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117TH CONGRESS
2d Session
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPORT
117–238

FOR THE RELIEF OF REBECCA TRIMBLE

FEBRUARY 1, 2022.—Referred to the Private Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. NADLER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 681]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 681) for the relief of Rebecca Trimble, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

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Purpose and Summary

H.R. 681, "For the relief of Rebecca Trimble" would provide the beneficiary of this private bill with an opportunity to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the United States.

Background and Need for the Legislation

A. PERSONAL HISTORY AND IMMIGRATION BACKGROUND

Rebecca Trimble was born in Tecate, Mexico in late August 1989. Three days after Ms. Trimble's birth, her adoptive U.S. citizen par-

ents drove to the U.S.-Mexico border, and the family was waved into the United States by immigration officials. Ms. Trimble grew up in the United States, believing all along that she was a U.S. citizen. She knows no other country as home. She settled with her parents in Salem, Oregon, and later moved to Washington with her mother after her parents divorced. Ms. Trimble graduated from Hudson's Bay High School in Vancouver, Washington in 2008.

That same year, having no reason to believe she was not a U.S. citizen, Ms. Trimble voted in the presidential election. It was not until 2012—when she applied for and was denied a REAL ID compliant driver's license—that she learned her birth certificate was invalid and she was not a U.S. citizen.

In August 2012, Ms. Trimble married her U.S. citizen high school sweetheart, John Trimble, who later attended dental school and signed up for a direct commission in the U.S. Army Reserve through the Medical and Dental School Stipend Program. Today, along with their two young children, the couple live in the remote town of Bethel, Alaska, a recognized Health Professional Shortage Area, where Dr. Trimble provides dental care at a local clinic.

In October 2015, in an effort to obtain lawful status, Ms. Trimble requested "parole in place" as the spouse of a member of the Uniformed Services. In February 2016, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) denied the application after concluding that Ms. Trimble was not an applicant for admission, as she was previously "inspected and admitted" to the United States when she was waved across the border as a baby.

In December 2016, Ms. Trimble and her husband filed an immigrant visa petition and application for adjustment of status with USCIS. Although the immigrant visa petition was approved, in February 2020, USCIS denied Ms. Trimble's adjustment of status application on grounds that she had unlawfully voted in an election and was thus permanently inadmissible to the United States.

In March 2020, Ms. Trimble requested reconsideration of the decision and an exemption from the bar for unlawful voting as the child of U.S. citizens. The request was denied in June 2020 when USCIS concluded that her adoption was invalid. Because U.S. immigration laws do not recognize the legality of adoptions that are finalized after the child reaches age 16, Ms. Trimble has no option for obtaining permanent resident status.

B. CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE ADOPTION

Ms. Trimble's biological mother was 13 years old when Ms. Trimble was born. Ms. Trimble has had no contact with her biological mother since her birth, and she is unaware of her whereabouts. The only parents Ms. Trimble has ever known are George Ernest Wilson and Pamela Taylor, both U.S. citizens. Unable to have children of their own, the couple was contacted by missionary friends in Mexico who were aware of a young girl who was pregnant and whose baby would need a good home. The couple traveled to Mexico to meet their soon-to-be daughter's birth mother and to help pay for her medical expenses.

The Wilsons were told by hospital staff that they only needed a birth certificate listing them as the baby's parents to finalize the adoption. They received what they believed to be a valid Mexican birth certificate. After returning to their home in Salem, Oregon,

Ms. Trimble's parents presented her birth certificate to the Social Security Administration and received a social security number in her name. Unaware that her birth was not formally registered in Mexico, or that she had not been lawfully adopted, Ms. Trimble grew up believing she was a U.S. citizen.

C. HOUSE PRECEDENT FOR CONSIDERATION OF PRIVATE IMMIGRATION BILLS

In the modern era, Congress has enacted private bills on behalf of individuals like Ms. Trimble. In the 108th Congress, the President signed into law, a private bill for Richi James Lesley, who was born in Korea and adopted in Seoul by a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force and his wife.[1] After his adoptive father's untimely death, Mr. Lesley's mother became unable to care for him and his elder sister. As such, the Air Force transported Mr. Lesley and his sister to Columbus Air Force Base for placement with their adoptive father's mother in the United States. Mr. Lesley resided in the United States with his grandmother and later, other family and friends, from age one until he left home to attend college. Mr. Lesley did not realize that he was not a U.S. citizen until 2000, when proceedings to deport him were initiated. Having no other option for obtaining permanent residence, a private bill on Mr. Lesley's behalf was enacted.

