

# Immigration



## **MADNESS**

**A SAPIENT Being's Guide to the  
Biden Border Crisis, Illegal Immigrant  
Costs, Laws, Reform & More**

Corey Lee Wilson

# **Immigration Madness**

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Illegal Immigrant Costs, Laws, Reform & More**

By

**Corey Lee Wilson**

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Below in alphabetical order are the major contributors to *Immigration Madness* that we borrowed verbatim, quoted, and conceptualized much of their content from a little to a lot. Wherever this happened, we did our best to acknowledge the source. If we didn’t at times within the 15 chapters, we did so intentionally because doing so would have distracted from their message. Nonetheless, they are more than acknowledged in the References and Index sections of this textbook.

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**Center for Immigration Studies (CIS):** Is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit, research organization that has pursued a single mission—providing immigration policymakers, the academic community, news media, and concerned citizens with reliable information about the social, economic, environmental, security, and fiscal consequences of legal and illegal immigration into the United States. Our staff has testified before Congress over 140 times.

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**Migration Policy Institute (MPI):** The non-partisan institute seeks to improve immigration and integration policies through authoritative research and analysis, opportunities for learning and dialogue, the development of new ideas to address complex policy questions.

**Morgan, Mark:** Is an American law enforcement official who served as the Chief Operating Officer and acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection from July 5, 2019, to January 20, 2021.

**National Review:** Is an American semi-monthly editorial magazine, focusing on news and commentary pieces on political, social, and cultural affairs and its authors contributed a considerable number of articles to this textbook. The magazine was founded by the author William F. Buckley Jr. in 1955 and has played a significant role in the development of conservatism in the United States, and is a leading voice on the American right.

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### A SAPIENT Being's Preface

Presently, immigration is more relevant than it has ever been. As the United States continues to grow and flourish, continually proving itself to be the greatest and most exceptional nation in the world, more and more immigrants arrive to pursue their own idea of the American Dream.

In a country made up of people from every race and nationality on earth, it is pertinent we preserve the significance of legal immigration, assimilation, and the process of becoming a naturalized American citizen.

Since the very formation of the United States, millions of people have entered this great nation as pilgrims, refugees, entrepreneurs, opportunists, nomads, missionaries, and pioneers as eloquently noted in this section by sapient author Cole P. Zail in his *AMAC Magazine* Summer 2018 article "Immigration: Solidarity, Identity, and the American Dream."

These millions of immigrants made their way to the United States in pursuit of the American Dream, seeking a land in which life was richer, fuller, and more free. Depending on their country of origin, they had varying conceptions of the American Dream, whether it meant freedom from government oppression, social mobility, a safe future for their children, economic prosperity, or simply the promise of an overall better life than that from which they came.

This mass migration and legal immigration is part of the foundation America was built upon. The contributions of hard-working, naturalized American citizens have helped make our country strong, our culture robust, and our national spirit unparalleled. At its core, the United States of America is a country that unites people, however vast their differences may be, in the pride and exceptionalism of being able to call oneself an American.

The 13-letter phrase *e pluribus unum* aptly used to encapsulate this unity is a Latin phrase that means "Out of many, one," and originated from the union of the thirteen American colonies, referencing how they emerged from the Revolutionary War as a single united nation.

While we should celebrate our unique differences, we should, perhaps more importantly, celebrate the fact that we have joined together and blended ourselves into one nation, in spite of these vast differences. America's Founding Fathers were wise; they knew that our national strength could be preserved through unity. However, individuals who are not citizens do not have a right to American citizenship without the consent of the American people as expressed through the laws of the United States.

As such, *e pluribus unum* exemplifies this unity and distills the essence of the United States, highlighting how we are a nation of individuals united by shared ideas and values, rather than by race or origin. Our populace is not bonded together by blood or birthplace, rather, we are united by our adherence to mutual values and our commitment to the Constitution. Becoming

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an American citizen has nothing to do with ancestry or ethnic identity; being American is a state of mind and a devotion to beliefs.

This spirit of unity, this celebration of American citizenship, this shared faith in a national ideal—this is the true majesty of our great nation. Unfortunately for America and its legalized citizens—illegal immigration does not abide by these ideals—and its inherent costs to America’s taxpayers, its assault on the core principles of the American Dream, and its disregard of American immigration laws—all present clear and present dangers as this textbook will clearly, concisely and factually demonstrate.

Like all MADNESS textbooks, *Immigration Madness* offers an opportunity to be part of the solution to these many problems. For some of you this MADNESS book will be a revelation, an epiphany, a sapient being moment. For others, it will be a triggering event, denial of truth, and a painful intervention.

Are you interested in learning about the depth and breadth of Biden’s borders crisis, the shocking costs of illegal immigration, its intentional lack of enforcement, how to fix America’s broken immigration system, and working together to address these issues? If yes, please read on and if you also believe in the message of this book and willing to fight for it—please considering joining or participating in one of the three SAPIENT Being programs below.

**Sapient Conservative Textbooks (SCT) Program** is a relevant and current events textbooks program (published by Fratire Publishing LLC) to help return conservative values, viewpoint diversity, and sapience to high school and college campuses—and enlighten them on the many blessings to humankind that are the direct result of Western European culture, American exceptionalism, and Judeo-Christian values.

**Free Speech Alumni Ambassador (FSAA) Program** helps create faculty and administrative positions, throughout America’s predominantly liberally staffed college campuses, that can serve as much needed conservative club advisors—because conservative students are facing many obstacles when they attempt to start and charter a right-leaning student organization on campus due to faculty members fearful of losing their jobs or tenure for becoming these organization’s advisors.

**Make Free Speech Again On Campus (MFSAOC) Program** is an interactive opportunity and nexus for high school and college students to start SAPIENT Being campus clubs, chapters, and alliances where independent, liberal, and conservative minded students can meet, discuss, and debate important issues by utilizing the sapient principles of viewpoint diversity, freedom of speech, and intellectual humility—and develop sapience in the process.

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### Are You a Sapient Being or Want to Be One?

Sapience, also known as wisdom, is the ability to think and act using knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense and insight. Sapience is associated with attributes such as intelligence, enlightenment, unbiased judgment, compassion, experiential self-knowledge, self-actualization, and virtues such as ethics and benevolence.

Being a sapient being is not about identity politics, it's about doing what is right and borrows many of the essential qualities of Centrism that supports strength, tradition, open mindedness, and policy based on evidence not ideology.

Sapient beings are independent minded thinkers that achieve common sense solutions that appropriately address America's and the world's most pressing issues. They gauge situations based on context and reason, consideration, and probability. They are open minded and exercise conviction and willing to fight for it on the intellectual battlefield. Sapient beings don't blindly and recklessly follow their feelings or emotions.

Their unifying ideology is based on the truth, reason, logic, scientific method, and pragmatism—and not necessarily defined by compromise, moderation, or any particular faith—but is considerate of them.

Most importantly, per a letter written by Princeton professor Robert George in 2017 and endorsed by 28 professors from three Ivy League universities for incoming freshmen, "Think for yourself!"

George's letter continues:

Thinking for yourself means questioning dominant ideas even when others insist on their being treated as unquestionable. It means deciding what one believes not by conforming to fashionable opinions, but by taking the trouble to learn and honestly consider the strongest arguments to be advanced on both or all sides of questions—including arguments for positions that others revile and want to stigmatize and against positions others seek to immunize from critical scrutiny.

The love of truth and the desire to attain it should motivate you to think for yourself. The crucial point of a college education is to seek truth and to learn the skills and acquire the virtues necessary to be a lifelong truth-seeker. Open-mindedness, critical thinking, and debate are essential to discovering the truth. Moreover, they are our best antidotes to bigotry.

Merriam-Webster's first definition of the word "bigot" is a person "who is obstinately or intolerantly devoted to his or her own opinions and prejudices." The only people who need fear open-minded inquiry and robust debate are the actual bigots, including those on campuses or in the broader society who seek to protect the hegemony of their opinions by claiming that to question those opinions is itself bigotry.



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So, don't be tyrannized by public opinion. Don't get trapped in an echo chamber. Whether you in the end reject or embrace a view, make sure you decide where you stand by critically assessing the arguments for the competing positions. Think for yourself. Good luck to you in college!

Now, that might sound easy. But you will find—as you may have discovered already in high school—that thinking for yourself can be a challenge. It always demands self-discipline, and these days can require courage.

In today's climate, it's all-too-easy to allow your views and outlook to be shaped by dominant opinion on your campus or in the broader academic culture. The danger any student—or faculty member—faces today is falling into the vice of conformism, yielding to groupthink, the orthodoxy.

At many colleges and universities what John Stuart Mill called “the tyranny of public opinion” does more than merely discourage students from dissenting from prevailing views on moral, political, and other types of questions. It leads them to suppose that dominant views are so obviously correct that only a bigot or a crank could question them.

Since no one wants to be, or be thought of as, a bigot or a crank, the easy, lazy way to proceed is simply by falling into line with campus orthodoxies. Don't do it!

To be sure, our overly-politicized culture has a tough time viewing any “verbal cacophony” as a sign of strength and vibrancy. And perhaps nowhere is this truer than on many college campuses where political correctness is rampant, groupthink is common, and social media “mobs” arise in a flash to intimidate anyone who openly strays from the prevailing orthodoxy.

At the SAPIENT Being we're not intimidated—and our primary purpose is to seek the truth by enhancing viewpoint diversity, promoting intellectual humility, protecting freedom of speech and expression while developing sapience in the process—no matter what the cost on the intellectual battlefield, campus classroom, and marketplace of ideas. This is our ethos! Is it yours?

Best regards and sapiently yours,

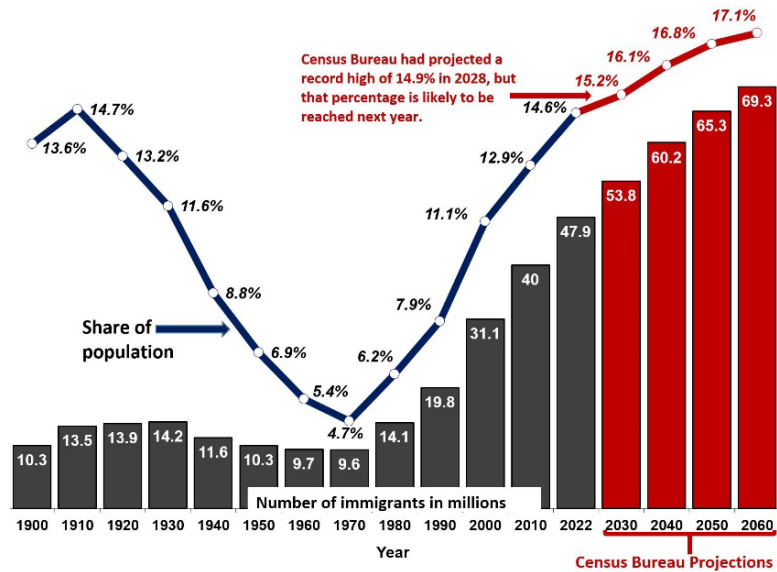


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## 1 – America: The World’s Top Destination for Legal & Illegal Immigrants



Credit: CIS tabulation of data from U.S. Census Bureau.

