



Homeland Security

February 21, 2019

The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Vice Chair for Insular Affairs
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sablan:

This letter sets forth Department of Homeland Security (DHS) views with regard to H.R. 559, the “Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act.”

Thank you for seeking the Department’s input on this new legislation. We appreciate the opportunity to review H.R. 559 as the Committee begins the legislative process in the 1st session of the 116th Congress.

As you are aware, H.R. 559 would provide for the admission of certain aliens who are currently present in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and who had been parolees as CNMI residents. In doing so, the bill would establish an alternative regime to the now-terminated categorical parole program for the CNMI. DHS believes that the bill would address the discrete needs of this alien group in an equitable and lawful manner—more so than any other bill that is now pending Congressional consideration.

In light of the aforementioned, DHS supports H.R. 559. DHS would respectfully urge the Committee to consider the bill favorably. Further, it is the Department’s hope that the full House of Representatives will take up and pass the measure expeditiously.

The Department is pleased to inform you that the Office of Management and Budget has no objection to the presentation of this letter to Congress. Nonetheless, I appreciate your interest in the Administration’s concerns on this matter. Fortunately, there are none.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to review and share the Department’s position on H.R. 559. An identical letter has been sent to Representatives Grijalva and Bishop. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 447-5890.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine M. Ciccone".

CHRISTINE M. CICCONE
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs