

2026 -- H 8608

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND
IMMIGRATION SERVICES EXERCISE DISCRETION IN ADJUDICATING STATUS
APPLICATIONS CONSISTENT WITH HISTORICAL PRACTICE

Introduced By: Representative David P. Morales

Date Introduced: June 03, 2026

Referred To: House Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders possess the right not to be deprived of life, liberty, or
2 property without the due process of law, which inherently includes the freedom to establish a
3 family and enter into marriage regardless of a spouse's national origin; and

4 WHEREAS, Since the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, citizens
5 of the United States have been permitted to sponsor their immigrant spouse for lawful permanent
6 residence without being subjected to forced separation through mandatory consular processing
7 abroad; and

8 WHEREAS, In enacting these laws, Congress established an inland immigration process
9 with the intent of promoting and preserving family unity; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Policy
11 Manual explicitly acknowledges this congressional intent, stating: "One reason Congress created
12 the adjustment of status provision was to enable certain aliens physically present in the United
13 States to become LPRs without incurring the expense and inconvenience of traveling abroad to
14 obtain an immigrant visa. Congress has added additional adjustment of status provisions to
15 "promote family unity"; and

16 WHEREAS, On Friday, May 22, 2026, preceding a major holiday weekend, USCIS
17 published an unsigned memorandum (PM-602-0199) that upends over seventy years of
18 established immigration law and institutional practice; and

19 WHEREAS, If implemented, this memorandum would forcibly separate U.S. citizens

1 from their spouses for indefinite, prolonged, or even permanent periods of time; and

2 WHEREAS, This memorandum would effectively compel U.S. citizens to forego their
3 due process rights by mandating consular processing, an avenue where visa denials are generally
4 insulated from judicial review; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
6 strongly condemns the implementation of USCIS Policy Memorandum PM-602-0199; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island urges
9 USCIS to continue to favorably exercise discretion in adjudicating adjustment of status
10 applications, consistent with historical practice prior to the sudden issuance of this unsigned
11 memorandum; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Daniel J. McKee, Governor of
14 the State of Rhode Island; the Honorable Markwayne Mullin, Secretary of the United States
15 Department of Homeland Security; the Honorable Joseph B. Edlow, Director of the United States
16 Citizenship and Immigration Services; and the Field Office Director of the United States
17 Citizenship and Immigration Services Providence Field Office.

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