S. 952

To authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

May 11, 2011

Mr. Durbin (for himself, Mr. Reid, Mr. Leahy, Mr. Schumer, Mr. Menendez, Mr. Levin, Mr. Lieberman, Mr. Akaka, Mr. Begich, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Bingaman, Mr. Blumenthal, Mrs. Boxer, Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Carper, Mr. Coons, Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Franken, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Harkin, Mr. Kerry, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Kohl, Mr. Lautenberg, Mr. Merkley, Ms. Mikulski, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Nelson of Florida, Mr. Reed, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Udall of Colorado, and Mr. Whitehouse) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children 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,

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- 2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
- 3 "Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act
- 4 of 2011" or the "DREAM Act of 2011".
- 5 (b) Table of Contents for
- 6 this Act is as follows:
 - Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
 - Sec. 2. Definitions.
 - Sec. 3. Conditional permanent resident status for certain long-term residents who entered the United States as children.
 - Sec. 4. Terms of conditional permanent resident status.
 - Sec. 5. Removal of conditional basis of permanent resident status.
 - Sec. 6. Regulations.
 - Sec. 7. Penalties for false statements.
 - Sec. 8. Confidentiality of information.
 - Sec. 9. Higher education assistance.

7 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

- 8 In this Act:
- 9 (1) In general.—Except as otherwise specifi-
- cally provided, a term used in this Act that is used
- in the immigration laws shall have the meaning
- given such term in the immigration laws.
- 13 (2) Immigration laws.—The term "immigra-
- tion laws" has the meaning given such term in sec-
- tion 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality
- 16 Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)).
- 17 (3) Institution of Higher Education.—The
- term "institution of higher education" has the
- meaning given such term in section 102 of the High-
- 20 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002), except

1	that the term does not include an institution of high-
2	er education outside the United States.
3	(1) SUCRETIARY Execut as athornise specific

- (4) Secretary.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Homeland Security.
- 6 (5) Uniformed services.—The term "Uni-7 formed Services" has the meaning given the term "uniformed services" in section 101(a) of title 10, 8 9 United States Code.

10 SEC. 3. CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR

- 11 CERTAIN LONG-TERM RESIDENTS WHO EN-
- 12 TERED THE UNITED STATES AS CHILDREN.
- 13 (a) Conditional Basis for Status.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an alien shall be con-14 15 sidered, at the time of obtaining the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence under this sec-16 tion, to have obtained such status on a conditional basis
- subject to the provisions of this Act. 19

(b) Requirements.—

20 (1) In General.—Notwithstanding any other 21 provision of law, the Secretary may cancel removal 22 of, and adjust to the status of an alien lawfully ad-23 mitted for permanent residence on a conditional 24 basis, an alien who is inadmissible or deportable 25 from the United States or is in temporary protected

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1	status under section 244 of the Immigration and
2	Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a), if the alien dem-
3	onstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that—
4	(A) the alien has been continuously phys-
5	ically present in the United States since the
6	date that is 5 years before the date of the en-
7	actment of this Act;
8	(B) the alien was 15 years of age or
9	younger on the date the alien initially entered
10	the United States;
11	(C) the alien has been a person of good
12	moral character since the date the alien initially
13	entered the United States;
14	(D) subject to paragraph (2), the alien—
15	(i) is not inadmissible under para-
16	graph (2) , (3) , $(6)(E)$, $(6)(G)$, (8) ,
17	(10)(A), (10)(C), or (10)(D) of section
18	212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality
19	Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a));
20	(ii) has not ordered, incited, assisted,
21	or otherwise participated in the persecution
22	of any person on account of race, religion,
23	nationality, membership in a particular so-
24	cial group, or political opinion; and
25	(iii) has not been convicted of—

1	(I) any offense under Federal or
2	State law punishable by a maximum
3	term of imprisonment of more than 1
4	year; or
5	(II) 3 or more offenses under
6	Federal or State law, for which the
7	alien was convicted on different dates
8	for each of the 3 offenses and impris-
9	oned for an aggregate of 90 days or
10	more;
11	(E) the alien—
12	(i) has been admitted to an institution
13	of higher education in the United States;
14	or
15	(ii) has earned a high school diploma
16	or obtained a general education develop-
17	ment certificate in the United States; and
18	(F) the alien was 35 years of age or
19	younger on the date of the enactment of this
20	Act.
21	(2) Waiver.—With respect to any benefit
22	under this Act, the Secretary may waive the grounds
23	of inadmissibility under paragraph (6)(E), (6)(G), or
24	(10)(D) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and
25	Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)) for humanitarian

purposes or family unity or when it is otherwise in the public interest.

> (3) Submission of biometric and bio-Graphic data.—The Secretary may not grant permanent resident status on a conditional basis to an alien under this section unless the alien submits biometric and biographic data, in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide an alternative procedure for applicants who are unable to provide such biometric or biographic data because of a physical impairment.

(4) Background Checks.—

- (A) REQUIREMENT FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary shall utilize biometric, biographic, and other data that the Secretary determines is appropriate—
 - (i) to conduct security and law enforcement background checks of an alien seeking permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section; and
 - (ii) to determine whether there is any criminal, national security, or other factor that would render the alien ineligible for such status.

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- (B) COMPLETION OF BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The security and law enforcement background checks required by subparagraph (A) for an alien shall be completed, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, prior to the date the Secretary grants permanent resident status on a conditional basis to the alien.
 - (5) Medical examination.—An alien applying for permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section shall undergo a medical examination. The Secretary, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall prescribe policies and procedures for the nature and timing of such examination.
 - (6) MILITARY SELECTIVE SERVICE.—An alien applying for permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section shall establish that the alien has registered under the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. App. 451 et seq.), if the alien is subject to such registration under that Act.

(c) Determination of Continuous Presence.—

(1) Termination of continuous period.—
Any period of continuous physical presence in the
United States of an alien who applies for permanent
resident status on a conditional basis under this sec-

- tion shall not terminate when the alien is served a notice to appear under section 239(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229(a)).
 - (2) Treatment of Certain Breaks in Presence.—
 - (A) IN GENERAL.—An alien shall be considered to have failed to maintain continuous physical presence in the United States under subsection (b)(1)(A) if the alien has departed from the United States for any period in excess of 90 days or for any periods in the aggregate exceeding 180 days.
 - (B) EXTENSIONS FOR EXTENUATING CIR-CUMSTANCES.—The Secretary may extend the time periods described in subparagraph (A) for an alien if the alien demonstrates that the failure to timely return to the United States was due to extenuating circumstances beyond the alien's control.

(d) Application.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien seeking lawful permanent resident status on a conditional basis shall file an application for such status in such manner as the Secretary may require.

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1	(2) Deadline for submission of applica-
2	TION.—An alien shall submit an application for re-
3	lief under this section not later than the date that
4	is 1 year after the later of—
5	(A) the date the alien earned a high school
6	diploma or obtained a general education devel-
7	opment certificate in the United States; or
8	(B) the effective date of the final regula-
9	tions issued pursuant to section 6.
10	(e) Limitation on Removal of Certain
11	ALIENS.—
12	(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary or the Attor-
13	ney General may not remove an alien who—
14	(A) has a pending application for relief
15	under this section; and
16	(B) establishes prima facie eligibility for
17	relief under this section.
18	(2) CERTAIN ALIENS ENROLLED IN PRIMARY
19	OR SECONDARY SCHOOL.—
20	(A) STAY OF REMOVAL.—The Attorney
21	General shall stay the removal proceedings of
22	an alien who—
23	(i) meets all the requirements of sub-
24	paragraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), and (F) of
25	subsection (b)(1);

1	(ii) is at least 5 years of age; and
2	(iii) is enrolled full-time in a primary
3	or secondary school.
4	(B) ALIENS NOT IN REMOVAL PRO-
5	CEEDINGS.—If an alien is not in removal pro-
6	ceedings, the Secretary shall not commence
7	such proceedings with respect to the alien if the
8	alien is described in clauses (i) through (iii) of
9	subparagraph (A).
10	(C) Employment.—An alien whose re-
11	moval is stayed pursuant to subparagraph (A)
12	or who may not be placed in removal pro-
13	ceedings pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall,
14	upon application to the Secretary, be granted
15	an employment authorization document.
16	(D) LIFT OF STAY.—The Secretary or At-
17	torney General may lift the stay granted to an
18	alien under subparagraph (A) if the alien—
19	(i) is no longer enrolled in a primary
20	or secondary school; or
21	(ii) ceases to meet the requirements of
22	such paragraph.
23	(f) Exemption From Numerical Limitations.—
24	Nothing in this section or in any other law may be con-
25	strued to apply a numerical limitation on the number of

1	aliens who may be eligible for adjustment of status under
2	this Act.
3	SEC. 4. TERMS OF CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT
4	STATUS.
5	(a) Period of Status.—Permanent resident status
6	on a conditional basis granted under this Act is—
7	(1) valid for a period of 6 years, unless such pe-
8	riod is extended by the Secretary; and
9	(2) subject to termination under subsection (c).
10	(b) Notice of Requirements.—
11	(1) AT TIME OF OBTAINING STATUS.—At the
12	time an alien obtains permanent resident status on
13	a conditional basis under this Act, the Secretary
14	shall provide for notice to the alien regarding the
15	provisions of this Act and the requirements to have
16	the conditional basis of such status removed.
17	(2) Effect of failure to provide no-
18	TICE.—The failure of the Secretary to provide a no-
19	tice under this subsection—
20	(A) shall not affect the enforcement of the
21	provisions of this Act with respect to the alien;
22	and
23	(B) shall not give rise to any private right
24	of action by the alien.
25	(c) TERMINATION OF STATUS.—

- 1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall termi-2 nate the conditional permanent resident status of an 3 alien, if the Secretary determines that the alien—
 - (A) ceases to meet the requirements of subparagraph (C) or (D) of section 3(b)(1); or
 - (B) was discharged from the Uniformed Services and did not receive an honorable discharge.
 - (d) RETURN TO PREVIOUS IMMIGRATION STATUS.—
 - (1) In General.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an alien whose permanent resident status on a conditional basis expires under subsection (a)(1) or is terminated under subsection (c) or whose application for such status is denied shall return to the immigration status the alien had immediately prior to receiving permanent resident status on a conditional basis or applying for such status, as appropriate.
 - (2) SPECIAL RULE FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS.—In the case of an alien whose permanent resident status on a conditional basis expires under subsection (a)(1) or is terminated under subsection (c) or whose application for such status is denied and who had temporary protected status immediately prior to receiving or applying for such sta-

1	tus, as appropriate, the alien may not return to tem-
2	porary protected status if—
3	(A) the relevant designation under section
4	244(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act
5	(8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)) has been terminated; or
6	(B) the Secretary determines that the rea-
7	son for terminating the permanent resident sta-
8	tus on a conditional basis renders the alien in-
9	eligible for temporary protected status.
10	(e) Information Systems.—The Secretary shall
11	use the information systems of the Department of Home-
12	land Security to maintain current information on the iden-
13	tity, address, and immigration status of aliens granted
14	permanent resident status on a conditional basis under
15	this Act.
16	SEC. 5. REMOVAL OF CONDITIONAL BASIS OF PERMANENT
17	RESIDENT STATUS.
18	(a) Eligibility for Removal of Conditional
19	Basis.—
20	(1) In general.—Subject to paragraph (2),
21	the Secretary may remove the conditional basis of an
22	alien's permanent resident status granted under this
23	Act if the alien demonstrates by a preponderance of
24	the evidence that—

1	(A) the alien has been a person of good
2	moral character during the entire period of con-
3	ditional permanent resident status;
4	(B) the alien is described in section
5	3(b)(1)(D);
6	(C) the alien has not abandoned the alien's
7	residence in the United States;
8	(D) the alien—
9	(i) has acquired a degree from an in-
10	stitution of higher education in the United
11	States or has completed at least 2 years, in
12	good standing, in a program for a bach-
13	elor's degree or higher degree in the
14	United States; or
15	(ii) has served in the Uniformed Serv-
16	ices for at least 2 years and, if discharged,
17	received an honorable discharge; and
18	(E) the alien has provided a list of each
19	secondary school (as that term is defined in sec-
20	tion 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary
21	Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) that
22	the alien attended in the United States.
23	(2) Hardship exception.—
24	(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, in
25	the Secretary's discretion, remove the condi-

1	tional basis of an alien's permanent resident
2	status if the alien—
3	(i) satisfies the requirements of sub-
4	paragraphs (A), (B), (C), and (E) of para-
5	graph (1);
6	(ii) demonstrates compelling cir-
7	cumstances for the inability to satisfy the
8	requirements of subparagraph (D) of such
9	paragraph; and
10	(iii) demonstrates that the alien's re-
11	moval from the United States would result
12	in extreme hardship to the alien or the
13	alien's spouse, parent, or child who is a cit-
14	izen or a lawful permanent resident of the
15	United States.
16	(B) Extension.—Upon a showing of good
17	cause, the Secretary may extend the period of
18	permanent resident status on a conditional
19	basis for an alien so that the alien may com-
20	plete the requirements of subparagraph (D) of
21	paragraph (1).
22	(3) Treatment of abandonment or resi-
23	DENCE.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(C), an
24	alien—

- (A) shall be presumed to have abandoned the alien's residence in the United States if the alien is absent from the United States for more than 365 days, in the aggregate, during the alien's period of conditional permanent resident status, unless the alien demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the alien has not abandoned such residence; and
 - (B) who is absent from the United States due to active service in the Uniformed Services has not abandoned the alien's residence in the United States during the period of such service.

