

# NumbersUSA

## H.R. 1645

### **The "Security Through Regularized Immigration and a Vibrant Economy (STRIVE) Act of 2007"**

Sponsored by Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.)

#### Summary of Chain Migration Provisions

- Would establish the H-2C "guestworker" program, through which 400,000 "new workers" (plus their spouses and minor children on an unlimited basis) may come to the United States annually to perform labor or services for which no unemployed U.S. citizens living domestically can be found;
- Would allow the annual cap on H-2C visas to be increased to as many as 600,000, although a Standing Commission on Immigration and Labor Markets would be authorized recommend "adjustments to the H-2C cap";
- Would allow the "guestworkers" to stay up to six years, during which time they could petition for lawful permanent resident (LPR) status at any time (they may apply on their own after having been an H-2C for a total of five years);
- Would allow those applying for LPR status to stay and work in the United States as long as it takes to be granted such status;
- Would authorize employers to lay off U.S. workers and replace them with H-2Cs, provided they lay off the U.S. workers more than 90 days before or 90 days after they petition for H-2Cs;
- Would condition implementation of the H-2C program upon DHS certification that:
  - it has provided Congress with a report on the status of border surveillance technology improvements described in the Secure Border Initiative, including target dates for the completion of such improvements;
  - the agency can issue secure documents to illegal aliens applying for amnesty; and
  - "critical infrastructure employers" are using the Electronic Employment Verification System;

and

- Would require DHS, the Justice Department, and the State Department to negotiate with each of the home countries of H-2Cs to enter into bilateral agreements requiring those governments to:
  - accept the return of their nationals who are ordered removed from the United States not later than three days after the removal order is issued;
  - cooperate with the U.S. government to quell gang membership and violence in, human and drug trafficking and smuggling in, and illegal immigration to, the United States;
  - provide information as to the immigration and criminal history of citizens seeking entry into the United States, and access to the admission and entry data maintained by those countries for purposes of U.S. entry-exit data systems;
  - carry out activities to educate those countries' citizens regarding U.S. guestworker programs to ensure that they are not exploited while working in the United States; and
  - evaluate means to provide housing incentives in those home countries for returning workers.