From the David Zimmermann “Biden Administration Failed to Remove 99 Percent of Illegal Immigrants Released Into U.S., GOP Report Shows” *National Review* October 2023 article:

Since January 2021, the Biden administration has failed to remove more than 99 percent of the illegal immigrants who have been released into the U.S., according to a 61-page report led by House Republicans titled THE BIDEN BORDER CRISIS: NEW DATA AND TESTIMONY SHOW HOW THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION OPENED THE SOUTHWEST BORDER AND ABANDONED INTERIOR ENFORCEMENT. A link for the full report can be found in the Appendix.

House Judiciary Committee chairman Jim Jordan (R., Ohio) and Immigration Subcommittee chairman Tom McClintock (R., Calif.) published new data that showed how the Biden administration and Department of Homeland Security secretary Alejandro Mayorkas have been downplaying the border crisis despite the extraordinary numbers.

At least 2,148,738 illegal aliens were released into the country, from President Joe Biden’s inauguration to March 31, 2023, according to their findings, and only 108,102 have been removed from the country by immigration authorities. Of those removals, DHS deported only 5,993 illegals through official immigration-court proceedings, accounting for less than 0.3 percent of the total number of aliens released.

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Furthermore, of the more than 5.6 million illegal aliens encountered at the southern border during that 26-month period, at least 2,464,424 had no confirmed departure from the U.S. as of March 2023.

“These data contradict Secretary Mayorkas’s statements that the southwest border is closed and that illegal aliens are ‘quickly’ removed,” the 61-page report reads. “Instead, with more than 99 percent of illegal aliens staying inside the United States after being released by the Biden administration, there is virtually no enforcement of our immigration laws.”

Notably, only 6 percent of illegal immigrants were found to have a legitimate fear of persecution in the past two years, debunking Mayorkas’s claim they are just asylum-seekers looking for a new home.

“The vast majority of those individuals have not sought to evade law enforcement but have actually surrendered themselves to law enforcement and made a claim for relief under our laws,” Mayorkas told CNN host Chris Wallace in February 2023, the report notes.

It also mentions that, owing to the record number of illegals crossing into the U.S. and Biden’s lax policies, border officials often can’t fulfill their immigration duties.

“Because of the unprecedented border crisis, some Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers have been forced to abandon arrests and removals of aliens, including criminal aliens, to process the illegal aliens who have arrived at the southwest border,” the report adds. “Meanwhile, the Biden administration’s own policies and so-called enforcement ‘priorities’ have contributed to reduced arrests and lower removals of aliens.”

### **Senate Republicans’ Report Condemns “Biden’s Border Crisis”**

Per the Simon Hankinson “Senate Republicans’ Report Condemns ‘Biden’s Border Crisis’” Heritage Foundation June 2022 article: Illegal crossings at the U.S. border are at “astronomical and record-breaking levels,” as detailed in a June 2022 report from the Republican minority on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee puts it.

The 47-page Senate report led by Idaho Senator James E. Risch, “Biden’s Border Crisis: Examining Policies That Encourage Illegal Migration,” describes the ongoing disgrace on our southern border and the utter failure of the Obama and Biden administrations to address it, concluding with some recommendations for immediate action to secure our country from uncontrolled illegal immigration. A link to the full report can be found in the Appendix.

First, the numbers: The report says that 234,088 foreigners were encountered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection at the border attempting to illegally enter the country in April 2022. That’s the highest-ever monthly total (back then and many times surpassed since then through 2023).

That staggering record was already broken, even as the report was being written. In May 2022, “there were 239,416 encounters along the southwest land border,” according to government figures.

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That doesn't count the unknown (and unknowable) number that evaded detection entirely. One estimate puts that number—the “got-aways”—at about a third (32%) of those caught, which would mean more than 600,000 last year.

According to the report, most illegal crossers still come from Mexico and the Northern Triangle countries of Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras), but the number from elsewhere increased nearly nine times between President Joe Biden's inauguration in January 2021 and March of this year to more than 88,000.

It seems not just Ecuadorians, Haitians, and Cubans, but also Cameroonians, Bangladeshis, and Chinese have received the message from the Biden administration that the border is wide open to illegal crossing without credible repercussions.

To summarize the report's conclusion, we have spent billions of dollars in foreign assistance in failed efforts to tackle the “root causes” of immigration. No doubt some of it reached the target countries, but much will have gone in administration and overhead fees to the “Beltway bandits” run by non-governmental organizations (NGO) with government connections.

The Obama administration's Strategy for Engagement in Central America failed and was built on the fantasy that any amount of U.S. money (in that case, \$3.6 billion) could fix what ails the countries to our south. The idea that we can spend enough on noble but vague goals such as security cooperation, promoting economic prosperity, encouraging good government, and fighting corruption in El Salvador, Honduras, or Guatemala in time to deter their youth from leaving right now is ludicrous.

In the words of the State Department's senior Latin American official in 2019, “This approach failed.” There is no realistic correlation between U.S. aid dollars spent in Mexico and the Northern Triangle, and any reduction in illegal crossings of our border by the targeted nations, much less from places such as Eritrea and India, which the “root causes” aid faucet does not even touch.

With an official policy of “prosecutorial discretion” not to deport them, work authorization, schooling for their children, health care in emergency rooms, and even driver's licenses and “free” in-state college tuition in many states, illegal residents of the U.S are highly incentivized to stay.

The Biden administration came to power with an open-borders mentality, determined to undo everything former President Donald Trump had done to control the border. Biden ended the successful Migrant Protection Protocols, which, by sending would-be illegal immigrants back into Mexico while their cases were decided, deterred fraudulent and frivolous asylum claims by economic migrants.

Biden also ended the promising Asylum Cooperative Agreements with Northern Triangle countries, and through regulatory overreach and prosecutorial discretion—which in practice means telling prosecutors not to do their jobs—undid efforts to streamline the asylum-processing system. U.S. immigration courts already have 1.7 million pending cases, and that impossible backlog is rapidly increasing.

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The Biden regime was also determined to end Title 42, the health-related provision enacted by Trump because of COVID-19 that allows Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to expel illegal immigrants before they can be admitted and claim asylum.

The disdain with which this administration treats career border officials and agents who attempt to enforce the law is disgraceful, from Biden's silence when Texas National Guardsman Bishop Evans died saving illegal immigrants from drowning to the White House's refusal to apologize to mounted Border Patrol agents after falsely accusing them of using their reins to whip Haitians crossing into the U.S. illegally.

The consequences of Biden's abject refusal to enforce our immigration laws are obvious, if slow to unfurl. At current rates, the Biden border is allowing in enough illegal immigrants to fill a city the size of Houston or Chicago in a year. Among them, CBP will likely arrest more than 10,000 criminals per year.

### Immigration: Solidarity, Identity, and the American Dream

As per the inspirational Cole P. Zail "Immigration: Solidarity, Identity, And The American Dream" *AMAC Magazine* Summer 2018 article: "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

The pedestal of New York Harbor's Statue of Liberty is adorned with an inscription from the classic American poem, "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus. Written in 1883, the excerpt of the poem featured on the statue's base has become a celebrated piece of American history and culture, widely credited with shaping the idea of New York's Statue of Liberty as a welcoming beacon to incoming immigrants.

Since the very formation of the United States, millions of people have entered this great nation as pilgrims, refugees, entrepreneurs, opportunists, nomads, missionaries, and pioneers. These immigrants made their way to the United States in pursuit of the American Dream, seeking a land in which life was richer, fuller, and more free.

Depending on their country of origin, these immigrants had varying conceptions of the American Dream, whether it meant freedom from government oppression, social mobility, a safe future for their children, economic prosperity, or simply the promise of an overall better life than that from which they came. Whatever their motivation, these people came from the farthest corners of the world to live in the greatest nation on earth, the United States of America.

This mass migration-legal immigration-is part of the foundation our great nation was built upon. The contributions of hard-working, naturalized American citizens have helped make our country strong, our culture robust, and our national spirit unparalleled. At its core, the United States of America is a country that unites people, however vast their differences may be, in the pride and exceptionalism of being able to call oneself an American.

#### "...Yearning to Breathe Free"

The United States has experienced several major waves of immigration since its inception.

## Immigration Madness

While the Pilgrims of the 1600s came to this country in search of religious freedom, later waves of immigrants arrived seeking greater economic opportunity and relief from government oppression. Most immigrants during the mid-1800s came from countries in Northern and Western Europe, as well as Latin America and Canada.

With the 1848 discovery of gold in California and the subsequent construction of the transcontinental railroad beginning in 1862, a wave of Asian immigrants soon arrived on the West Coast, hailing mainly from China and Japan.

By the turn of the century, the largest mass migration in the history of the world was underway. In 1907, approximately 1.25 million immigrants were processed at New York Harbor's Ellis Island immigration station alone—the bulk of which came from Southern and Eastern Europe.

Today, immigrants continue to make up a sizable percentage of the United States population. While the majority of immigrants throughout the past century were of European descent, today's immigrant population comes mainly from Mexico, Latin America, China, India, southeast Asia, Middle East, and Africa.

As these immigrants continue coming into the country, the words of Lazarus' poem ring true—the United States is the "golden door" where those from the farthest corners of the world can come to build new lives for themselves as American citizens.

### Census Bureau: No End in Sight to Record-Breaking Immigration

Noting the Jason Richwine “Census Bureau: No End in Sight to Record-Breaking Immigration” *National Review* November 2023 article:

In 1910, in the midst of a high immigration period known as the Great Wave, the Census Bureau found that 14.7 percent of the U.S. population was foreign-born, close to the record of 14.8 percent set in 1890. The onset of World War I would soon lessen the flow, however, and restrictive legislation passed in the 1920s kept immigration low for the next four decades. The years 1890 and 1910 stood as the high-water marks of immigration in the U.S.—until now.

According to the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), the foreign-born share hit roughly 15 percent in August 2023. Although there is some sampling error involved in that estimate, the U.S. is clearly at or near a new record.

Optimists may cite the Great Wave as proof that the U.S. can absorb the high levels of immigration that we are experiencing today. The problem with that analogy is that the Great Wave was followed by a long period of low immigration, giving newcomers time to integrate. By contrast, new population projections out today from the Census Bureau show no expected slowdown in immigration. The bureau projects that the foreign-born share will keep increasing throughout the century, setting new records year after year.

In the bureau's main analysis, the foreign-born share will approach 20 percent by the end of the century, and in the alternative “high immigration” scenario it would rise to nearly 25 percent. As my colleague Steven Camarota notes, the acceleration of immigration under President Biden probably makes the “high” scenario the more likely one.

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Absent a change in policy, our country's absorptive capacity will soon be tested as it never has been before.

### **The Immigrant Population is Growing Rapidly**

The total foreign-born population reached a record 47 million in April 2022, according to a new information provided by Steven Camarota and Karen Ziegler that is covered in the Mark Krikorian "The Immigrant Population Is Growing Rapidly" report in the *National Review* in June 2022:

While that's the largest number ever recorded, and the total number of immigrants is important in itself, the simple fact of a record number is maybe the least interesting finding of the report; after all, a growing population of any kind sets a new record every year.

But the pace of that growth is remarkable. The report, based on the Census Bureau's monthly Current Population Survey, noted that the 47 million number is half-again more than in 2000. Going back further, the total size of the foreign-born population has doubled since 1990, tripled since 1980, and quintupled since 1970. (The total U.S. population has grown only by about half since 1970.)

In addition to the size of the foreign-born population, the percentage also matters. The foreign-born now account for one in seven U.S. residents (14.3 percent)—the highest percentage since 1910. As recently as 1990 they were about one in 13 (7.9 percent) U.S. residents. The numbers are growing so fast that if present trends continue, the foreign-born share of the population will reach about 15 percent by the end of 2023, higher than at any time in the nation's 246-year history.

Considering this rapid growth in numbers, and the approaching record percentage, you'd think lawmakers would want to consider the impacts on schools, health-care systems, welfare programs, physical infrastructure, the job market, quality of life, etc.

Maybe even more important, where is the national leader who even asks how many people we can successfully assimilate? The last great wave of immigration, from the 1870s to the 1920s, was brought to an end when immigration was greatly curtailed by legislation, contributing hugely to the successful assimilation of those already here. This, even more than the disaster at the border, is the most pressing issue in immigration policy.

### **Immigration Backlashes Spread Around the World**

From the Tom Fairless "Immigration Backlashes Spread Around the World" *Wall Street Journal* July 2023 article: Record immigration to affluent countries is sparking bigger backlashes across the world, boosting populist parties and putting pressure on governments to tighten policies to stem the migration wave.

But the jump in arrivals, along with increases in illegal immigration to the U.S. and Europe, is making more voters uneasy. The influx since the end of the pandemic is altering societies, with many people blaming immigrants for increases in crime and higher housing costs.

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The Dutch government collapsed in July 2023 after parties failed to agree on new measures to restrict immigration that has soared to record levels, triggering new elections in the fall. Anti-immigrant parties recently took power in Italy and Finland, and have started backing a minority government in Sweden. Austria's far-right Freedom Party is leading national polls.

Around five million more people moved to affluent countries last year than left them, as Covid-era travel restrictions eased, rich-world labor shortages intensified, and economic problems in the developing world worsened. That was up 80% from pre-pandemic levels, according to a *Wall Street Journal* data analysis.

Polls across affluent countries show a jump in opposition to immigration, including in places that have been most welcoming to newcomers.

Roughly half of Canadians think the government's new target of about a half-million immigrants a year is too many in a country of 40 million, while three-quarters worry the plan will result in excessive demand for housing and health and social services, according to a poll by Léger, a Montreal-based research company.

In the U.K., which has eased rules to attract more college graduates from abroad to fill skills shortages, nearly half of people think legal migration is too high, according to a March 2023 poll by Public First, a research consultancy.

**In the U.S., where a large percentage of the population has long opposed immigration, attitudes have hardened over the past year.**

Americans' satisfaction with the level of immigration into the U.S. declined to 28% in February 2023, the lowest reading in a decade, from 34% a year earlier, according to Gallup polls.

And in France, which has been convulsed by violent protests after police shot and killed a teenager of North African origin, recent polls suggest that French far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen, who favors tighter rules on immigration, could win the country's next presidential election.

Voters' concerns typically center on illegal immigration, which tends to weigh on wages and social-welfare systems. Illegal entries across the Mediterranean into Europe and from Mexico to the U.S. have surged to record levels in recent years.

Europe is expanding efforts, launched before the pandemic, to build hundreds of miles of new barriers on land and sea to stem an increase in illegal migration. Finland is building a 125-mile high-tech fence along its border with Russia, while Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said in March the country would complete a 90-mile steel fence along its border with Turkey to prevent illegal crossings.

In Europe especially, "you definitely have a strong mismatch between the kind of people our labor markets need and the kind of people actually coming in," said Roland Freudenstein, Brussels-based vice president of the independent think tank Globsec.



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Many immigrants to Europe are motivated by generous social-welfare systems in places such as Sweden and Germany, Freudenstein said. That differs from the U.S., where immigrants are more motivated by work, in part because social benefits are less generous, he said.

In 2015-16, surging immigration into the U.S. and Europe helped fuel the discontent that drove Britain's exit from the European Union and Donald Trump's ascent to the presidency. "We are seeing a similar push now that might go even further," Freudenstein said.

### What Happened When Immigration Fell?

Per the Steven A. Camarota "What Happened When Immigration Fell?" *National Review* May 2023 article: We are often told that America must have very high levels of immigration—otherwise, businesses will be deprived of the labor needed to expand. CEOs from retail to technology have recently made this case, as have allied politicians from both sides of the aisle.

But is it really true?

The period between 2016 and 2019 represents a good test of this argument because both legal and illegal immigration fell substantially. If immigration enthusiasts were right, the economy should have sputtered, but that's not what happened. In fact, GDP grew, inflation remained low, and—perhaps most significantly—wages for less educated American workers not only grew but grew at a faster rate than for high-skill workers.

After peaking at 1.75 million in 2016, the total number of new immigrants (legal and illegal) fell to 1.45 million in 2017, followed by 1.34 million and 1.36 million in 2018 and 2019, respectively. Of course, there is always some undercount in Census Bureau survey data, but the rate of undercount tends not to change from year to year, so there is little question that new arrivals declined significantly.

Moreover, the Census Bureau estimated that net migration—the difference between the number of people arriving in the country versus the number leaving—also fell significantly. Fewer immigrants came, and more of the people already here left.

A stronger economy traditionally encourages more immigrants to come, especially illegal immigrants, but that was not true in the first three years of the Trump administration. Immigration slowed almost certainly because of the administration's restrictive policies—including a reduction in refugee admissions, efforts to curtail welfare eligibility for new immigrants, the Remain in Mexico policy for asylum seekers, more worksite enforcement against employers who hire illegal immigrants, increased fencing at the border, efforts to end temporary protected status and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, as well as some smaller administrative changes that cumulatively made a difference.

#### **So what, if any, impact did the decline in immigration have?**

First, total GDP growth in these three years was actually higher than in the preceding three years—7.5 versus 6.7 percent. The inflation rate, which is now such a concern, was about the same in the first three years of the Trump presidency as it had been in the years before.

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Importantly, real (inflation-adjusted) weekly earnings for full-time U.S.-born workers without a bachelor's degree grew 3.2 percent between the fourth quarters of 2016 and 2019, whereas it had actually declined slightly from 2012 to 2016. In addition to an increase in earnings, the labor-force-participation rate—the share of working-age adults either employed or actively looking for work—also increased for the less educated U.S.-born. In contrast, there was little improvement in labor-force participation in the years before 2016, after the rate bottomed out in 2013 as a result of the Great Recession.

These workers earn much less on average than those with a college education, and their earnings had increased little in recent decades. Those without a college degree make up the overwhelming majority of the working poor, particularly those with children. Moreover, they are the primary beneficiaries of the earned-income tax credit and refundable child tax credits aimed at low-income workers. If they earn more in the labor market, the cost of the welfare state will lessen.

So, what's happened since 2019? Covid-19 hit at the beginning of 2020, and the accompanying shutdowns had a very negative impact on the economy. Real earnings for virtually all workers, immigrant and U.S.-born, declined from 2020 to 2022, in part because of the high inflation. However, the decline in earnings also coincides with a dramatic rebound in immigration.

While we cannot say with certainty because all the data have not been released, the available information indicates that more than 4 million immigrants (legal and illegal) settled in the United States in 2021 and 2022. The decline in earnings for virtually all workers, particularly lower paid and less educated Americans, should give pause to those advocates now calling for more immigration to reduce inflation by lowering wages even more.

The immigration slowdown in the years just before the pandemic illustrates what can happen when government policy reduces immigration during an economic expansion. The available evidence from 2016 to 2019 indicates that less educated American-born workers did better, although of course we cannot establish a causal relationship with certainty.

What we can say with certainty is that immigration fell, the economy expanded, and lower paid American workers did well—all without sparking inflation. This runs directly counter to the oft-heard argument that very high levels of immigration are necessary for the American economy to prosper.

Well-known economist Paul Samuelson observed six decades ago: “After World War I, laws were passed severely limiting immigration. Only a trickle of immigrants has been admitted since then. . . . By keeping labor supply down, immigration policy tends to keep wages high.” The short-lived immigration slowdown a few years ago seems to confirm this truth. It turns out that the basic laws of supply and demand apply to immigration, after all.

### **Biden 2.0: The US Could Double its Undocumented Immigrant Population**

Per the Nolan Rappaport “Biden 2.0: The US Could Double Its Undocumented Immigrant Population” published in *The Hill* in November 2023:

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President Joe Biden initially sought to reform our “broken” immigration system through legislative means. On his first day in office, he sent his U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021 to Congress. It would establish numerous immigration benefits, including the largest legalization program in U.S. history, increased opportunities for lawful immigration and humane treatment of migrants at the border.

When this didn’t work, he shifted his focus to administrative actions. This included bypassing the visa system by bringing migrants here through new legal pathways, catch and release at the border and restricting interior enforcement. Apparently, by “broken,” he means that existing law doesn’t permit enough immigrants to come here and subjects the ones here unlawfully to the threat of deportation.

This has caused serious, presumably unanticipated consequences, such as a record-breaking increase in illegal border crossings and an immigration court backlog crisis that can’t be fixed.

Border security expert Todd Bensman claims that whether migrants are willing to pay big fees to be smuggled into the country depends on how likely it is that they will be able to get in and stay—and the likelihood of being able to do this has been extraordinarily high during the Biden presidency.

This is not likely to change if Biden is re-elected.

### **Catch and release and “lawful pathways” let them in without visas.**

Border Patrol has encountered more than 5.6 million illegal border crossers on the Southwest border during the first three years of the Biden presidency, which is three times the number of encounters it experienced during Donald Trump’s presidency. The average number of monthly encounters under Biden has been roughly 189,000, compared to an average of 51,000 during the Trump administration.

