



(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To designate Cameroon under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Cameroon to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. LOFGREN (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To designate Cameroon under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Cameroon to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, 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 “Cameroon TPS Act  
5 of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Cameroon is in the midst of four ongoing  
4 armed conflicts generally characterized by state  
5 sponsored violence, nonstate transnational terrorism,  
6 and widespread human rights violations, making  
7 safe return to Cameroon impossible.

8 (2) Since late 2016, the conflict between the  
9 government and armed separatists has displaced  
10 over 700,000 people in the Anglophone regions of  
11 Cameroon and resulted in thousands of civilian cas-  
12 ualties.

13 (3) This conflict has also exacerbated long-  
14 standing tensions between farmers and nomadic  
15 herders over natural resources, resulting in violence  
16 and increased civilian casualties in the Northwest re-  
17 gion of Cameroon.

18 (4) Cameroon's presidential election in 2018  
19 and local elections in 2020 exacerbated long sim-  
20 mering political and ethnic tensions, and each re-  
21 sulted in uprisings and violence.

22 (5) In the Far North region, Boko Haram and  
23 the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) continue  
24 to terrorize communities, including by using kidnap-  
25 ping and child soldiers in suicide bombings of  
26 schools, mosques, and refugee camps.

1           (6) The civil war in the Central African Republic  
2           has also spilled over to Cameroon, with cross border  
3           militias initiating conflicts in the East region.

4           (7) These conflicts have led to critical shortages  
5           of essentials such as water, food, housing, and  
6           health care, leaving an estimated 4.4 million people  
7           in need of urgent humanitarian assistance and  
8           roughly 1 million people displaced internally.

9           (8) In 2020, the Department of State reported  
10          that Cameroonian authorities used these conflicts as  
11          a pretext to engage in extrajudicial killings, arbitrary  
12          detentions, torture, and targeted violence  
13          against marginalized populations.

14          (9) Cameroonian authorities have also targeted  
15          Cameroonians who have fled to the United States.  
16          Prior to scheduled removal flights leaving the United  
17          States, government-led protests in front of the  
18          United States Embassy in Yaoundé called on the  
19          United States Government to either criminally  
20          charge or deport asylum seekers who they alleged  
21          were backers of Anglophone separatists.

22          (10) The United States nevertheless deported a  
23          significant number of Cameroonians, reportedly  
24          under duress, to face politically motivated detention  
25          and torture at the hands of their government.

1 (11) Reports also indicate that upon arrival,  
2 Cameroonian authorities confiscated identity docu-  
3 ments and monitored activities of all deported indi-  
4 viduals. Family members of such individuals report  
5 that their loved ones are unaccounted for and fear  
6 that they may have been redetained by security  
7 forces.

8 (12) Cameroonians in the United States cannot  
9 return safely to Cameroon without risking detention,  
10 torture, or displacement. After years of uncertainty,  
11 these individuals deserve stability and temporary re-  
12 lief in the United States.

13 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION FOR PURPOSES OF GRANTING TEM-**  
14 **PORARY PROTECTED STATUS.**

15 (a) DESIGNATION.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 244  
17 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
18 1254a), Cameroon shall be treated as if it had been  
19 designated under subsection (b)(1)(A) of that sec-  
20 tion, subject to the provisions of this section.

21 (2) PERIOD OF DESIGNATION.—The initial pe-  
22 riod of the designation referred to in paragraph (1)  
23 shall be for the 18-month period beginning on the  
24 date of the enactment of this Act.

1 (b) ALIENS ELIGIBLE.—As a result of the designa-  
2 tion made under subsection (a), an alien who is a national  
3 of Cameroon is deemed to satisfy the requirements under  
4 paragraph (1) of section 244(c) of the Immigration and  
5 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)), subject to paragraph  
6 (3) of such section, if the alien—

7 (1) has been continuously physically present in  
8 the United States since the date of the enactment of  
9 this Act;

10 (2) is admissible as an immigrant, except as  
11 otherwise provided in paragraph (2)(A) of such sec-  
12 tion, and is not ineligible for temporary protected  
13 status under paragraph (2)(B) of such section; and

14 (3) registers for temporary protected status in  
15 a manner established by the Secretary of Homeland  
16 Security.

17 (c) CONSENT TO TRAVEL ABROAD.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland  
19 Security shall give prior consent to travel abroad, in  
20 accordance with section 244(f)(3) of the Immigra-  
21 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(f)(3)), to  
22 an alien who is granted temporary protected status  
23 pursuant to the designation made under subsection  
24 (a) if the alien establishes to the satisfaction of the  
25 Secretary of Homeland Security that emergency and

1       extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the  
2       alien require the alien to depart for a brief, tem-  
3       porary trip abroad.

4               (2) TREATMENT UPON RETURN.—An alien re-  
5       turning to the United States in accordance with an  
6       authorization described in paragraph (1) shall be  
7       treated as any other returning alien provided tem-  
8       porary protected status under section 244 of the Im-  
9       migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a).

10 **SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

11       The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of  
12       complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,  
13       shall be determined by reference to the latest statement  
14       titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this  
15       Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record  
16       by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-  
17       vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the  
18       vote on passage.