

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1774

To accord honorary citizenship to the alien victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against the United States and to provide for the granting of citizenship to the alien spouses and children of certain victims of such attacks.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 5, 2001

Mr. CORZINE (for himself and Mr. TORRICELLI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To accord honorary citizenship to the alien victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against the United States and to provide for the granting of citizenship to the alien spouses and children of certain victims of such attacks.

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 “Terrorist Victim Citi-  
5        zenship Relief Act”.

6        **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1) On September 11, 2001, the United States  
2 suffered a series of attacks which led to the deaths  
3 of thousands of people.

4           (2) Hundreds of foreign nationals perished in  
5 the attacks on the American institutions on Amer-  
6 ican soil.

7           (3) At that time, the Immigration and Natu-  
8 ralization Service was processing applications for ad-  
9 justment in immigration status for immigrants who  
10 perished in the attacks.

11           (4) The immigrant or nonimmigrant status of  
12 many immigrant families depends on the sponsor-  
13 ship of those who perished.

14           (5) The Immigration and Naturalization Serv-  
15 ice has publicly stated that it does not intend to take  
16 action against foreign nationals whose immigration  
17 status is in jeopardy as a direct result of the attack.

18           (6) Commissioner of the Immigration and Nat-  
19 uralization Service James Ziglar stated that “the  
20 Immigration and Naturalization Service will exercise  
21 its discretion toward families of victims during this  
22 time of mourning and readjustment”.

23           (7) Only Congress has the authority to change  
24 immigration law to address unanticipated omissions  
25 in existing law to account for the unique cir-



1 status of the alien spouse or child under the immigration  
2 laws of the United States, if the spouse or child applies  
3 to the Attorney General for naturalization not later than  
4 two years after the date of enactment of this Act. The  
5 Attorney General shall record the date of naturalization  
6 of any person granted naturalization under this section as  
7 being September 10, 2001.

8 **SEC. 5. EXCEPTIONS.**

9 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, an  
10 alien may not be naturalized as a citizen of the United  
11 States, or afforded honorary citizenship, under this Act  
12 if the alien is—

13 (1) inadmissible under paragraph (2) or (3) of  
14 section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality  
15 Act, or deportable under paragraph (2) or (4) of sec-  
16 tion 237(a) of that Act, including any terrorist per-  
17 petrador of a September 11, 2001, terrorist attack  
18 against the United States; or

19 (2) a member of the family of a person de-  
20 scribed in paragraph (1).

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