

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

S. \_\_\_\_\_

To establish the National Office of New Americans within the Executive Office of the President, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MARKEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To establish the National Office of New Americans within the Executive Office of the President, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “National Office of New  
5 Americans Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act:

8           (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
9       the Director of the National Office of New Ameri-  
10      cans.

1                   (2) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal  
2 agency” has the meaning given the term “agency”  
3 in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

4                   (3) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the  
5 National Office of New Americans established by  
6 section 3(a).

7 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS.**

8                   (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within  
9 the Executive Office of the President an office to be known  
10 as the “National Office of New Americans”.

11                  (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Office are the  
12 following:

13                  (1) To welcome and support immigrants and  
14 refugees in the United States.

15                  (2) To promote and support immigrant and ref-  
16 ugee integration into, and inclusion in, the social,  
17 cultural, economic, and civic life of the United  
18 States.

19                  (3) To ensure that the Federal Government and  
20 Federal agencies promote the pursuit of United  
21 States citizenship among immigrants and refugees.

22                  (4) To ensure access to quality English lan-  
23 guage learning programs that support the successful  
24 integration of immigrant adults, including by en-  
25 hancing—

(A) employment and career prospects and economic integration; and

8                         (5) To improve access to workforce development  
9                         programs, including by ensuring that such programs  
10                  meet the demand and the unique language, training,  
11                  and educational needs of immigrants and refugees.

12                             (6) To coordinate the efforts of Federal, State,  
13                             and local entities to support the effective social, eco-  
14                             nomic, linguistic, and civic integration of immi-  
15                             grants, refugees, and the children of immigrants and  
16                             refugees.

1        English language learning, education, and workforce  
2        development programs.

3                (9) To identify the anticipated effects of new  
4        Federal policies on existing integration efforts and  
5        advise the President on how to address potential in-  
6        tegration needs and the effects of such policies.

7                (10) With respect to immigrant and refugee in-  
8        tegration efforts, to consult on a biannual basis with  
9        State and local government officials on challenges  
10      and opportunities presented by such efforts.

11               (11) With respect to the activities described in  
12      paragraphs (8) through (10), to ensure the inclusion  
13      of the perspectives of immigrants and refugees.

14               (12) To submit to the President and the appro-  
15      priate committees of Congress a biannual report  
16      that describes the activities of the Office and the re-  
17      sults of the consultation processes described in para-  
18      graphs (8) through (11).

19               (c) DIRECTOR.—

20               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be headed  
21      by a Director, who shall be appointed by the Presi-  
22      dent, by and with the advice and consent of the Sen-  
23      ate.

24               (2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director shall—

- 1                             (A) establish policies, objectives, and prior-  
2                             ties for the Office with respect to immigrant  
3                             and refugee integration;
- 4                             (B) with the assistance of the Deputy Di-  
5                             rector for Citizenship and Inclusion, the Deputy  
6                             Director for Workforce and the Economy, the  
7                             Deputy Director for Children's Integration Suc-  
8                             cess, and the Associate Director of State and  
9                             Local Affairs, carry out the purposes of the Of-  
10                            fice, as described in subsection (b);
- 11                            (C) serve as the Chair of the Federal Ini-  
12                             tiative for New Americans established under  
13                             section 4;
- 14                            (D) make recommendations to the Presi-  
15                             dent on changes in the organization, manage-  
16                             ment, programs, and budget of the Federal  
17                             agencies to promote the integration of immi-  
18                             grants and refugees;
- 19                            (E) with respect to efforts to promote  
20                             United States citizenship and the integration of  
21                             immigrants and refugees, consult, support, and  
22                             coordinate with State and local governments;  
23                             and

(F) serve as a member of the Domestic Policy Council and the National Economic Council.