Moreover, as of the end of March 2023, Biden had released more than 2 million of them into the interior of the country. These are not just asylum seekers. The Border Patrol apprehended 169 illegal crossers on the terrorism watchlist in fiscal 2023, compared to only 11 from fiscal 2017 through fiscal 2020.

More illegal crossings are occurring on the northern border, too. One of the northern Border Patrol sectors has apprehended more than 6,100 illegal crossers from 76 countries in the last 11 months, which is more than during the previous 10 years combined.

Biden also has established “legal pathways” that provide an alternative to illegal border crossings for migrants who can’t get visas. He has used these initiatives and border practices to parole around 3.6 million migrants into the country in the last three years. The parole status of at least 1.2 million of them has lapsed, and they are still here.

The legal pathways include special processes for paroling up to 30,000 nationals a month into the country from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela, and a Family Reunification Parole Process for certain nationals of Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti and Honduras.

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He also expanded the Customs and Border Patrol One mobile application program that was launched by the Trump administration. It permits migrants without visas to schedule an appointment to present themselves for inspection at a designated port of entry.

Nearly 250,000 migrants without visas have been paroled into the United States through this program through August 2023. From January through Sept. 5, 2023, parole was granted in 99.7 percent of the interviews.

In view of the success Biden has had in using these programs as an alternative to the visa system, I would expect him to maintain or even increase his use of such programs if he is re-elected.

### **Lax interior enforcement lets them stay.**

DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas issued enforcement guidelines in which he says that, “The fact an individual is a removable noncitizen therefore should not alone be the basis of an enforcement action against them.” The guidelines focus enforcement efforts instead “on those who pose a threat to national security, public safety, and border security and thus threaten America’s well-being.”

Unlike the past, the new guidelines shield illegal border crossers from deportation once they have reached the interior of the country, which encourages them to keep trying until they succeed. Such multiple attempts have become common.

Biden can’t reverse this without subjecting himself to claims that he has reverted to his predecessor’s enforcement policies. Biden and Trump both prioritized the removal of criminal migrants. The main difference is that Biden has exempted migrants who are just deportable for being here unlawfully while Trump didn’t exempt any deportable migrants.

### **The carrot-and-stick solution**

Biden tried to reduce illegal crossings with a carrot-and-stick strategy that combines an expansion of legal pathways to the U.S. with adverse consequences for those who still choose to make an illegal entry.

Migrants who enter illegally instead of taking advantage of a legal pathway will be presumed to be ineligible for asylum absent an applicable exception and may be processed in expedited removal proceedings.

Illegal crossings dropped from 183,921 in April 2023 to 99,538 in June, but they rose back to 181,059 in August and were at 218,763 in September (and continued to rise in October to December). The total for fiscal 2023 was 2,045,838!

### **Backlog crisis**

Biden’s programs have released so many migrants into the country that they have overwhelmed the immigration court. The court is needed to adjudicate asylum applications and to remove migrants Biden has released into the country who are not able to establish asylum eligibility or any other basis for remaining here.

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At the end of 2021, the immigration court backlog had reached 1,596,193—the largest in history. But by the end of fiscal 2023, the backlog was 2,794,629 cases. And progress isn't being made on reducing it. The court received 1,488,110 new cases in fiscal 2023, and only completed 669,011.

Biden has requested funding to hire 150 more judges. But the Congressional Research Service determined that even if the size of the immigration court were to be increased from the 600 judges it has now to 1,349 judges, it would still take 10 years to clear the backlog. And the situation has gotten worse since that calculation was made.

### What Happens When the Darien Gap Is Overrun?

Using the Michael Brendan Dougherty “What Happens When the Darien Gap Is Overrun?” alert from the *National Review* in April 2023, he notes:

The most important barrier to illegal entry to the United States from South America was so impassable that only one normal car has ever crossed it. Sixty-two years ago, a Land Rover made the journey. And it took five months to do so, crawling along at just over a tenth of a mile per hour.

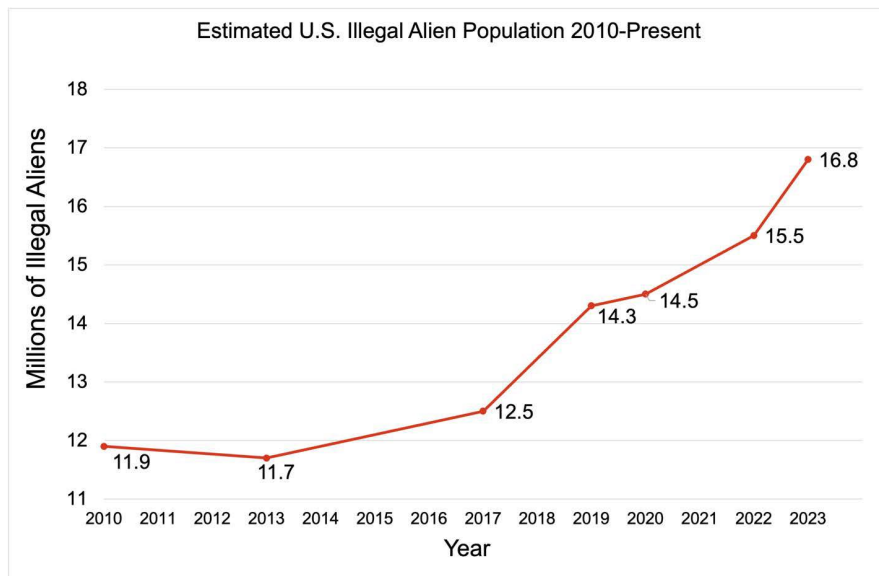
This barrier is guarded ferociously day and night, with truly deadly sentries who are indifferent to human life. And it's not even on the American border—it is the no-man's land that exists between Central and South America, the Darien Gap between Panama and Colombia. It is the only place between Prudhoe Bay in Alaska and Ushuaia, Argentina, the world's southernmost city on planet Earth, that cannot be driven over.

The Darien Gap has stopped Colombia's drug-trade dysfunction from spreading north into Panama. It's also been the one thing, including massively tightened visa restrictions into Mexico, stopping a tsunami of potential migration to the United States from South America. And not just South America. After the collapse of Haiti's government in 2021, Haitians began pioneering a route to the southern border of the United States using the Darien Gap.

Since Covid, a number of countries have become drastically more unlivable, and hundreds of thousands of their citizens are now following in those Haitian footsteps, whether from Venezuela, Ecuador, Gambia, or China. And this wave of humanity is starting to tame the jungle by trampling it. Increasingly, drug smugglers and paramilitaries are organizing the gap for migration. It's estimated that as many as 400,000 will cross the Darien Gap in 2023; 90,000 have already done so as of April 2023. People are coming from all over the world as well.

## Immigration Madness

### 15 – Common Sense Legislation to Fix America’s ‘Broken’ & ‘Abused’ Immigration System



*Credit: FAIR.*

As our final chapter, it’s longer than usual, but extremely important, because it covers many action plans and proposal to fix America’s immigration system, and the Heritage Foundation is leading the way in this regard.

From the “What Immigration Reform Should Look Like” Heritage Foundation December 2023 policy paper: For over two centuries, the United States has welcomed millions of people from every corner of the globe. And today, we lawfully admit over one million people every year. That is more than any other country in the world.

The debate is not about whether we should allow immigration – it’s about how we do so in a way that protects American sovereignty, respects the rule of law, and is beneficial to all Americans. So what does a thoughtful agenda for American immigration reform look like? Here are four guiding principles:

**Number one:** We must respect the consent of the governed, that is the will of the people. Individuals who are not citizens do not have a right to American citizenship without the consent of the American people.

## Immigration Madness

That consent is expressed through the immigration laws of the United States. Through those laws, we the people invite individuals from other countries, under certain conditions, to join us as residents and fellow citizens.

**Number two:** We cannot compromise national security and public safety. Every nation has the right, recognized by both international and domestic law, to secure its borders and ports of entry and control what and who is coming into its country.

A disorganized and chaotic immigration system encourages people to go around the law and is a clear invitation to those who wish to take advantage of our openness to harm the nation. Secure borders, especially in a time of terrorist threat, are crucial to American national security.

**Number three:** Becoming a citizen means becoming an American. We must preserve patriotic assimilation. The founding principles of this nation imply that an individual of any ethnic heritage or racial background can become an American. That's why we have always welcomed immigrants seeking the promises and opportunities of the American Dream.

Patriotic assimilation is the bond that allows America to be a nation of immigrants. Without it, we cease to be a country with a distinct character, becoming instead a hodgepodge of different groups.

If we are to be a united nation, living up to our motto of *e pluribus unum*, out of many, one...we all must understand and embrace a common language, history, and civic culture. And that not only benefits America, but also those immigrants and their families who aspire to prosper here.

**Number four:** Our lawmakers must respect the rule of law and immigration is no exception. Failure to enforce our immigration laws is unfair to those who obey the law and follow the rules to enter the country legally. Those who enter and remain in the country illegally should not be rewarded with legal status or other benefits. When politicians condone such behavior they only encourage further illegal conduct.

Based on these principles, immigration reform should include transitioning to a merit-based system. We should end practices like chain migration, birthright citizenship, the visa lottery, arbitrary per-country immigration caps, and any form of amnesty for those here illegally. We must close loopholes that prevent enforcement of our laws and have overwhelmed immigration courts, allowing illegitimate asylum claimants and other lawbreakers to remain in the U.S. indefinitely.

And we must take on these issues one by one. A comprehensive "deal" subjects the fate of policies with universal appeal to the fate of the most controversial topics. The key is to begin by working on the solutions on which most Americans agree.

We must and can address this issue in a manner that is fair, responsible, humane, and prudent. This is too important an issue to not get right and too important an issue to be driven by partisan agendas. Let's stay focused on what is best for the welfare of all Americans, both those of today and those of the future.

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### The Biden Border Crisis Has Gone on Long Enough (How Congress Can Help)

Per the Lora Ries “The Biden Border Crisis Has Gone on Long Enough (How Congress Can Help)” Heritage Foundation November 2022 policy proposition:

Earlier this year, the Heritage Foundation, the America First Policy Institute, the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), the National Border Patrol Council, and other organizations put forward a plan the next Congress should follow. It was endorsed by border security professionals like former acting Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Mark Morgan, former acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Director Tom Homan, and former DHS acting deputy secretary Ken Cuccinelli—and for good reason. The letter dated May 11, 2022 stated:

Dear Congressional Leaders,

When the 118th Congress opens with new majorities in both chambers, it will be in large part because Americans have rejected the Biden Administration’s purposeful dismantling of our nation’s borders and our immigration enforcement infrastructure. Congress should be emboldened with the mandate to immediately legislate unflinchingly, ensuring that neither this nor any future administration is again able to weaponize loopholes in the immigration system—and defiantly refuse to follow plain law—to purposefully drive mass illegal immigration to the United States. Such weaponization has dramatically reduced the security of the border, allowing cartels to expand their operational control, which seriously jeopardizes our nation’s safety, health, and national security. The opportunity to legislate has been missed in several previous Congresses but the stakes are too high for it to be missed again.

