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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

To provide for the temporary resettlement of Syrian children in the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HONDA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for the temporary resettlement of Syrian children in the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Save the Children Act
5 of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) thousands of Syrian children face a humani-
9 tarian crisis due to the sustained civil war violence

1 in Syria and have been displaced to refugee camps
2 in surrounding countries where their personal safety
3 and welfare is threatened;

4 (2) ample numbers of United States citizens,
5 nongovernmental organizations, and state govern-
6 ments and instrumentalities would welcome the op-
7 portunity to provide temporary support to young
8 child refugees from Syria during the ongoing hu-
9 manitarian crisis;

10 (3) the Secretary of State, Attorney General,
11 Secretary of Homeland Security, and Secretary of
12 Health and Human Services should make every ef-
13 fort to facilitate the temporary relocation and imme-
14 diate care of up to 25,000 young Syrian minor chil-
15 dren refugees who either are orphaned to the extent
16 that can be established by proper authorities, or
17 whose proper guardians transfer custody of the chil-
18 dren to representatives of the United States as es-
19 tablished by its proper officials, into the United
20 States over a period of three years from the date of
21 enactment of this Act; and

22 (4) the Secretary of State, Attorney General,
23 Secretary of Homeland Security, and Secretary of
24 Health and Human Services should make every ef-
25 fort to facilitate family reunification or safe reloca-

1 tion of these young Syrian child refugees to Syria
2 after there is a sustained, substantial reduction of
3 civil war violence in Syria and a substantial reduc-
4 tion in the numbers of newly displaced Syria inhab-
5 itants, such time as defined by the Department of
6 State.

7 **SEC. 3. SAVE THE CHILDREN PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, Attorney
9 General, Secretary of Homeland Security, and Secretary
10 of Health and Human Services shall establish the Save
11 the Children Program to grant visas allowing certain
12 young minor children from Syria between the ages of three
13 and ten to enter and remain in the United States until
14 there is a sustained, substantial reduction of civil war vio-
15 lence in Syria and a substantial reduction in the numbers
16 of newly displaced Syria inhabitants, such time as defined
17 by the Department of State. Following such time as the
18 Department of State does make this designation, there
19 shall be an additional six months grace period before the
20 visas expire, so that due diligence can be done to identify
21 the proper guardians of these young minor children so
22 they may be reunified with their families. Only such quali-
23 fying children whose established guardians are physically
24 present to relinquish custody to the proper United States

1 representatives, or those children who can be established
2 to be orphaned, shall be eligible for such a visa.

3 (b) OFFICE OF COORDINATION.—

4 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

5 (A) There is established in the Office of
6 Refugee Resettlement of the Department of
7 Health and Human Services a Coordinator of
8 the Save the Children Program (hereinafter,
9 “Coordinator”).

10 (B) The Coordinator shall have the super-
11 visory authority for the operations of the Pro-
12 gram in the United States.

13 (C) The Coordinator of the Save the Chil-
14 dren Program shall be appointed by and report
15 to the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
16 ices.

17 (2) STAFF.—

18 (A) With the approval of the Office of Per-
19 sonnel Management, the Coordinator may ap-
20 point and fix the pay of additional personnel as
21 the Coordinator considers appropriate. Any
22 such personnel may include private citizens or
23 employees of the Federal Government, provided,
24 however, that the Coordinator may not fix the
25 pay of employees of the Federal Government.

1 (B) Upon request of the Coordinator, the
2 head of any Federal department or agency may
3 detail, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable
4 basis, and in accordance with the Intergovern-
5 mental Personnel Act of 1970 (5 U.S.C. 3371–
6 3375), any of the personnel of that department
7 or agency to the Office to assist it in carrying
8 out its duties under this Act.

9 (C) The Coordinator shall use the staff
10 and resources of the Division of Unaccompanied
11 Children’s Services (as described by section 462
12 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (2
13 U.S.C. 279)).

14 (3) OPERATIONS.—

15 (A) The Coordinator shall have the respon-
16 sibility of identifying which young minor chil-
17 dren qualify for the program, including by
18 properly obtaining custody of the children from
19 their proper guardians or establishing that an
20 eligible child is orphaned, and implementing the
21 temporary resettlement in the United States of
22 young minor children admitted pursuant to the
23 Program, consistent with the laws of applicable
24 states and instrumentalities of the United
25 States, international agreements, and the for-

1 eign policy and domestic security interests of
2 the United States.

3 (B) The Coordinator shall cooperate with
4 appropriate and approved nongovernmental or-
5 ganizations and government authorities of the
6 states and instrumentalities of the United
7 States to implement the Program and to assist
8 those admitted under the Program.

