

### Actions Timeline

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- **May 22, 2018:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 22, 2018:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.