As of the writing of this letter, over 2.8 million illegal aliens have been apprehended at our southwest border entering or attempting to enter the United States since Biden took office. The administration has admitted that at least 42 of these aliens were on the terror watchlist. Over 1.6 million illegal aliens, including known gotaways, are now in the interior of the United States—more than the population of states such as Hawaii, Maine, Montana, and New Hampshire. Moreover, these record numbers largely occurred prior to the lifting of Title 42, the last remaining significant measure holding back even higher, crushing numbers. The worst is yet to come.

The results for the United States have been devastating. Criminal transnational cartels have increased their control. According to some reports, they are now making more money in controlling human smuggling than they make from drugs. As the border is overwhelmed, the drugs are flowing in. Fentanyl deaths are now the leading cause of death for Americans ages 18-45.

This purposeful crisis was made possible by glaring loopholes in our immigration system that have been allowed to persist for far too long. This problem is most evident with the asylum system, which Congress intended to protect a narrow category of people persecuted by their governments based on one of several enumerated grounds. In practice, economic migrants



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without viable claims for protection continue to flood the system by simply claiming “credible fear” and are released into the interior of the country where their likelihood of being removed when their claims are denied is minimal.

To regain our sovereignty, integrity, and security, Congress must close these loopholes and make other changes so that the Biden Administration cannot continue this self-inflicted crisis. It is not enough for the next Congress to simply restart construction of the border wall system or adjust resources at Customs and Border Protection.

While those are important measures required to secure the borders, without closing the loopholes and other changes, the Biden Administration’s policies will continue to act as a powerful magnet, attracting millions of illegal aliens into our country.

To retake control of our border and properly address what is sure to be an electoral mandate, we urge you to unite behind flagship introductory legislation for the upcoming Congress. Most importantly, it must include the following components:

- Exclude amnesty of any type;
- Create an authority to immediately expel illegal aliens across the border;
- Substantially reform the asylum system, including clarifying that an alien is ineligible for asylum in the U.S. if they traversed a safe third country;
- End the disparate treatment of contiguous vs. non-contiguous unaccompanied alien children (UAC) under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) and terminate the Flores settlement agreement that limits detention of family units to 20-days; and Raise the credible fear standard;
- Mandate and appropriate resources for completion of the border wall system;
- Increase CBP personnel & resources such as holding facilities and border technology, and clarify CBP’s authority to issue Notices to Appear (NTAs);
- Increase ICE resources for Deportation Officers (DO) and detention beds so they are commensurate with the mandatory detention and removal requirements in the law, and clarify DO’s authority to make custodial arrests;
- End the abuse of the parole authority;
- Restrict prosecutorial discretion to remove it as the catch-all excuse for limiting immigration enforcement;
- Mandate full implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), otherwise known as Remain in Mexico, and appropriate funds for permanent court facilities along the border at every POE;
- Codify *Matter of A-B-*, which clarified that gang violence and domestic violence are not grounds for asylum;
- Eliminate discretionary grants of employment authorization under 8 U.S.C. 1324A(h)(3);

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- Clarify that the entry into the U.S. of any alien with known or suspected ties to, or association with, a terrorist entity is prohibited until that alien has been properly vetted and the Secretary has determined that no threat exists;
- Establish further restrictions on federal court jurisdiction to review claims brought by aliens and their associations/organizations; and
- Reverse *Arizona v. United States* and give states independent authority to participate in the enforcement of immigration laws.

These are the primary components that would constitute a robust border security bill. These are the fixes that, if enacted and enforced, would end the border crisis. Ending the border crisis will be a mandate from the American people. This is how you do it.

It's important to note, however, that this is only an initial step. Leadership should put additional, shovel-ready border security and immigration bills on the floor throughout the next Congress—from ending sanctuary policies to protecting American workers.

Congress will also need to conduct aggressive oversight and properly control federal funding mechanisms.

### An Agenda for American Immigration Reform

From the Heritage Foundation immigration reform policy team of Kay James, James Carafano, John Malcolm and Jack Spencer comes the far reaching and comprehensive February 2019 “An Agenda for American Immigration Reform” policy agenda outline:

To address immigration and border security in a manner that keeps America free, safe, and prosperous, Congress must take a step-by-step approach to the full range of issues: Reject amnesty and open borders; secure our southern border; end “catch and release;” combat transnational criminal networks, fraud, humanitarian abuses, and human trafficking; restore the integrity of immigration enforcement; and sustain productive regional engagement.

Our flawed immigration system cannot be fixed without adoption and implementation of these initiatives. Legal immigration reform should include transitioning to a merit-based system, ending practices like birthright citizenship, and promoting patriotic assimilation. Moreover, legal immigration, border security, and enforcement reforms should stand alone and advance on their own merits, not bundled into a comprehensive package.

#### Foreword

Per Kay Coles James, past President of the Heritage Foundation:

The toughest policy issues call for honest, clear, and bold solutions. Throughout my career in government and public policy, few issues have presented challenges like America's flawed immigration system and broken borders. For decades, Congress has tried and failed to deliver satisfactory solutions. This situation cannot stand. Now is the time for action.

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This is too important an issue not to get right and too important an issue to be driven by partisan agendas. Immigration, after all, is one of the fundamental building blocks that help to make America the unique nation that it is.

For over two centuries, the United States has welcomed millions of people from every corner of the globe. During the Constitutional Convention of 1787, James Madison expressed his wish “to invite foreigners of merit and republican principles among us. America was indebted to emigration for her settlement and prosperity.” That open, welcoming attitude exists today, as evidenced by the fact that the United States lawfully admits over a million foreigners per year, more than any other country.

With that in mind, the research team at the Heritage Foundation set out to deliver a complete answer to the challenges posed by border security and immigration.

Fixing the problem requires some tough medicine. Amnesty is not the answer. We must stand strong against those who advocate open borders. Our borders must be secured—and yes, that means building more barriers (a wall if you will) along our southern border. Individuals who are here illegally do not have a right to stay. Our laws have to be enforced. It is only fair to millions of Americans (who have followed them) that we expect those who join our great nation to respect its laws and add to its wealth and welfare.

### Introduction

Despite a protracted debate on illegal immigration and border security that has lasted more than a decade, Congress has failed to address these issues in a manner that will keep America free, safe, and prosperous. This must end. The role of Congress is critical in crafting a proper path forward. Congress must address the full range of issues but take a step-by-step approach.

Legal immigration reform is another important step. An effective legal immigration system is part of a powerful deterrent against illegal immigration, protects American sovereignty, respects the rule of law, preserves American identity, and contributes to the wealth and welfare of the nation. These reforms include transitioning to a merit-based system, ending practices like birthright citizenship, and promoting patriotic assimilation.

In addition, it is important that legal immigration, border security, and enforcement reforms not be bundled into a comprehensive package. They should stand alone and advance on their own merit.

The agenda for reform outlined in this paper was developed by:

**Assessing the problem.** Our current system stands on a clear constitutional foundation that established the sanctity of popular sovereignty, respect for the rule of law, and the protection of human liberty. Over many decades, that clarity has been lost through political compromise and contradictory impulses. In addition, shifting security, economic, and cultural challenges that often promote contrasting priorities must also be addressed.

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**Establishing principles.** To remain true to the foundation established by the Constitution and adapt border security, enforcement, and immigration law to address contemporary challenges, our research identified four key principles to evaluate and prioritize our recommendations:

**Respect the consent of the governed.** There is no right to become a citizen or remain unlawfully present in the U.S.; there is no place in America for a policy of “open borders.”

**Preserve patriotic assimilation.** This is a nation where immigrants become American, and it must remain so.

**Do not compromise national security and public safety.** We must know who is entering the country and have resilient and efficacious means to screen against malicious threats and remove people that break the law or are a danger to American citizens.

**Respect the rule of law.** Those who enter illegally are violating the rule of law; the Law of Nations Clause of the Constitution guarantees the power to control immigration.

**Defining an agenda for action.** This agenda provides a guide for mastering the challenges faced by legislators in crafting an effective agenda that addresses present-day conditions. These recommendations include border security, enforcing the law, and legal immigration reforms. They conform to the four guiding principles outlined above.

Taken together, this package of reforms addresses the scope of what needs to be accomplished to restore the integrity and effectiveness of border and immigration enforcement, preserve the sovereignty of Americans, and modernize the legal immigration system.

### Assessing the Problem

Significant factors complicate the problem of reforming legal immigration, enforcement, and border security. The United States cannot have borders and immigration that better serve all Americans without addressing them.

**Chain Migration and the Visa Lottery.** For some time, the family reunification preference has been a means to extend green cards well beyond the nuclear family. In essence, once a family member is legally allowed within the country, a chain begins that extends out to the farthest reaches of a family. Similarly, while family-based immigrants contribute to the U.S. economy in some ways, depending on their education and skill level, the current system does not consider their skills or productivity, but merely their relation to someone already living in the United States.

A review of the economic literature from scholars of various ideological and academic leanings finds that higher-skilled and more-educated immigrants bring greater economic benefits from entrepreneurship and innovation than lower-skilled or less-educated immigrants bring.

Given the finite number of available slots for entering this country, family migration is coming not merely at the expense of the U.S. and its citizens, but also at the expense of other people who want to come to the U.S. legally.

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The per-country limit has led to significant backlogs for immigrants from large immigrant-sending countries such as India, Mexico, the Philippines, and China. This policy ignores both the value of and the justification for individual immigrants coming to the U.S. exclusively because of their country of origin, and the result is clearly discriminatory.

Similarly, the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program, otherwise known as the “visa lottery” program, awards 50,000 visas per year drawn from a “random selection among all entries to individuals who are from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States.”

A lottery is hardly a purposeful design for determining who can become an LPR—and eventually a citizen—in the United States.

**Meritless Legal Claims.** The current immigration court system has a backlog of over 800,000 cases. Immigrants with viable claims of asylum or other meritorious claims for legal status in the United States should have confidence that their cases will be handled in a fair, legal, and expeditious manner, but because our immigration court system is overwhelmed, outdated, and in dire need of reform, cases of merit are lumped in with meritless cases, each of which can take years to resolve.

It is a common dilatory tactic for aliens to file applications for relief that lack legal and factual merit due to the length of time required for immigration judges to adjudicate them, especially those on a nondetained docket. This tactic is perhaps the single greatest reason for the backlog of cases pending adjudication in every immigration court throughout the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR), especially for recent entrants seeking asylum and withholding of removal.