Like Mr. Lesley, until she was in her early twenties, Ms. Trimble believed that she was a U.S. citizen by virtue of adoption. Considering these facts and the severe impact that her removal would have on her U.S. citizen family and her community in Alaska, the Committee has determined that this private bill meets the adoption precedent.

Hearings

The Committee on the Judiciary held no hearings on H.R. 681.

Committee Consideration

On September 29, 2021, the Committee met in open session and ordered the bill, H.R. 681, favorably reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute, by a voice vote, a quorum being present.[2]

Committee Votes

In compliance with clause 3(b) of House rule XIII, the Committee advises that there were no recorded votes during the Committee's consideration of H.R. 681.

Committee Oversight Findings

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of House rule XIII, the Committee advises that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of House rule X, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

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[1] *See* H. Rep. No. 108–530 (2004).

[2] The amendment in the nature of a substitute was offered by Chairman Nadler to amend the text to reflect the standard private immigration bill legislative language.

Committee Estimate of Budgetary Effects

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of House rule XIII, the Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

New Budget Authority and Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of House rule XIII and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and pursuant to clause (3)(c)(3) of House rule XIII and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee sets forth, with respect to the bill, H.R. 681, the following analysis and estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, January 11, 2022.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for these five bills:

- H.R. 187, For the relief of Victoria Galindo Lopez;
- H.R. 680, For the relief of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar;
- H.R. 681, For the relief of Rebecca Trimble;
- H.R. 739, For the relief of Median El-Moustrah; and
- H.R. 785, For the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is David Rafferty.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

Immigration-Relief Legislation
As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on September 29, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2026	2022-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	*	*	*
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	0	0

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2032?	< $5 billion	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

* = between -$500,000 and $500,000.

On September 29, 2021, the House Committee on the Judiciary ordered reported five bills that would allow the people named in each bill to become lawful permanent residents:

- H.R. 187, For the relief of Victoria Galindo Lopez;
- H.R. 680, For the relief of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar;
- H.R. 681, For the relief of Rebecca Trimble;
- H.R. 739, For the relief of Median El-Moustrah; and
- H.R. 785, For the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso.

Enacting each of those five bills could increase direct spending and reduce revenues because lawful permanent residents are eligible for certain federal benefits, such as Medicaid and premium tax credits for health insurance purchased through the marketplaces established by the Affordable Care Act, if they otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for those benefits. CBO estimates that those effects would not be significant because of the small number of people who would be affected by each bill.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is David Rafferty. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

Duplication of Federal Programs

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of House rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 681 establishes or reauthorizes a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another federal program.

Performance Goals and Objectives

The Committee states that pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of House rule XIII, H.R. 681 would provide Rebecca Trimble with an opportunity to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the United States.

Advisory on Earmarks

In accordance with clause 9 of House rule XXI, H.R. 681 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of House rule XXI.

Section-by-Section Analysis

The following discussion describes the bill as reported by the Committee.

Sec. 1. Permanent Resident Status for Rebecca Trimble. Subsection (a) provides that Rebecca Trimble shall be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent residence upon filing the appropriate application.

Subsection (b) provides that if Rebecca Trimble enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (d), she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall be eligible for adjustment of status as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subsection (c)(1) provides that Rebecca Trimble may not be removed from the United States, denied admission, or considered ineligible for lawful permanent residence by reason of any ground for removal or inadmissibility that is reflected in the records of the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of State as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subsection (c)(2) provides that the Secretary of Homeland Security shall rescind any outstanding orders of removal or deportation, or any finding of inadmissibility or deportability, that has been entered against Rebecca Trimble.

Subsection (d) requires Rebecca Trimble to apply for an immigrant visa or adjustment of status within two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subsection (e) provides that upon granting an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Rebecca Trimble, the Secretary of State shall reduce by one, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of her birth.

Subsection (f) provides that the natural parents, brothers, and sisters of Rebecca Trimble shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

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