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Immigration

Immigration Provisions in Limbo as Senate Democrats Struggle With Parliamentary Rejections, Uncertainties

Legal Update

01.11.2022

By Immigration Group

This article was prepared with the assistance of ABIL, the Alliance of Business Immigration Lawyers, of which Loan Huynh, Fredrikson Immigration Department Chair, is a member.

After the Senate parliamentarian rejected a plan that included work permits and protection from deportation favored by Democrats for inclusion in the “social spending” budget reconciliation bill, lawmakers struggled to consider their options, including revisions to the immigration provisions or simply moving ahead without parliamentarian approval. Several Democratic senators issued a joint statement: “We strongly disagree with the Senate parliamentarian’s interpretation of our immigration proposal, and we will pursue every means to achieve a path to citizenship in the Build Back Better Act.”

The parliamentarian has not yet addressed other immigration provisions included in the social spending bill, such as green card backlog relief, and their fate remains uncertain.