All trial participants know that if the alien expresses any sort of harm, the immigration judge is duty-bound to provide them a Form I-589 application for relief, grant a continuance for them to file the application, and then schedule an individual hearing on the merits and prepare an exhaustive oral or written decision if the application is denied.

Given the common practice by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) not to appeal discretionary decisions favorable to the alien to the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), many immigration judges apparently grant relief from removal to avoid the considerable time required to prepare an oral or written decision.

In every state, federal, and administrative court system in the United States, judges routinely issue summary decisions in cases based solely on the documents filed in the record and without taking any testimony from the parties or their witnesses under oath in open court. If a typical state court judge were required to issue the same degree of precision, either orally or in writing, in every case and for any request by the parties, as is currently the practice in immigration courts, their docket would be at a virtual standstill.

Another issue of concern is the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals misinterpretation of the *Flores v. Reno* settlement agreement or “Flores settlement,” in which the Clinton Administration agreed to release unaccompanied alien minors within 20 days. This encourages illegal border crossing and fraudulent claims.

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The Ninth Circuit recently held that the Flores settlement requires the DHS to release from its custody all children, even if they are with their parents, so when adults cross the border with a child, DHS is required to release the child within 20 days. Since the parents broke the law by crossing the border illegally, the government tries to detain and prosecute them after their asylum claims are completed, and since that will take more than 20 days, the DHS has to release the child, leaving the government with the choice of detaining the parents or releasing them all.

With the end of the zero-tolerance policy, the DHS has decided that it will simply release anyone accompanied by a child in order to comply with *Flores v. Reno*. As a result, the number of family units crossing the border is skyrocketing, overwhelming the DHS's ability even to figure out basic details of their travel and exhausting the immigration court system.

**Legislative Missteps.** The current structure of quotas based on the INA has put tremendous strain on the system, increasing illegal immigration and jeopardizing the ability of the United States to recruit and retain those who want to come to America to improve their own lives and those of other Americans. The resulting frustration with the immigration system from virtually every ideological perspective has contributed significantly to the demand for reform.

In the past few decades, the national debate has revolved around how best to enforce existing immigration laws, how best to stem the tide of illegal immigration into the United States, what we should do about the millions of illegal immigrants residing in the United States, and what should be done to change our legal immigration system.

One approach to solving these interrelated and vexing issues has been to pass a “comprehensive immigration reform” law. On its surface, that approach might seem reasonable, as we are a country of problem solvers, and anything Congress can do to fix a problem once and for all is necessarily appealing.

In practice, however, the fix-it-all-at-once approach has contributed to the problem and should not be repeated. The most recent example is the Reagan-era Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, otherwise known as the Simpson-Mazzoli Act.

Amnesty kicked in immediately, and over 3 million illegal aliens gained legal status in the United States. Employers found ways to skirt the new law: They complied technically with the verification requirements by accepting what looked like genuine work documents, regardless of what they reasonably should have known about the veracity of the documents.

In addition, money for increased border security was not appropriated immediately and by 1989, illegal immigration border crossings had increased as the lure of jobs and future amnesty drove millions to cross the U.S.-Mexico border. Strengthened border patrols in some areas merely dispersed illegal crossings to other areas. Today, millions of illegals are living inside the United States due to a lack of increased border security.

**Cross-Border Criminality.** While borders have been an uncommon avenue for terrorism, they have served as a common path for crime. Specifically, the activities of transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) pose significant challenges to the U.S.

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The opioid crisis has refocused attention on the issue of drug smuggling. For example, in FY 2017, the U.S. seized 62,331 pounds of cocaine at POEs and 9,346 pounds elsewhere along the border as well as 1,196 pounds of fentanyl at POEs. DHS estimates that at ports of entry, it seized only 2.1 percent of the inbound cocaine, a percentage that has been dropping in recent years.

Human trafficking is another challenge posed by criminal organizations. Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to induce some sort of labor or act. Thousands of individuals are trafficked into the U.S. every year for the purposes of forced labor and sex slavery. TCOs also engage in countless other illegal behaviors, including money laundering to move and hide their ill-gotten wealth and weapons smuggling, among many others.

**Illegal Immigration Across Land Borders.** However, illegal immigration is more problematic than the overall numbers indicate. The recent use of caravans (and now trains) to come to the U.S. threatens to overwhelm U.S. borders. The rise in children and family migrants also makes enforcement much harder by consuming additional resources. This includes the Flores settlement, which makes it very difficult to detain and remove unaccompanied children and family units, especially when combined with asylum claims, which also have increased drastically in recent years.

Furthermore, loopholes that prevent enforcement are drawing more illegal immigrants to the U.S. because the U.S. simply cannot remove them fast enough. An agreement with Mexico by the Trump administration to keep asylum seekers in Mexico while they apply for asylum is a significant step in the right direction, but the loopholes remain.

**Illegal Immigration Through Visa Overstays.** In recent years, about two-thirds of new illegal immigrants have been those who overstayed a visa, not those who crossed the border illegally. In FY 2017, 606,926 visitors and other non-immigrants overstayed their visas for more than 60 days, evincing a desire to remain in the U.S. illegally.

In FY 2016, there were 628,799 overstays for more than 60 days. Holders of student, work, or cultural exchange visas are the most likely to overstay, and Visa Waiver Program (VWP) visitors are the least likely: Overstay rates of countries like Djibouti, Eritrea, and the Solomon Islands were more than 20 percent, while rates for VWP nations like Japan, Monaco, and Singapore were less than 0.2 per cent.

**Culture and Society.** Over the past few decades, America has drifted away from assimilating immigrants. Elites in government, the culture, and the academy have led a push toward multiculturalism, which emphasizes group differences. This transformation has taken place with little input from rank-and-file Americans, who overwhelmingly support assimilation.

This oppressor–oppressed narrative is now taught to America’s K–12 schoolchildren, reinforced in colleges and universities, and repeated constantly in the media and the culture. The rhetoric of victimhood has also had profound effects on policy toward immigrants.

It is not just that assimilation is no longer encouraged; it is now actively discouraged by governments at all levels, most perniciously in the schools, workplaces, and all other centers of

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public life. Rather than an invitation to be included in the American community, assimilation is now described as a humiliating demand that those who are presumed to be marginalized must conform to the identities of their supposed oppressors.

Previous immigrants assimilated to American life and succeeded, but indoctrinating people into the victimization narrative has not produced successful immigrants: Instead, it has only produced more and more people claiming victim status. Interpreting all disparities of outcome through a lens of racism preempts any serious discussion of differences in culture, behavior, and interests and how those differences might help or hinder someone from succeeding in this country.

**Current Family-Based vs. Needed Merit Based Immigration System.** The current family-based immigration system, which allows and encourages immigrants to go far outside their immediate family to sponsor dozens of other relatives to emigrate to the United States, takes away the ability of the American people to choose who gets to immigrate to this country and become members of our society. Instead, that choice is made by the immigrant and inures to the benefit of extended family members, leading to chain migration.

The opportunity for economic advancement is the key reason many come to the United States, but that leaves to chance who decides to take concrete steps to come to America and better their lives, and when and how they do that. A better system is one that expands and reforms employment-based immigration policies and moves away from a primarily family-based system. Attracting the best and brightest from around the globe, based on their skills and education and the demand signal of the market, while not injuring the economic and job opportunities of America citizens, is in our national interest.

Immigration programs like the diversity visa program and the per-country immigration caps may have made sense in the past, but they make little sense in a 21st century immigration system that is designed to select future Americans in a purposeful manner based on merit, their skills, and the demands of an ever-evolving and dynamic work force, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or national origin.

Inextricably intertwined with reforming the legal immigration system is the dire need to recommit ourselves to policies that live up to our national motto, *E Pluribus Unum*: out of many, one.

**Welfare and Dependence on Government.** Obviously, much more than education or skills should go into a decision about whether to admit this or that type of person. At the same time, however, ignoring those objective qualities and leaving to chance who one allows to become a citizen is not a prudent way to remain a country that can compete and thrive in the global economy.

Today, legal immigration by lower-skilled immigrants (those with a high school degree or less) imposes substantial fiscal costs on U.S. taxpayers. Congress must decide whether admitting large numbers of lower-skilled immigrants serves the national interest. Part of that decision must include the costs of doing so.



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Legal immigrant households receive significantly more welfare, on average, than U.S.-born households. Overall, the fiscal deficits or surpluses for legal immigrant households are the same as or higher than those for U.S.-born households with the same education level, but the fiscal burden imposed by lower-skilled immigrants is not principally due to means-tested welfare. The welfare benefits received are large, but the combined benefits received from Social Security, Medicare, public education, and population-based services are significantly larger.

Over the past decade and a half, an average of 228,000 legal, lower-skilled adult immigrants have arrived in the U.S. each year. Around 45 percent of lower-skill legal immigrants did not have a high school degree, and 55 percent had only a high school degree. In addition to the annual inflow of 230,000 lower-skill legal immigrants, there was a matching annual inflow of 240,000 illegal lower-skill immigrants on average during the period.

Any effort to legalize the future inflow of illegal immigrants would, therefore, increase future fiscal costs.

### **Guiding Principles for a Reform Agenda**

If it is to deal sensibly and effectively with immigration reform, Congress must rise above the politics of the moment and “take the time to deliberate and develop a clear, comprehensive, meaningful, and long-term policy concerning immigration, naturalization, and citizenship that is consistent with the core principles, best traditions, and highest ideals of the United States.”

This is difficult in a political environment that is consumed with the topic of the moment.

The first step is to start with common-sense principles, as good policies flow from sound principles. To this end, based on the contemporary challenges that are frustrating effective reform, our research identified four principles that should guide Congress in reforming the nation’s immigration system, enforcement, and border security.

**Principle #1:** Respect the consent of the governed. The United States is a sovereign nation. The very idea of sovereignty implies that each nation has the responsibility and obligation to determine its own conditions for immigration, naturalization, and citizenship.

Individuals who are not citizens do not have a right to American citizenship without the consent of the American people as expressed through the laws of the United States. Through those laws, the people of the United States invite individuals from other countries, under certain conditions, to join them as residents and fellow citizens. Congress has the constitutional responsibility “[t]o establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization” that sets the conditions of immigration and citizenship and ensures the fairness and integrity of the legal process by which immigrants enter the country legally and, in many cases, become American citizens.

**Principle #2:** Do not compromise national security and public safety. Every nation has the right, recognized by both international and domestic law, to secure its borders and ports of entry and thereby control the goods and persons coming into its territory. Americans have always been and remain a generous people, but that does not mitigate the duty imposed on the United States government to know who is entering, to set the terms and conditions of entry and exit, and to control that entry and exit through fair and just means.

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This task is all the more important after the events of September 11, 2001. A disorganized and chaotic immigration system encourages the circumvention of immigration laws and is a clear invitation to those who wish to take advantage of our openness to harm this nation. Secure borders, especially in a time of terrorist threat, are crucial to American national security.

