

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

- **May 22, 2018:** Introduced in Senate
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