

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 852

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that an alien may not be denied admission or entry to the United States, or other immigration benefits, because of the alien's religion, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 2017

Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HECK, Mr. WELCH, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. SOTO, Mr. TONKO, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. SARBANES, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KIND, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. ESTY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. SIRES, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. WALZ, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. KEATING, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LEE, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HIMES, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. MENG, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. TITUS, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. MATSUI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that an alien may not be denied admission or entry to the United States, or other immigration benefits, because of the alien’s religion, 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 “Freedom of Religion
 5 Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON DENYING ADMISSION, ENTRY, OR**
 7 **OTHER BENEFIT BECAUSE OF RELIGION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 2 of title I of the Immi-
 9 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1181 et seq.) is
 10 amended by inserting after section 219 the following:

11 **“SEC. 220. PROHIBITION ON DENYING ADMISSION, ENTRY,**
 12 **OR OTHER BENEFIT BECAUSE OF RELIGION.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
 14 vision of the immigration laws, an alien may not be denied
 15 entry, reentry, or admission to the United States, or any
 16 other immigration benefit, because of the alien’s religion
 17 or lack of religious beliefs.

18 “(b) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (a)
 19 shall be construed to affect the authorities under section
 20 212(f), subsections (h) and (i) of section 221, or any other
 21 provision of the immigration laws, when exercised on a

1 case-by-case basis with respect to an individual who a con-
2 sular officer, an immigration officer, the Attorney General,
3 the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
4 rity, or the President determines may pose a threat to
5 United States national security interests.”.

6 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
7 for the Immigration and Nationality Act is amended by
8 inserting after the item relating to section 219 the fol-
9 lowing:

“Sec. 220. Prohibition on denying admission, entry, or other benefit because of
religion.”.

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