**Principle #3:** Preserve patriotic assimilation. The United States has always welcomed immigrants who come to this country honestly, with their work ethic and appreciation of freedom, seeking the promises and opportunities of the American Dream. This is because the founding principles of this nation imply that an individual of any ethnic heritage or racial background can become an American.

However, those same principles also call for—and a successful immigration policy is only possible by means of—a deliberate and self-confident policy to assimilate immigrants and educate them about this country's political principles, history, institutions, and civic culture.

This may be a nation of immigrants, but it is more accurate to say that this is a nation where immigrants are Americanized, sharing the benefits, responsibilities, and attachments of American citizenship. While the larger formative influence occurs through the social interactions and private institutions of civil society and through public and private education, the federal government has a significant, albeit limited, role to play in ensuring the success of this crucial process.

Patriotic assimilation is the bond that allows America to be a nation of immigrants. Without it, America either ceases to be a nation with a distinct character, becoming instead a hodgepodge of groups, or it becomes a nation that can no longer welcome immigrants. It cannot be both a unified nation and a place that welcomes immigrants without patriotic assimilation.

**Principle #4:** Respect the rule of law. Immigration is no exception to the principle that the rule of law requires the fair, firm, and equitable enforcement of the law. Failure to enforce immigration laws is unfair to those who obey the law and go through the regulatory and administrative requirements to enter the country legally.

Those who enter and remain in the country illegally are violating the law, and condoning or encouraging such violations causes a general disrespect for the law and encourages further illegal conduct.

Forgiving the intentional violation of the law in one context because it serves policy objectives in another undermines the rule of law. Amnesty is appropriate only when the law unintentionally causes great injustice or when particular cases serve the larger purposes of the law.

Those who break immigration laws should not be rewarded with legal status or other benefits and should be penalized on any road to citizenship.

The power to control immigration is built into the very definition of sovereignty.

Under the Law of Nations Clause of the Constitution, Congress is granted authority over immigration policy. The foundational writers of the laws of nations, whose works the Founders followed, agreed that immigration, because it necessarily deals with foreign governments and

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foreign nationals, falls under this clause. Nevertheless, the executive has clear authority to enforce our nation's immigration laws.

### **Essential Elements of an Effective Reform Agenda**

**Implement effective border security.** Congress must appropriate funding for cost-effective border security measures paired with robust enforcement. The U.S. must build a system that welds all of the nation's border assets into a single coherent security enterprise that deploys the right asset to the right place at the right time. This will require key investments in border infrastructure, organization, technology, and resources. These initiatives include such controversial but essential tools as additional border "wall," expanded detention space, and (as required) the temporary and efficacious use of support from the Department of Defense.

**Take a more deliberate approach to border staffing.** With the Inspector General expressing serious concerns about Customs and Border Protection's ability to hire and use new agents effectively, Congress and the Administration should proceed deliberately and realistically in providing funds for this purpose.

**Provide more funding for Coast Guard acquisitions.** This will ensure that the Coast Guard can acquire the right mix of vessels, including Fast Response Cutters and Offshore Patrol Cutters, as well as appropriate unmanned aerial systems.

**Improve U.S. government public affairs efforts to discourage illegal immigration.** As a component of a broader regional strategy to prevent illegal immigration, a targeted public affairs campaign to inform would-be migrants about the dangers of the journey and U.S. immigration law would serve to deter caravans. In the past, a caravan was in Mexico City for nearly a week, and during that time, the U.S. government missed an opportunity to provide the migrants with information on entry requirements into the U.S. Instead, the migrants were provided with inaccurate information and coached by left-wing activists. Clearly, U.S. government efforts to dissuade migrants about illegal immigration to the U.S. are not working.

**Align U.S. assistance funding levels to Mexico with U.S. national security interests.** A safer and more prosperous Mexico will reduce the security threats to the U.S., alleviate the drivers of illegal immigration, and allow both countries to focus on productive matters in the bilateral relationship. Yet U.S. assistance to Mexico in the form of the Merida Initiative has decreased from the all-time high of \$639.2 million in FY 2010 to \$130.9 million in FY 2017.

**Assess the efficacy of the Central American development package, the U.S. Strategy for Engagement in Central America.** Following the 2014 unaccompanied-minor crisis at the U.S. southern border, the U.S., El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras launched this program to address the factors driving illegal migration in the region. Guatemala's northern neighbor Mexico collaborates with the U.S. in an effort to mitigate these shared challenges. The volume and frequency of illegal immigration toward the U.S. indicates a shortcoming. Congress should request impact reports from implementing agencies that gauge whether the programs are meeting their intended objectives.

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**Improve Central America's border security capacity.** Uncontrolled borders in the northern triangle are a long-standing problem. The insecurity in these regions allows criminality to proliferate and mass movements of people across state lines. The U.S. and Mexican governments should work with their regional counterparts to improve their border security policies and programs. They should support El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras in expanding border patrols to ungoverned areas, modernizing border crossings, and encouraging the creation of joint border patrols. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security should host an annual high-level border-control working group to share best practices with the region.

**Elevate the standard of cooperation with regional governments.** Foreign aid investments by U.S. partners have led to few tangible improvements, and continued illegal immigration is causing U.S. policymakers to question the utility of foreign aid investments by the U.S. Rather than cutting assistance, Congress and the Administration should evaluate whether current foreign assistance conditions have produced measurable improvements in the region.

### **Dealing with Illegal Immigration and Unlawful Presence**

**Do not grant amnesty.** Amnesty undermines the rule of law and encourages more unlawful migration.

Grants of amnesty, regardless of the form of the reward they give to aliens who knowingly enter or remain in the U.S., discourage respect for the law, treat lawbreaking aliens better than law-following aliens, and encourage future unlawful immigration into the United States.

If America suddenly awards legal status to aliens unlawfully in the United States, it will be treating them better than aliens abroad who follow America's immigration procedures and patiently await their opportunity to get a visa authorizing them to come to the United States.

Such action—as past amnesties have proved—will also spur more aliens to enter or remain unlawfully in the United States in the confident expectation that Congress will continue to enact future amnesties that provide aliens unlawfully in the U.S. a shortcut to legal status. The government should pursue a measured set of approaches to a wide variety of immigration issues, but in all events, it should exclude amnesty for aliens unlawfully in the United States.

**Do not legalize Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).** DACA was the unilateral executive program implemented by President Barack Obama without appropriate legal authority or the approval of Congress. This effort is fundamentally flawed, amounts to an amnesty, and will only encourage even more illegal immigration.

**Give immigration law judges summary judgment and contempt authority.** As of October 24, 2018, 786,303 immigration cases were pending in immigration courts, up from 186,090 in 2008. During that same 10-year period, the average wait time for the disposition of a case in immigration court went from 438 days in 2008 to 718 days in 2018. This is unacceptable and needs to change.

One of the main reasons for the huge backlog is the fact that immigration judges do not have the summary judgment authority that is common to federal and state court judges. Summary judgment authority allows judges to refuse to schedule cases that lack legal merit, but because

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immigration judges do not have that authority, meritless cases clog the dockets. Congress should amend existing statutes to give immigration judges this authority.

**Amend the Immigration and Naturalization Act in response to *Sessions v. Dimaya*.** In 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court held in *Sessions v. Dimaya* that a part of the Immigration and Nationality Act used to deport criminal aliens was unconstitutionally “vague.”

The Court refused to approve the removal of a permanent resident alien after his second felony conviction for first-degree burglary because it was not one of a long list of specific offenses that are considered “aggravated” felonies that subject an alien to deportation and was not a “crime of violence.”

Aliens who are legally in this country are guests who should be allowed to remain here only as long as they abide by our laws. When someone commits a felony of any kind, it is a very serious offense. When someone repeatedly commits misdemeanor crimes, that is also evidence that he or she has no respect for our laws and should not be allowed to remain as a guest in our country. This federal law is overly complicated and should be simplified to read as follows: “Any alien convicted of a felony offense or of two or more misdemeanor offenses, regardless of their nature, under the Federal or the State or the Territorial laws of the United States, shall be deported.”

**Do not change the authority for temporary relief from deportation to allow de facto amnesty or a path to citizenship.** Any legislation that addresses the status of DACA recipients, persons in temporary protected status, or persons in other programs should not allow open-ended residence in the United States or grant a path to citizenship. Temporary relief from deportation or removal should be for a reasonable, defined period. Aliens should be required to reapply for admission to the United States after deportation or removal.

**Adjust authorities for permission to reapply for admission based on significant reductions in illegal immigration.** Aliens who have been unlawfully present in the United States for over one year (with the exception of aliens who entered the United States before April 1, 1997) and are deported or removed must wait at least 10 years before applying for permission to enter the U.S. Based on significant reductions in illegal immigration, it might be appropriate to adjust this requirement to offer an incentive to illegal immigrants to leave the U.S. voluntarily and seek to return through lawful immigration or a non-immigrant visa. Similarly, Congress might consider adjustments for requirements to qualify for cancellation of removal, but only after substantial and sustained reductions in illegal immigration. No program should include an automatic pathway to citizenship.

**Allow for the sharing of Social Security no-match data with the Department of Homeland Security and expand E-Verify to the extent practical.** The illegal workforce is too big to address through police action alone. The quickest gains in enforcement with the least effort and expense will come from giving employers the incentive to follow the law and avoid hiring illegal labor. Specifically, the government needs to target its enforcement efforts to encourage employers to verify the work statuses of employees whom they have reason to believe may be unauthorized

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to work—as they are already required to do by law—and to cease employing unauthorized workers.

### **Improving Immigration Enforcement**

**Increase funding for immigration court judges, prosecutors, and associated staff.** The U.S. immigration adjudication and court system is falling farther and farther behind. More immigration judges, prosecutors, and staff to assist in immigration proceedings, as well as more U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) asylum officers, are essential to enforcing U.S. immigration laws in a timely and effective manner.

**Adjust the asylum claim process.** Congress can improve the asylum system in many ways. Rather than applying for asylum at U.S. borders, asylum seekers travelling to the U.S. southern border should be required to have their asylum claims heard by a USCIS asylum officer at a U.S. consulate in Mexico. Interviewers should also ask the asylum seeker why he or she did not assert asylum in other countries, such as Mexico.

Immigration officials should consider failure to explain the refusal to pursue asylum in other countries in making their decisions. Congress could also consider new standards that make it even harder for illegal border crossers to claim asylum. The Administration should also pursue safe-third-country and other agreements with countries in Latin America to promote better control of the asylum process.

**Close the loopholes.** For example, Congress should reject the Ninth Circuit’s recent interpretation of the Flores settlement. Flores has been interpreted to require DHS to release from its custody all children, even if they are with their parents. Thus, when adults cross the border with a child, DHS is required to release the child within 20 days.