 (4) CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT.—
 - (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status may not be removed unless the alien demonstrates that the alien satisfies the requirements of section 312(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1423(a)).
 - (B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an alien who is unable because of a physical or developmental disability or mental impairment to meet the requirements of such subparagraph.

1 SUBMISSION OF BIOMETRIC AND BIO-(5)2 GRAPHIC DATA.—The Secretary may not remove the 3 conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident 4 status unless the alien submits biometric and bio-5 graphic data, in accordance with procedures estab-6 lished by the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide 7 an alternative procedure for applicants who are un-8 able to provide such biometric data because of a 9 physical impairment. 10 (6) Background Checks.— 11 (A)REQUIREMENT FOR BACKGROUND 12 CHECKS.—The Secretary shall utilize biometric, 13 biographic, and other data that the Secretary 14 determines appropriate— 15

- (i) to conduct security and law enforcement background checks of an alien applying for removal of the conditional basis of the alien's permanent resident status; and
- (ii) to determine whether there is any criminal, national security, or other factor that would render the alien ineligible for removal of such conditional basis.
- (B) Completion of Background Checks.—The security and law enforcement

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1	background checks required by subparagraph
2	(A) for an alien shall be completed, to the satis-
3	faction of the Secretary, prior to the date the
4	Secretary removes the conditional basis of the
5	alien's permanent resident status.
6	(b) Application To Remove Conditional
7	Basis.—
8	(1) In general.—An alien seeking to have the
9	conditional basis of the alien's lawful permanent
10	resident status removed shall file an application for
11	such removal in such manner as the Secretary may
12	require.
13	(2) Deadline for submission of applica-
14	TION.—
15	(A) IN GENERAL.—An alien shall file an
16	application under this subsection during the pe-
17	riod beginning 6 months prior to and ending on
18	the date that is later of—
19	(i) 6 years after the date the alien
20	was initially granted conditional permanent
21	resident status; or
22	(ii) any other expiration date of the
23	alien's conditional permanent resident sta-
24	tus, as extended by the Secretary in ac-
25	cordance with this Act

1 (B) STATUS DURING PENDENCY.—An
2 alien shall be deemed to have permanent resi3 dent status on a conditional basis during the
4 period that the alien's application submitted
5 under this subsection is pending.

(3) ADJUDICATION OF APPLICATION.—

- (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make a determination on each application filed by an alien under this subsection as to whether the alien meets the requirements for removal of the conditional basis of the alien's permanent resident status.
- (B) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS IF FAVOR-ABLE DETERMINATION.—If the Secretary determines that the alien meets such requirements, the Secretary shall notify the alien of such determination and remove the conditional basis of the alien's permanent resident status, effective as of the date of such determination.
- (C) TERMINATION IF ADVERSE DETER-MINATION.—If the Secretary determines that the alien does not meet such requirements, the Secretary shall notify the alien of such determination and, if the period of the alien's conditional permanent resident status under section

- 1 4(a)(1) has ended, terminate the conditional 2 permanent resident status granted the alien 3 under this Act as of the date of such deter-
- 4 mination.
- 5 (c) Treatment for Purposes of Naturaliza-6 tion.—
- 7 (1) In General.—For purposes of title III of 8 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1401 9 et seq.), an alien granted permanent resident status 10 on a conditional basis under this Act shall be consid-11 ered to have been admitted as an alien lawfully ad-12 mitted for permanent residence and to be in the 13 United States as an alien lawfully admitted to the 14 United States for permanent residence.
 - (2) Limitation on application for naturalization.—An alien may not apply for naturalization during the period that the alien is in permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this Act.

