

H.R.2826 & S.1335

To establish a Global Climate Change Resilience Strategy, to authorize the admission of climate-displaced persons, and for other purposes (Climate-Displaced Persons Act)

Talking point 1: There is no legal standard to recognize when environmental degradation – caused by climate change – becomes a human rights concern. Yet it is beyond dispute that climate change affects the enjoyment of human rights, including the right to life, food, health, and culture. States must be prepared to protect climate migrants within their borders and externally – but have not been legally obliged to do so. The "right to life with dignity" is a core provision in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – but what "dignity" means remains widely interpreted.

Talking point 2: More than half of the 41 million people internally displaced by a climate-fueled disaster in 2018 were women. Moreover, the 2020 Ecological Threat Register published by the Institute for Economics and Peace projects that climate-related threats will continue to cause significant displacement worldwide over the coming decades. With a combined population of over 2 billion people, Nineteen countries are most at risk given population growth, water stress, food insecurity, droughts, floods, cyclones, and rising temperature and sea levels.¹

Talking point 3: HR2826/S1335 proposes that the United States reduce its domestic greenhouse gas emissions on a scale and rate proportionate to its historical responsibility and the urgency of the threat of climate change; welcome the shared responsibility of climate change adaptation, plan for global disaster risk reduction, resiliency building, and disaster response and recovery; assist in providing durable solutions for climate-displaced persons; aid other countries in their climate change mitigation efforts; and work with the international community to establish a framework to share such responsibilities; and acknowledge, respect, and protect the lives and human rights of climate-displaced persons.²

Talking point 4: A Climate-Displaced Person is defined as any person who, for reasons of sudden or progressive change in the environment that adversely affects his or her life or living conditions, is obliged to leave his or her habitual home, either within his or her country of nationality or in another country; needs a durable resettlement solution and whose government cannot or will not provide such durable resettlement solutions.³²

Talking point 5: American views about climate change have shifted significantly. Americans' belief that global warming is happening has increased to 76%. Americans who think global warming is happening now outnumber those who think it is not happening by more than 6 to 1. Americans' perception that global warming is a threat has also increased dramatically. A record 70 percent of Americans are now very or somewhat worried about global warming. Those "very worried" increased ten percentage points since March 2021.⁴

¹ <https://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/CARE-Climate-Migration-Report-v0.4.pdf>

² <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2826>

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<https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/dramatic-increase-in-public-beliefs-and-worries-about-climate-change/>