9 (C) The Coordinator shall consult with the
10 Secretary of State, Attorney General, and Sec-
11 retary of Homeland Security, or their designees,
12 on the operations of the Program and to ensure
13 that all operations of the program are con-
14 sistent with the laws of applicable states and in-
15 strumentalities of the United States, inter-
16 national agreements, the foreign policy and do-
17 mestic security interests of the United States,
18 and the goal of family reunification no more
19 than six months after there is a sustained, sub-
20 stantial reduction of civil war violence in Syria
21 and a substantial reduction in the numbers of
22 newly displaced Syria inhabitants, such time as
23 defined by the Department of State.

24 (c) SUNSET.—

1 (1) Except as provided by paragraph (2), the
2 Program shall terminate six months after certifi-
3 cation by the Secretary of State that there is a sus-
4 tained, substantial reduction of civil war violence in
5 Syria and a substantial reduction in the numbers of
6 newly displaced Syria inhabitants.

7 (2) Six months after certification by the Sec-
8 retary of State that there is a sustained, substantial
9 reduction of civil war violence in Syria and a sub-
10 stantial reduction in the numbers of newly displaced
11 Syria inhabitants, such time as defined by the De-
12 partment of State, the Office, in consultation with
13 the Departments of State, Justice, and Homeland
14 Security, shall make every effort to reunite minor
15 children admitted to the United States pursuant to
16 the Program with their parents, other close relatives,
17 or appropriate caretakers, as required by, and to the
18 extent permitted by, international agreements and
19 the laws of the United States.

20 (3) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary,
21 the Program may be suspended or terminated if the
22 President determines that such suspension or termi-
23 nation is warranted by the foreign policy and domes-
24 tic security interests of the United States.

25 (d) APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 (1) There are authorized to be appropriated for
2 each fiscal year such sums as may be necessary to
3 carry out the purposes of this section.

4 (2) Upon designation by the President, the Of-
5 fice is authorized to use funds appropriated pursu-
6 ant to the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of
7 1962 (22 U.S.C. 2601) to carry out the purposes of
8 this section.

9 (e) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180
10 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Coor-
11 dinator shall submit a written report to Congress that con-
12 tains the details of the implementation of the Program de-
13 veloped under this section.

14 **SEC. 4. TEMPORARY NONIMMIGRANT VISA.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The program under section (b)
16 shall provide for the admission of not more than 5,000
17 alien minor children between the ages of three and ten
18 years old, under section 101(a)(15)(W) of the Immigra-
19 tion and Nationality Act in the first program year, and
20 then 10,000 additional alien minor children for each of
21 the second and third program years, and shall give pref-
22 erence to those minor children already in the custody of
23 the United States or any of its allies outside Syria on the
24 date of enactment.

1 (b) TEMPORARY NONIMMIGRANT VISA.—Section
2 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
3 U.S.C. section 1101(a)(15)) is amended by inserting at
4 the end—

5 “(W) until such time that the Secretary of
6 State certifies that there is a sustained, sub-
7 stantial reduction of civil war violence in Syria
8 and a substantial reduction in the numbers of
9 newly displaced Syria inhabitants, such time as
10 defined by the Department of State, pursuant
11 to Section 3(c)(1) of the Syrian Civil War
12 Minor Child Protection Act of 2016, an alien
13 who—

14 “(i) is resident in Syria or who was
15 born in Syria but is currently present in
16 another country as a displaced person or
17 refugee;

18 “(ii) is between three and ten years of
19 age at the time of the enactment of the
20 Act; and

21 “(iii) has been approved pursuant to
22 policies promulgated by the Secretary of
23 State, in consultation with the Secretary of
24 Health and Human Services, Attorney
25 General, and Secretary of Homeland Secu-

1 rity, to reside in the United States tempo-
2 rarily pursuant to the Save the Children
3 Program.”.

4 (c) ABILITY TO REMAIN IN THE UNITED STATES.—
5 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, and as required
6 by, and to the extent permitted by, international agree-
7 ments, aliens admitted to the United States pursuant to
8 the Save the Children Act of 2016 may remain in the
9 United States until the Secretary of State certifies that
10 there is a sustained, substantial reduction of civil war vio-
11 lence in Syria and a substantial reduction in the numbers
12 of newly displaced Syria inhabitants, such time as defined
13 by the Department of State, pursuant to Section 3(e)(1)
14 of the Act, and providing a six month grace period for
15 efforts at reunification as established herein.