

NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER:

DIGNITY ACT WOULD OFFER AMNESTY TO MILLIONS OF ILLEGAL ALIENS.

BACKGROUND. Taxpayers across the nation yearn for federal immigration reform legislation that will tighten our national immigration processes and firmly stop illegal immigration permanently. Unfortunately, a band of Socialist Democrat and RINO lawmakers have joined to try to pass a bill that would do neither of the above but also aggravate and worsen our immigration system, hurt our economy, and continue to endanger our citizens.

THE OBNOXIOUS BILL. RINO Rep. Maria Salazar (Fla.) introduced **HR 4393**, the Dignity Act, a bipartisan proposal that would offer a legal, 7-year amnesty process for illegal aliens and create a pathway to citizenship for long-term illegal aliens residing here before Jan. 1, 2021, plus DACA recipients. DACA “Dreamers” receive conditional permanent resident status for 10 years and can adjust to lawful permanent resident status by fulfilling a number of requirements, which includes military service. During the 7-year program, participants granted work authorization and travel permission outside the U.S. The process includes voluntary registration, passing an FBI background check, a \$7,000 restitution payment, paying outstanding taxes, and remaining employed or attending an institution of higher learning. Upon successful completion of the 7-year Dignity Program, individuals transition to permanent "Dignity Status." This is a renewable, indefinitely valid non-immigrant status that offers protection from deportation, permanent work authorization, and contingent upon good behavior. Meanwhile, illegal aliens could live and work here legally, taking housing and jobs from American citizens. The bill grants the federal Att.-Gen. authority to terminate deportation for family "hardship." Her bill currently is in the House Homeland Security Comm., awaiting a vote to advance it



to the full House for debate. The bill has 20 Republican and 20 Democrat co-sponsors, including NE Rep. Don Bacon. “It’s not amnesty,” he said on X, “This bill is where most Americans are at.” His constituents would vociferously disagree.

EASY ASYLUM. The bill proposes an overhaul of the immigration asylum system, creating the establishment of numerous humanitarian campuses at the border. These campuses will assist in processing asylum claims. Initial construction of the facilities, staffing with a mandatory minimum of 300 new asylum officers, and other operational costs, however, rely on federal infrastructure already appropriated for border security. This ruse transforms border enforcement into an expensive taxpayer-supported welcome operation. These facilities are the opposite of what voters wanted, because it actively expands the government bureaucracy instead of streamlining the removal of illegal immigrants. Illegals would receive a 72-hour rest period before their mandatory asylum interview. This process consists of a 3-step program of an initial screening, final determination, and a review of cases. The migrants will have access to medical staff, social workers, legal assistance, all at taxpayer expense, and leftist nongovernment organizations (ngos) that advocate on their behalf. These are the same advocacy groups that previously facilitated mass illegal immigration flows and encouraged expansive asylum claims. The bill embeds radical activists directly into taxpayer-built federal facilities. It invites the organizations responsible for the crisis to operate inside government processing centers. One provision forgives student loan debt for attorneys who represent illegal aliens here. The provision effectively subsidizes advocacy on behalf of illegal immigrants by directing financial relief specifically to lawyers whose work often involves challenging deportation orders or advancing asylum claims. It is simply a means of forcing taxpayers to fund illegal aliens to fight U.S. immigration laws.¹

BACKLOG ELIMINATION. The bill seeks to clear the decades-long visa backlogs that separate families. Section 3201 mandates that the feds reduce the legal visa backlog to a maximum of 10 years by 2035. To do this, the bill stops spouses and children from counting against annual employment-based visa caps, opening the floodgates. Individuals who have waited in the visa backlog immediately granted a green card allowing immediate employment after payment of a fee. The bill would substantially increase immigration from specific high-immigration countries, like Mexico, as it would lift the one-country green card cap from 7% to 15%. Thousands of illegals then will steal jobs at lower wages from U.S. citizens and add to our medical and welfare burdens.

¹ Daily Caller, Mary Rooke, [Republicans’ Attempt to Coddle Immigrants Way Worse Than You Can Imagine](#), Apr. 9, 2026.

FOREIGN STUDENTS. The bill would allow such students to pursue legal permanent residency without having to prove they intend to depart the U.S. after graduation. Further, graduates with a Ph. D in STEM fields granted a preferential visa. These individuals would compete with legal citizens for key high-paying jobs. To offset this increase, her bill would require employers to pay FICA taxes for all these employed foreign students.

