

HR 8708

American Families United Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Oct 30, 2020

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. (Oct 30, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8708>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Escobar, Veronica [D-TX-16]

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]	D · FL		Oct 30, 2020
Rep. Woodall, Rob [R-GA-7]	R · GA		Oct 30, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Oct 30, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

American Families United Act

This bill limits what constitutes a conviction for immigration purposes and contains other related provisions. (A conviction can in certain instances be grounds for denying an individual immigration benefits.)

Under this bill, certain judgments of guilt, such as one that has been deferred, expunged, or invalidated, shall not be considered a conviction for immigration purposes. An order of probation without an entry of judgment shall also not count as a conviction. Similarly, a pardon shall render the underlying conviction null for immigration purposes.

Furthermore, for immigration purposes, a term of imprisonment shall only include the actual period of incarceration ordered by a court. If a term of imprisonment is suspended for any length, the suspended time shall not be considered as part of the term of imprisonment. (An individual may be denied certain immigration benefits if the individual has been convicted for a crime with a certain term of imprisonment.)

The bill also provides statutory authority for the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security to, in certain instances, exercise discretion when enforcing immigration laws, such as waiving one or more grounds of inadmissibility or declining to order an alien removed. Such discretion may only be exercised on a case-by-case basis for humanitarian purposes or to preserve family unity and is subject to other limitations.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 30, 2020:** Introduced in House
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