20 SEC. 6. REGULATIONS.

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- 21 (a) Initial Publication.—Not later than 180 days
- 22 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
- 23 shall publish regulations implementing this Act. Such reg-
- 24 ulations shall allow eligible individuals to apply affirma-

- 1 tively for the relief available under section 3 without being
- 2 placed in removal proceedings.
- 3 (b) Interim Regulations.—Notwithstanding sec-
- 4 tion 553 of title 5, United States Code, the regulations
- 5 required by subsection (a) shall be effective, on an interim
- 6 basis, immediately upon publication but may be subject
- 7 to change and revision after public notice and opportunity
- 8 for a period of public comment.
- 9 (c) Final Regulations.—Within a reasonable time
- 10 after publication of the interim regulations in accordance
- 11 with subsection (b), the Secretary shall publish final regu-
- 12 lations implementing this Act.
- 13 (d) Paperwork Reduction Act.—The require-
- 14 ments of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (com-
- 15 monly known as the "Paperwork Reduction Act") shall
- 16 not apply to any action to implement this Act.
- 17 SEC. 7. PENALTIES FOR FALSE STATEMENTS.
- 18 Whoever files an application for any relief or benefit
- 19 under this Act and willfully and knowingly falsifies, mis-
- 20 represents, or conceals a material fact or makes any false
- 21 or fraudulent statement or representation, or makes or
- 22 uses any false writing or document knowing the same to
- 23 contain any false or fraudulent statement or entry, shall
- 24 be fined in accordance with title 18, United States Code,
- 25 imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

1 SEC. 8. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.

2	(a) Prohibition.—Except as provided in subsection
3	(b), no officer or employee of the United States may—
4	(1) use the information furnished by an indi-
5	vidual pursuant to an application filed under this
6	Act in removal proceedings against any person iden-
7	tified in the application;
8	(2) make any publication whereby the informa-
9	tion furnished by any particular individual pursuant
10	to an application under this Act can be identified; or
11	(3) permit anyone other than an officer, em-
12	ployee or authorized contractor of the United States
13	Government or, in the case of an application filed
14	under this Act with a designated entity, that des-
15	ignated entity, to examine such application filed
16	under such sections.
17	(b) REQUIRED DISCLOSURE.—The Attorney General
18	or the Secretary shall provide the information furnished
19	under this Act, and any other information derived from
20	such furnished information, to—
21	(1) a Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforce-
22	ment agency, intelligence agency, national security
23	agency, component of the Department of Homeland
24	Security, court, or grand jury in connection with a
25	criminal investigation or prosecution, a background
26	check conducted pursuant to section 103 of the

- 1 Brady Handgun Violence Protection Act (Public
- 2 Law 103–159; 18 U.S.C. 922 note), or national se-
- 3 curity purposes, if such information is requested by
- 4 such entity or consistent with an information shar-
- 5 ing agreement or mechanism; or
- 6 (2) an official coroner for purposes of affirma-
- 7 tively identifying a deceased individual (whether or
- 8 not such individual is deceased as a result of a
- 9 crime).
- 10 (c) Fraud in Application Process or Criminal
- 11 CONDUCT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this
- 12 section, information concerning whether an alien seeking
- 13 relief under this Act has engaged in fraud in an applica-
- 14 tion for such relief or at any time committed a crime may
- 15 be used or released for immigration enforcement, law en-
- 16 forcement, or national security purposes.
- 17 (d) Penalty.—Whoever knowingly uses, publishes,
- 18 or permits information to be examined in violation of this
- 19 section shall be fined not more than \$10,000.
- 20 SEC. 9. HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE.
- 21 (a) In General.—Notwithstanding any provision of
- 22 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et
- 23 seq.), with respect to assistance provided under title IV
- 24 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070
- 25 et seq.), an alien who has permanent resident status on

a conditional basis under this Act shall be eligible only 2 for the following assistance under such title: 3 (1) Student loans under parts D and E of such 4 title IV (20 U.S.C. 1087a et seq. and 1087aa et 5 seq.), subject to the requirements of such parts. 6 (2) Federal work-study programs under part C 7 of such title IV (42 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), subject to 8 the requirements of such part. 9 (3) Services under such title IV (20 U.S.C. 10 1070 et seq.), subject to the requirements for such 11 services. 12 (b) RESTORATION OF STATE OPTION TO DETER-MINE RESIDENCY FOR PURPOSES OF HIGHER EDUCATION 14 Benefits.— 15 (1) In General.—Section 505 of the Illegal 16 Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility 17 Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1623) is repealed. 18 (2) Effective date.—The repeal under para-19 graph (1) shall take effect as if included in the en-20 actment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Im-21 migrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (division C of 22 Public Law 104–208; 110 Stat. 3009–546).