CHAIN MIGRATION. Her bill also permits Homeland Security to ignore inadmissibility for spouses and children of U.S. citizens, further breaking immigration barriers. The bill grants the federal Att.-Gen. authority to terminate deportation for family "hardship."

CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION. Leading congressional critics like Rep. Brandon Gill (TX.) labeled the bill mass amnesty and a terrible betrayal of voter trust. Gill argues that the bill, which offers legal status and pathways to work permits for millions of illegals, constitutes a betrayal of voter intent and is fighting for mass deportations instead. He also criticized the official name of the bill, the Dignidad Act, the Spanish word for dignity. He explains that the bill would thwart presidential ability to deport more illegal aliens and allow ones previously deported under the first Trump Administration to return to the U.S.² Georgia Republicans have sided with Congressman Gill, vowing to defeat the bill and any attempt to provide mass amnesty. Rep. Andrew Clyde called it a slap in the face to the American people, claiming that it is the opposite of what voters requested. Rep. Buddy Carter claimed that the bill would appear catastrophic for the country and reverse Trump border initiatives. Rep. Mike Collins stated that the bill would only reward illegal aliens and harm the American people. He condemned the bill for its amnesty provisions and recommended that it go into the garbage.³

OPPOSITION POINTS. Conservatives argue that providing legal status to illegal aliens currently in the U.S. constitutes amnesty and a direct pathway to citizenship. Despite proponents claiming to the contrary, it provides a "backdoor" for millions of migrants who violated immigration laws. This bill is a betrayal of American voters who oppose amnesty. Conservatives contend that the bill would complicate immigration enforcement, undermine existing legal immigration processes, and act as a windfall for leftwing immigration lawyers. MAGA loyalists who fully support the Trump Administration mass deportation policy oppose granting legal status to illegals,⁴ urging continued reliance on mass deportation strategies. "The Dignity Act is a mass amnesty bill. No amount of bureaucratic hoops will change that," said Heritage Action, the political arm of the Heritage Foundation. There were also strident opposition voices from other GOP congressmen from the Florida delegation on Capitol Hill, a stark reminder that Salazar views on immigration grate against her GOP Florida colleagues. There was outrage on talk radio, as several influential conservative media voices condemned Salazar. "It's really important that Rep. Maria Salazar loses her next election," tweeted conservative talk show host Jesse Kelly, "Republicans must be punished for betrayal like this."⁵ Megyn Kelly condemned Republicans backing the immigration proposal, blasting the Dignity Act as an amnesty plan in disguise that would let millions of illegals stay in the U.S. The conservative commentator warned that the legislation would have terrible consequences if passed. Kelly dismissed provisions pairing offers of legal status to illegal aliens with tougher border enforcement, arguing that similar efforts have repeatedly failed in the past. She also blasted provisions allowing specific categories of illegals to remain in the country without fear of deportation. "I don't care about them being in fear of deportation," Kelly said.⁶ Critics have detailed numerous provisions that would grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants, increase immigration, and make it more difficult to deport criminal aliens. The bill has faced backlash from conservative groups that say it would harm U.S. workers. One group that detailed how the bill equates to amnesty for millions of illegal immigrants, the Center for Immigration Studies, analyzed the legislation and concluded it would provide amnesty to 12 million illegal aliens and lead to over 5 million additional illegals over the next decade, that it is



² KTRH, B.D. Hobbs, [Why Are 20 House Republicans Pushing for Amnesty?](#) Apr. 10, 2026.

³ Dome Politics, James Swafford, [Georgia Republicans Slam 'Catastrophic' and 'Garbage' DIGNITY Act](#), Apr. 9, 2026.

⁴ Newsweek, Dan Gooding & Billal Rahman, [MAGA Erupts as Republican Pushes to Offer Path to Undocumented Migrants](#), Apr. 8, 2026.

⁵ WLRN Public Media, Jamie Dupree, [Conservatives launch fierce attack on Salazar immigration bill](#), Apr. 10, 2026.

