

# **AGRICULTURAL WORKER PROGRAM ACT OF 2017**

## **Key Components**

**Agricultural Worker (“Blue Card”) Status:** The bill provides a one-time opportunity for experienced agricultural workers to apply for legal status if they show consistent employment in U.S. agriculture over the past two years, pay a fine, and aren’t ineligible due to criminal history.

- **ELIGIBILITY FOR THE BLUE CARD IS LIMITED TO WORKERS WHO CAN PROVE EMPLOYMENT IN U.S. AGRICULTURE FOR AT LEAST 100 WORK DAYS OVER THE LAST 2 YEARS.**
- **ALLOWS FOR SUBSEQUENT ADJUSTMENT TO PERMANENT RESIDENCY (“GREEN CARD”) FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS WHO CONTINUE IN AGRICULTURAL WORK.**
- **IN ORDER TO ADJUST TO PERMANENT RESIDENCY, WORKERS MUST PROVE EMPLOYMENT IN U.S. AGRICULTURE FOR AT LEAST 100 DAYS PER YEAR OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS OR 150 DAYS PER YEAR FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS.**
- **THE AGRICULTURAL WORKER PROGRAM ACT OF 2017 PROTECTS EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE HIRED BLUE CARD ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS FROM CIVIL PENALTIES.**
- **THE AGRICULTURAL WORKER PROGRAM ACT OF 2017 DOES NOT AMEND THE H-2A VISA PROGRAM AND NECESSARY REFORMS ARE STILL NEEDED TO THAT PROGRAM.**
- **THE AGRICULTURAL WORKER PROGRAM ACT OF 2017 IS MODELED ALMOST ENTIRELY FROM THE AGREEMENTS STRUCK IN THE COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM (CIR) PACKAGE IN 2013 WHICH EARNED 68 VOTES WHEN IT PASSED THE SENATE IN 2013.**