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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To limit the fees charged and collected from applicants for naturalization and related benefits based on poverty, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. TORRES of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To limit the fees charged and collected from applicants for naturalization and related benefits based on poverty, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Citizenship Afford-
5 ability Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PERMANENT FULL AND PARTIAL INCOME-BASED**
2 **NATURALIZATION FEE WAIVERS.**

3 Section 344(b) of the Immigration and Nationality
4 Act (8 U.S.C. 1455(b)) is amended—

5 (1) in the enumerator, by striking “(b)” and in-
6 serting “(b)(1)”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act
9 or any other law, the following fee waivers shall
10 apply:

11 “(A) In the case of an alien whose income
12 is less than 150 percent of the Federal poverty
13 line, no fee shall be charged or collected for—

14 “(i) the filing of an application for
15 naturalization or the issuance of a certifi-
16 cate of naturalization upon admission to
17 citizenship;

18 “(ii) the filing of an application to
19 preserve residence for naturalization pur-
20 poses;

21 “(iii) the filing of an application for a
22 replacement naturalization or citizenship
23 document;

24 “(iv) the filing of an application for
25 citizenship and issuance of certificate of
26 citizenship under section 322; or

1 “(v) a biometrics capture or back-
2 ground check associated with any applica-
3 tion described in clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and
4 (iv).

5 “(B) In the case of an alien whose income
6 is less than 250 percent of the Federal poverty
7 line, not more than 50 percent of the applicable
8 fee shall be charged or collected for—

9 “(i) the filing of an application for
10 naturalization or the issuance of a certifi-
11 cate of naturalization upon admission to
12 citizenship;

13 “(ii) the filing of an application to
14 preserve residence for naturalization pur-
15 poses;

16 “(iii) the filing of an application for a
17 replacement naturalization or citizenship
18 document;

19 “(iv) the filing of an application for
20 citizenship and issuance of certificate of
21 citizenship under section 322; or

22 “(v) a biometrics capture or back-
23 ground check associated with any applica-
24 tion described in clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and
25 (iv).

1 “(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of
2 law, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall con-
3 sider the receipt of means-tested benefits as a cri-
4 terion for the purpose of demonstrating eligibility for
5 a fee waiver under paragraph (2).

6 “(4) In this subsection, the term ‘Federal pov-
7 erty line’ has the meaning given such term by the
8 Director of the Office of Management and Budget,
9 as revised annually by the Secretary of Health and
10 Human Services in accordance with section 673(2)
11 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981
12 (42 U.S.C. 9902).”.