

HR 1909

Citizenship for Essential Workers Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Mar 16, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. (May 18, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1909>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Castro, Joaquin [D-TX-20]

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

Cosponsors (78 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12]	D · NC		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]	D · OH		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Brown, Anthony G. [D-MD-4]	D · MD		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Carbajal, Salud O. [D-CA-24]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]	D · NY		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]	D · VA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Correa, J. Luis [D-CA-46]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]	D · IL		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Dean, Madeleine [D-PA-4]	D · PA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]	D · CO		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]	D · CT		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Demings, Val Butler [D-FL-10]	D · FL		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Escobar, Veronica [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Gallego, Ruben [D-AZ-7]	D · AZ		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Garcia, Jesus G. "Chuy" [D-IL-4]	D · IL		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Garcia, Sylvia R. [D-TX-29]	D · TX		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Gomez, Jimmy [D-CA-34]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Green, Al [D-TX-9]	D · TX		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Jacobs, Sara [D-CA-53]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]	D · WA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]	D · GA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Jones, Mondaire [D-NY-17]	D · NY		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Leger Fernandez, Teresa [D-NM-3]	D · NM		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	D · MN		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Newman, Marie [D-IL-3]	D · IL		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]	D · NJ		Mar 16, 2021

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Sánchez, Linda T. [D-CA-38]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]	D · WA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]	D · FL		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Suozzi, Thomas R. [D-NY-3]	D · NY		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Torres, Ritchie [D-NY-15]	D · NY		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-51]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Vela, Filemon [D-TX-34]	D · TX		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]	D · NY		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Williams, Nikema [D-GA-5]	D · GA		Mar 16, 2021
Rep. Crow, Jason [D-CO-6]	D · CO		Apr 1, 2021
Rep. Kahele, Kaiali'i [D-HI-2]	D · HI		Apr 1, 2021
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		Apr 1, 2021
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Apr 1, 2021
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Apr 8, 2021
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]	D · NY		Apr 8, 2021
Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]	D · CA		Apr 8, 2021
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		May 4, 2021
Rep. Torres, Norma J. [D-CA-35]	D · CA		May 4, 2021
Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33]	D · TX		May 4, 2021
Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]	D · KY		May 4, 2021
Rep. McEachin, A. Donald [D-VA-4]	D · VA		May 12, 2021
Rep. Neguse, Joe [D-CO-2]	D · CO		May 12, 2021
Rep. Trahan, Lori [D-MA-3]	D · MA		May 12, 2021
Rep. Aguilar, Pete [D-CA-31]	D · CA		May 20, 2021
Rep. Auchincloss, Jake [D-MA-4]	D · MA		May 28, 2021
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]	D · NV		Jun 1, 2021
Rep. Crist, Charlie [D-FL-13]	D · FL		Jun 15, 2021
Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]	D · CA		Jun 30, 2021
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Jul 16, 2021
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Jul 16, 2021
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Sep 24, 2021
Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5]	D · IL		Jul 20, 2022
Rep. Omar, Ilhan [D-MN-5]	D · MN		Jul 26, 2022
Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Aug 9, 2022
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Sep 13, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	May 19, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 5517	Related bill	Nov 1, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
117 S 2954	Related bill	Oct 7, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S7001)
117 S 747	Identical bill	May 12, 2021: Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety. Hearings held.

Summary (as of Mar 16, 2021)

Citizenship for Essential Workers Act

This bill establishes a mechanism for eligible aliens who worked as essential workers during the declared COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) public health emergency to apply for and obtain permanent resident status. The bill also narrows certain grounds for deportability and inadmissibility.

To be eligible for permanent resident status under this bill, an alien must have earned income at any point during the COVID-19 emergency period doing work deemed essential by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or a state or local government. An alien may also be eligible if that alien is a parent, spouse, or child of (1) an eligible alien who died from COVID-19, or (2) a member of the Armed Forces. Certain aliens shall be ineligible, such as an alien who was a refugee on January 1, 2021.

To obtain permanent resident status under this bill, an applying alien must satisfy additional requirements, including by passing a background check.

Furthermore, the bill repeals provisions providing for three-year bars and permanent bars to admission into the United States. (Generally, these bars apply to aliens who were previously removed or unlawfully present in the United States.)

The bill also narrows the scope of certain crime-based grounds for inadmissibility or deportability, such as by redefining the term *conviction* to exclude expunged convictions.

The Department of Justice or DHS may waive certain grounds of inadmissibility or deportability (1) for humanitarian purposes, (2) to ensure family unity, or (3) for the public interest.

Actions Timeline

- **May 18, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
- **Mar 16, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 16, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.