7                             (A) select, appoint, employ, and fix com-  
8                             pensation of such officers and employees as  
9                             may be necessary to carry out such responsibil-  
10                            ties and purposes;

1           GS–18 of the General Schedule under section  
2           5332 of title 5, United States Code;

3           (E) accept and use donations of property  
4           from Federal, State, and local government  
5           agencies;

6           (F) use the mail in the same manner as  
7           other Federal agencies; and

8           (G) monitor the implementation of immi-  
9           grant and refugee integration-related activities  
10          of the Federal Government, including by—

11           (i) conducting program and perform-  
12          ance audits and evaluations of each Fed-  
13          eral agency; and

14           (ii) requesting assistance from the In-  
15          spector General of the applicable Federal  
16          agency in such audits and evaluations.

17          (d) DEPUTY DIRECTORS.—

18           (1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Office  
19          a Deputy Director for Citizenship and Inclusion, a  
20          Deputy Director for Workforce and the Economy,  
21          and a Deputy Director for Children’s Integration  
22          and Success, each of whom shall be appointed by the  
23          President, in consultation with the Director.

24          (2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

1                             (A) DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CITIZENSHIP  
2                             AND INCLUSION.—The Deputy Director for  
3                             Citizenship and Inclusion shall, among other  
4                             duties as assigned by the Director, assist the  
5                             Director in promoting—

6                                 (i) inclusion of immigrants and refu-  
7                             gees in the social, economic, and civic life  
8                             of their communities and the United  
9                             States; and  
10                                 (ii) access to United States citizen-  
11                             ship.

12                             (B) DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR WORKFORCE  
13                             AND THE ECONOMY.—The Deputy Director for  
14                             Workforce and the Economy shall, among other  
15                             duties as assigned by the Director, assist the  
16                             Director in—

17                                 (i) promoting participation of immi-  
18                             grants and refugees in the United States  
19                             workforce; and  
20                                 (ii) increasing the contributions of im-  
21                             migrants and refugees to the United States  
22                             economy.

23                             (C) DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S  
24                             INTEGRATION SUCCESS.—The Deputy Director  
25                             for Children's Integration Success shall, among

1           other duties as assigned by the Director, assist  
2           the Director in ensuring that Federal policies  
3           and programs intended to support the healthy  
4           development and educational success of children  
5           are effective in reaching and serving the chil-  
6           dren of immigrant families.

7           (e) BUREAU OF STATE AND LOCAL AFFAIRS.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within  
9           the Office a Bureau of State and Local Affairs.

10          (2) ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR.—

11           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau of State  
12           and Local Affairs shall be headed by an Asso-  
13           ciate Director of State and Local Affairs, who  
14           shall be appointed by the President, in con-  
15           sultation with the Director.

16           (B) DUTIES.—The Associate Director of  
17           State and Local Affairs shall, among other du-  
18           ties as assigned by the Director, assist the Di-  
19           rector in coordinating the efforts of State and  
20           local entities to support the economic, linguistic,  
21           and civic integration of immigrants, refugees,  
22           and the children of immigrants and refugees.

23           (f) LIMITATION.—An individual may not serve as Di-  
24           rector, Deputy Director for Citizenship and Inclusion,  
25           Deputy Director for Workforce and the Economy, Deputy

1 Director for Children's Integration Success, or Associate  
2 Director of State and Local Affairs while serving in any  
3 other position in the Federal Government.

4 (g) ACCESS BY CONGRESS.—The establishment of  
5 the Office within the Executive Office of the President  
6 shall not affect access to the Office by a Member of Con-  
7 gress or any member of a committee of the Senate or the  
8 House of Representatives, including access to—

9 (1) any information, document, or study in the  
10 possession of, or conducted by or at the direction of,  
11 the Director; or

12 (2) personnel of the Office.

13 **SEC. 4. FEDERAL INITIATIVE ON NEW AMERICANS.**

14 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
15 the confirmation of the Director of the Office, the Director  
16 shall establish within the Office a Federal Initiative on  
17 New Americans (referred to in this section as the “Initia-  
18 tive”).

19 (b) PURPOSE.—The purposes of the Initiative are—  
20 (1) to welcome and support immigrants and  
21 refugees in the United States;  
22 (2) to establish a coordinated Federal program  
23 to respond effectively to immigrant and refugee inte-  
24 gration issues; and

1                   (3) to advise and assist the Director in identi-  
2         fying and implementing the necessary policies to  
3         carry out such program.

4         (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Initiative shall be composed  
5     of—

6                   (1) the Director, who shall serve as Chair;

7                   (2) the Secretary of the Treasury;

8                   (3) the Attorney General;

9                   (4) the Secretary of Commerce;

10                  (5) the Secretary of Labor;

11                  (6) the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
12     ices;

13                  (7) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-  
14     opment;

15                  (8) the Secretary of Education;

16                  (9) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

17                  (10) the Secretary of State;

18                  (11) the Director of the Office of Refugee Re-  
19     settlement;

20                  (12) the Director of the Small Business Admin-  
21     istration;

22                  (13) the Director of the Office of Management  
23     and Budget;

24                  (14) the Director of the Bureau of Consumer  
25     Financial Protection; and

- 1                         (15) any other individual—  
2                             (A) invited by the Director to participate;  
3                             and  
4                             (B) who occupies a position listed under  
5                             level I or II of the Executive Schedule, as pro-  
6                             vided in sections 5312 and 5313 of title 5,  
7                             United States Code.  
8                         (d) DUTIES.—

9                         (1) IN GENERAL.—The Initiative shall meet at  
10                         the call of the Chair and perform such duties as the  
11                         Chair reasonably requires.

12                         (2) COORDINATED RESPONSE TO IMMIGRANT  
13                         AND REFUGEE ISSUES.—The Initiative shall join  
14                         with Federal agencies in providing a coordinated  
15                         Federal response to adequately address matters that  
16                         affect the lives of immigrant and refugee families  
17                         and local communities with growing immigrant and  
18                         refugee populations, including access to—

- 19                         (A) English language learning;  
20                         (B) adult education and workforce train-  
21                         ing;  
22                         (C) occupational licensure;  
23                         (D) early childhood care and education;  
24                         (E) elementary, secondary, and postsec-  
25                         ondary education;

- 1 (F) health care;
- 2 (G) naturalization;
- 3 (H) civic engagement;
- 4 (I) immigration assistance and legal serv-
- 5 ices;
- 6 (J) economic development;
- 7 (K) language access services; and
- 8 (L) other services the Director identifies as
- 9 aiding the integration of immigrants and refu-
- 10 gees into the social, cultural, economic, and
- 11 civic life of the United States.

12 (3) LIAISON WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(B) DUTIES OF A LIAISON.—The duties of each member as a Federal agency liaison include—

22 (i) developing, for the applicable Fed-  
23 eral agency, immigrant and refugee inte-  
24 gration goals and indicators;

(ii) implementing the biannual consultation process described in section 3(b)(10) by consulting with the State and local counterparts of the Federal agency;

(iii) reporting to the Initiative on the progress made by the Federal agency in achieving the goals and indicators described in clause (i); and

(iv) upon request by the Director and subject to laws governing disclosure of information, providing such information as may be required to carry out the responsibilities of the Director and the functions of the Office.

(4) RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INITIATIVE.—

Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Initiative becomes fully operational, and every 2 years thereafter, the Director shall submit to Congress a report that includes the following:

(A) Findings from the consultation process described in section 3(b)(10), including a description of the immigrant and refugee integration opportunities offered by, and integration challenges facing, State and local governments.

(B) An assessment of the effects of, and recommendations with respect to, pending legislation and executive branch policy proposals.

15 (E) Recommendations on legislative solu-  
16 tions to better support the successful integra-  
17 tion of immigrants and refugees and the chil-  
18 dren of immigrants and refugees.