⁶ New York Post, Ariel Zilber, [Megyn Kelly slams GOP reps backing 'amnesty' for illegal immigrants: 'Betrayal'](#), Apr. 10, 2026.

amnesty for illegal aliens who marry U.S. citizens (an incentive for immigration fraud!), and amnesty for all employers that hired all the illegal aliens who receive amnesty.⁷ Title I of Division B of the bill would forgive illegal entry and allow DHS to waive inadmissibility for multiple other crimes, including crimes of moral turpitude, illegal drug crimes, prostitution, theft, fraud, assault, domestic violence, specific sex offenses, or crimes with intent to harm or deceive. Her bill would codify the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program, which has no congressional authorization but designed to circumvent limitations on H-1B visas for foreign workers who compete with Americans, restrict immigration enforcement in “protected areas,” aligned with this Biden Regime immigration policy, and exempt illegals from numerical immigration limits, if they have an approved green card petition, have waited for 10 years, and pay a fee.⁸ Immigration officers restricted from making arrests, serving notices, or conducting removals in this long list of public places: Inside or near schools, hospitals, clinics, churches, welfare offices, courthouses, playgrounds, daycares, disaster relief sites, and public events such as parades, anti-ICE protests, weddings, and funerals. In order to detain, officers would require prior high-level approval from ICE or U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) leadership or must demonstrate special circumstances, such as an imminent public safety threat. The bill language codifies safe zones, significantly restricting Trump mass deportation efforts by creating numerous sanctuaries in every U.S. city. Law enforcement could not act quickly in many locations where illegal aliens seek shelter or services, which prioritizes illegal immigrants over the safety and sovereignty of U.S. citizens.⁹ The Dignity Program normalizes millions of immigration violations and incentivizes future crossings. Other conservatives questioned if Salazar, of Cuban descent, is loyal to the U.S. and called for Trump to rescind his endorsement of her.



FREE FROM TAXES. These illegal aliens will become exempt from Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) payroll taxes, which include Social Security and Medicare. American workers and legal immigrants pay full FICA to fund these entitlement programs. Exempting Dignity participants from such taxation makes them cheaper to hire, undercutting wages and job opportunities for citizens. RINOs are essentially selling out employed citizens who elected them

in order to institutionalize unfair advantages for illegals.

ONE PERFECT EXAMPLE. Her bill would benefit Kilmar Abrego Garcia, the illegal alien from El Salvador who entered illegally in 2011 at 16. Law enforcement tied him to the violent MS-13 gang. His wife accused him of beating her. Caught on a police bodycam ferrying other illegals up from Texas to Maryland. Under the Salazar bill, he checks every box for the "Dreamer" track that leads straight to a green card and then citizenship. The bill treats him as eligible for citizenship, because he entered as a minor 15 years ago. Though deported once, he would receive an exception to the continuous-presence requirement. The bill does state that gang members barred, if they voluntarily participated in offenses committed by a criminal street gang. However, another bill clause contradicts this provision. Federal authorities explicitly forbidden from using state or federal gang databases to prove anyone is a gang member. No information allowed from the FBI gang files. No state gang task force records permitted. To deport him, authorities apparently would need a full criminal conviction for gang activity, which would already make the person inadmissible on ordinary felony grounds. The bill does not count mere allegations or police reports. Also, Abrego Garcia could argue himself a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or trafficking and obtain a waiver. The Sec. of DHS could choose to waive his disqualification for humanitarian purposes, family unity, or because the waiver is otherwise in the public interest. That is a loophole that Abrego Garcia used to traffic migrants. All he would have to do is enroll in an education program that helps him obtain a GED or a technical credential. After meeting a work or education requirement for a few years, he would qualify for lawful permanent residence. From there, smooth sailing to citizenship.¹⁰

⁷ Nation Today, [GOP Rep. Salazar Denies 'Amnesty' in Her Immigration Bill Despite Evidence Salazar's 'Dignity Act' faces backlash from critics who say it provides amnesty and expands immigration](#), Apr. 8, 2026.

⁸ FAIR, [FAIR Lays Out the Flaws in the Dignity Act's Push for Amnesty](#), Nov. 5, 2025.

⁹ Daily Caller, Mary Rooke, [Republicans' Attempt to Coddle Immigrants Way Worse Than You Can Imagine](#), Apr. 9, 2026.

¹⁰ Fox News, Will Chamberlin, ['Maryland Dad' is perfect example of why Rep Salazar's amnesty scam must fail](#), Apr. 10, 2026.



TAKE ACTION NOW. It is patently obvious that **HR 4393** not only would not help our immigration system but make it much worse. It would continue to expose our citizens to crime, our workers to undue competition, and explode our law enforcement, incarceration, and health and welfare costs. Amnesty and eventual citizenship for illegal aliens who will not improve our national being, the purpose of immigration. Using the above content, urge Reps. Mike Flood and Adrian Smith to actively oppose and vote NO on **HR 4393**. Email netaxpayers@gmail.com for Capitol Hill contact information

and join our NTF *Project Immigration*.

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