

Statement for the Record, Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren

**Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship
Meeting to Request DHS Reports on the Beneficiaries of
H.R. 187, H.R. 680, H.R. 739, and H.R. 785**

Thursday, February 11, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

2141 Rayburn House Office Building and via Cisco Webex

As my colleagues are well-aware, this Subcommittee considers private bills under the long-standing process and bipartisan agreement developed after the ABSCAM scandal in 1980. Under carefully crafted procedural rules, we only consider compelling cases in which removal of the beneficiary would result in extreme hardship or injustice.

In making this assessment, precedent in the modern congressional era is an important consideration. In the modern era, Congress has passed several private bills where the extreme hardship that would result from the beneficiary's removal centers around medical issues.

In each of these cases, a beneficiary—or the U.S. citizen child of the beneficiary—suffers from one or more serious medical conditions

that would undoubtedly be exacerbated if the beneficiaries were removed. The facts of each of these cases are compelling and uncontroverted. There is bipartisan agreement that each case meets the medical condition precedent.

Each of these bills passed the House in the 116th Congress without objection and the central facts that form the basis of the Subcommittee's support remain unchanged. Because Congress adjourned before they were enacted, our Subcommittee must once again begin the process of moving them through the Committee. That process begins with a request for a report from the Department of Homeland Security.

I would like to commend the work of my friends and colleagues, Representatives Kuster, DeSaulnier, Brownley, and Tlaib, for their enduring support for these deserving families and for introducing these bills on their behalf.