

Iranian Temporary Immigration Relief Act (ITIRA-H.R.8740)
Sponsored by Reps. Yassamin Ansari (AZ-3rd) & Tom Suozzi (NY-3rd)

The Problem

- Since late 2025, a USCIS adjudication pause affecting Iranian nationals lawfully present in the U.S. has created significant immigration uncertainty and processing delays.
- A federal court has since ordered USCIS to resume adjudications, and the agency has indicated it is complying. However, the Administration has appealed the ruling, processing backlogs remain, and affected individuals continue to face uncertainty regarding their lawful status and work authorization.
- Recent hostilities and the Iranian regime's worsening campaign of human rights abuses - including the January 2026 crackdown, mass arrests, intimidation of dissidents and their families, and an astounding escalation of post-protest repression - make safe return to Iran dangerous and untenable.

Many of those affected are students, scientists, engineers, healthcare professionals, entrepreneurs, and other skilled workers contributing to critical sectors of the U.S. economy, including healthcare, technology, and academia.

The Solution: ITIRA

- Provides Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to eligible individuals already in the U.S.
- Grants work authorization to prevent economic hardship.
- Provides temporary stability while affected immigration applications are adjudicated.

Who Qualifies

- Lawfully admitted or otherwise legally present in the United States.
- Filed good-faith immigration applications affected by the adjudication pause and resulting delays.
- Have undergone extensive vetting and background checks.
- Have no criminal record and pose no public safety risk.

Strong Safeguards

- Excludes individuals connected to the Iranian regime.
- Bars regime officials, agents, and those providing material support to sanctioned entities.
- Ineligible: immediate family members who knowingly benefited from illicit regime activity.
- Maintains all existing national security, inadmissibility, and criminal bars.
- Applies only to individuals currently in the U.S. - no future migration incentive.

Why It Matters

- Protects individuals who followed U.S. law.
- Supports U.S. economic and national interests by retaining skilled talent.
- Addresses a narrow, temporary issue - not broader immigration policy.
- Reinforces distinction between Iranian people and the regime.

Endorsed by the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans (PAAIA), the Iranian American Legal Defense Fund (IALDF), and Pars Equality Center