

LIFT THE BAR ACT

Restoring Public Benefits Access
for Lawfully Present Immigrants

119th CONGRESS

Every family should be able to meet basic needs—see a doctor when sick, put food on the table, and ensure children can thrive. Yet federal law continues to block many lawfully present immigrants from accessing programs designed to support working families.

Our Ask

Cosponsor the Lifting Immigrant Families Through Benefits Access Restoration Act (LIFT the BAR Act), legislation that restores federal benefits eligibility for lawfully present immigrants.

The Problem

- Federal law excludes many *lawfully present* immigrants from accessing safety-net programs.
- The 1996 welfare law (PRWORA) and H.R. 1 (OBBBA) prevent many immigrants—including refugees, asylees, and people with lawful status—from accessing programs they otherwise qualify for.
- These restrictions don't change families' needs or immigration options – they harm U.S.-born children, undermine workforce stability, and limit states' ability to respond to community needs.

What the LIFT THE BAR Act does:

- **Rescinds H.R. 1 provisions that bar many lawfully present immigrants**-including refugees and asylees-- from accessing public benefits.
- **Restores federal benefits eligibility for lawfully present immigrants**, including LPRs (green card holders), people with DACA or SIJS, and other authorized noncitizens.
- **Eliminates the five-year bar for green card holders** for Medicaid, CHIP, SNAP, TANF, and SSI.
- **Restores state and local flexibility** to use their own funds to provide benefits to their residents.
- **Preempts additional state restrictions** on otherwise eligible immigrants.
- **Ends sponsor-based barriers** by basing eligibility on income and resources available to the applicant.

The bill would restore access for many lawfully present immigrants, including:

- Lawful permanent residents (LPRs / green card holders)
- Immigrants here for humanitarian reasons, such as refugees, asylees, survivors of domestic violence, and children and youth with Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJs)
- Other authorized immigrants including those with DACA and TPS

Making these common sense changes to benefit eligibility has broad support:

- 750+ national, state, and local organizations supported the bill during its last introduction.
- Nearly 700 organizations opposed the immigrant eligibility restrictions included in H.R. 1.
- Support includes organizations working on health care, nutrition, children's policy, anti-poverty programs, immigrant rights, labor, and faith communities.

For more information, contact:

Tiffany Chang, tiffany@pifcoalition.org

Ben D'Avanzo, davanzo@nilc.org

Juan Gomez, jgomez@clasp.org