Since the parents broke the law by crossing the border illegally, the government tries to detain and prosecute them after their asylum claims are completed, and since that will take more than 20 days, the DHS has to release the child, leaving the government with the choice of detaining the parents or releasing them all. Congress should legislate to allow accompanied children to remain with their parents while awaiting asylum adjudication or prosecution of misdemeanor violations of immigration law.

**Strengthen immigration enforcement.** U.S. laws must be enforced if additional illegal immigration is to be deterred. The U.S. should judiciously increase the number of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents; expand the 287(g) program that trains and deputizes state and local law enforcement officers to assist ICE in enforcing U.S. immigration laws; curb sanctuary cities; expedite removals of illegal immigrants caught at U.S. borders; streamline the removal process; increase resources to immigration courts; and ensure that aliens show up at court hearings by maximizing the use of detention facilities.

**Strengthen the 287(g) program.** Designed to enable state and local government to help enforce federal immigration laws, 287(g) was under assault during the Obama Administration, which sought to cut funding, access to, and use of the program. Congress should seek to widen 287(g) usage by increasing funding for the program and requiring DHS to enter into a 287(g) agreement

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with any state and local governments that request entry into the program—with significant consequences should DHS not meet this requirement in a timely fashion.

**Ramp up comprehensive immigration-fraud evaluations.** The U.S. is a generous nation that provides many people with immigration benefits, but there are many who abuse the system. Given the value of U.S. visas and citizenship, the U.S. should do more to investigate fraud, both on a case-by-case basis and through more complete assessments and investigations.

**Do not address legal immigration reform in a comprehensive “deal.”** Instead, advance legal reforms on their own merit. In 2007 and in 2013, comprehensive efforts failed to get through the legislation process, and the policy faults of each of those efforts will be present in any bill that tries to address too many topics at once. In these cases and in all future efforts, the trade-offs that must be made to compromise with partisan demands will peel off potential supporters and mire the legislation in political and policy problems.

A compromise on immigration is not like a compromise on other issues: Satisfying partisan demands cannot be made without breaching principles. A comprehensive reform effort subjects the fate of policies with universal appeal to the fate of the most controversial topics. For instance, everyone agrees that asylum cases should be adjudicated much more quickly, but that reform has yet to be made because it is wrapped up in the failed comprehensive efforts of the past.

The key is to begin by working on the solutions on which many can agree rather than insisting on a comprehensive approach that divides Americans. Humanitarian reforms like asylum standards should be addressed in legislation that is separate from legislation that implements merit-based legal immigration. Washington must implement the mandates already on the books, follow through on existing initiatives, and employ the authorities that Congress has already granted before taking on new obligations.

**Establish a merit-based immigration system.** Congress should modify the family preference system and move to a new merit-based system of visas. This shift from family-based to merit-based immigration would prioritize economically and fiscally beneficial immigration and better serve the national interest.

Such a system should be designed in a way that recognizes that the market is the best and most objective way to identify those who will benefit the economy. This starts with requiring immigrants to have an offer of employment or financial means of self-support before entering the country. The government would not be picking winners and losers among industries, job categories, or immigrants.

The offer of employment is an objective market signal. If there were more requests for green cards than were available, Congress could consider a limited points system that again would place emphasis on the market. Another approach would be to implement an auction system whereby employers would pay for the permits of the immigrant labor they need.

One way to ensure that merit-based green card candidates are indeed working or otherwise providing significant benefit to the U.S. would be to make their legal permanent residence

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conditional for the first several years. In order to transition from a conditional lawful permanent resident (LPR) to full LPR status, immigrants should be required to maintain employment for most of the conditional period even though they would be allowed to switch jobs. The total period of time required to hold a green card before becoming a citizen—five years—would remain unchanged, but a requirement that the holder not be a public charge before becoming a U.S. citizen could be added.

**Focus on the nuclear family and end chain migration.** Congress should allow immediate relatives to remain uncapped while restricting the definition of immediate relatives to one's spouse and minor children. Congress should cut all or almost all of the current family preferences for extended family, thus ending chain migration. U.S. citizens could continue to sponsor their parents, but only for a renewable temporary visa that would not make them eligible for any welfare benefits and would require the citizens to provide proof of health insurance and financial support of their parents. It is worth noting that these extended family members may have other legal avenues for immigrating to the U.S.

**End the Diversity Immigrant Visa ("Lottery") Program.** Congress should eliminate the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program, which provides 50,000 immigrant visas annually to random individuals from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. The United States should evaluate potential citizens individually. Rather than leave to chance the question of who gets an immigrant visa, Congress should decide on the qualifications of potential citizens and take into consideration their experience, professional credentials, and education.

The Diversity lottery treats people not as individuals, but as the means to create representation from various countries artificially. Congress should end this system because it does not serve the national interest and discriminates based on national origin.

**End per-country immigration caps.** Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, employment-based immigrants are subjected to a per-country ceiling or cap. The arbitrary per-country caps should be eliminated and replaced with a system that serves the national interest.

**End universal birthright citizenship.** The universal granting of birthright citizenship to all children born in the United States regardless of the parents' immigration status is the result of a misinterpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment and is inconsistent with the intent of the amendment's framers. The legislative history of the amendment makes clear that its purpose was to bestow citizenship only on those who owed their permanent, undivided allegiance to the United States and were subject to the fullest extent of its jurisdiction.

In particular, this meant the newly freed slaves, who were lawful and permanent U.S. residents and not subject to any foreign power.

Congress should clarify the federal definition of "citizenship" in a manner that is consistent with the original understanding of the Fourteenth Amendment by explicitly stating that only the U.S.-born children of individuals subject to the complete jurisdiction of the United States are citizens by virtue of birth on U.S. soil. This would include the children of lawful permanent resident aliens referred to in *United States v. Wong Kim Ark* but would exclude the U.S.-born children of illegal or temporarily present aliens.



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Granting automatic citizenship has a serious and often devastating financial impact on American taxpayers by rewarding and encouraging illegal or exploitive immigration. Medicaid and its state corollaries dole out over a \$1 billion annually just to cover the costs of physical births to illegal alien mothers, whose children are rewarded with citizenship—a status from which the entire family draws substantial benefits.

**Promote Patriotic Assimilation.** Congress must put an end to measures that coerce immigrants and their American children and grandchildren into pan-ethnic identity traps. We must stop categorizing them as victims with protected status and start mandating that they participate in all aspects of society. Immigrants came to be American, not to join synthetic nations within the nation.

Candidates for citizenship should demonstrate a strong understanding of America's language (English), history, and civic life. The patriotic rituals surrounding the naturalization ceremony should be augmented to reinforce the transformational character of the event. Once immigrants go through naturalization, they are expected to have no other national loyalty, whether to the lands of their birth or to a "nation within a nation."

The government should return to the ethos that once an immigrant is naturalized, he or she should be encouraged, in Washington's words, to "get assimilated to our customs."

Public schools should therefore reinforce these values and not, as they do now, divide school children into ethnic boxes to teach even math according to "culturally responsive teaching."

Government schools must do a better job of instilling civic values, and policymakers at the state level should provide more charter schools and private school choice options for families.

Their charters include their own mission statements and curricula and have a separate school board. We should be encouraging the growing number of civically minded charter schools, such as the Great Hearts and Barney Charter initiatives.

### **The Way Forward**

Together, these recommended policies, if adopted and implemented, would address the contemporary challenge of the need to fix broken borders and a flawed immigration system in a manner that is at once fair, equitable, responsible, humane, and prudent. They represent an agenda that is focused on what is best for the welfare of all Americans.

With that in mind, a quote by President John F. Kennedy seems fitting as we close out this chapter.

"As each new wave of immigration has reached America, it has been faced with problems... Somehow, the difficult adjustments are made and people get down to the tasks of earning a living, raising a family, living with their neighbors, and in the process, building a nation."

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## Appendix

**20 Ways States Can Prevent Illegal Immigration - Heritage Foundation:**

[https://thf-media.s3.amazonaws.com/2022/States Immigration Reform Booklet.pdf](https://thf-media.s3.amazonaws.com/2022/States%20Immigration%20Reform%20Booklet.pdf)

**40 MADNESS Textbook Titles:** <https://www.fratirepublishing.com/madnessbooks>

**Biden's Border Crisis: Examining Policies That Encourage Illegal Migration:**

[https://www.risch.senate.gov/public/\\_cache/files/d/f/df4e21bf-322e-455c-a61b-bd7aeba13f70/BE79EBB318BE1CA8FD4B4AC24B661D6A.final-migration-report-biden-s-border-crisis.pdf](https://www.risch.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/d/f/df4e21bf-322e-455c-a61b-bd7aeba13f70/BE79EBB318BE1CA8FD4B4AC24B661D6A.final-migration-report-biden-s-border-crisis.pdf)

**Center for Immigration Studies (CIS):** <https://cis.org/Immigration-Statistics-Data-Portal>

**Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR):** <https://www.fairus.org/>

**Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration on United States Taxpayers: 2023 Cost Study, The - FAIR:**

<https://www.fairus.org/issue/publications-resources/fiscal-burden-illegal-immigration-united-states-taxpayers-2023>

**H.R. 2 - Secure the Border Act of 2023:** <https://rules.house.gov/bill/118/hr-2>

**Heritage Foundation, The:**

[https://www.heritage.org/search?contains=illegal%20immigration&range\\_start=2020-10-01&range\\_end=2023-10-31&type=All&date\\_offset=&page=0](https://www.heritage.org/search?contains=illegal%20immigration&range_start=2020-10-01&range_end=2023-10-31&type=All&date_offset=&page=0)

**Judicial Watch:** <https://www.judicialwatch.org/jwtv/>

**Migration Policy Institute (MPI):** <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/>

**National Review:**

[https://www.nationalreview.com/immigration/?utm\\_source=footer&utm\\_medium=desktop&utm\\_campaign=topics&utm\\_term=seventh&utm\\_content=immigration](https://www.nationalreview.com/immigration/?utm_source=footer&utm_medium=desktop&utm_campaign=topics&utm_term=seventh&utm_content=immigration)

**Numbers USA:** <https://www.numbersusa.com/>

**SAPIENT BEING PROGRAMS:** <https://www.sapientbeing.org/programs>

- **Free Speech Alumni Ambassador (FSAA) Program**
- **Make Free Speech Again On Campus (MFSAOC) Program:**
- **Sapient Conservative Textbooks (SCT) Program**

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## Glossary

**Adjustment of Status** - The process through which certain noncitizens apply for permanent resident (that is, green card) status from within the United States, as opposed to applying from abroad. (Applying from abroad is referred to as "consular processing".)

**Admissible** - A noncitizen who may enter be "admitted" to the United States because he/she is not excludable for any statutory reason or has a waiver of excludability.

**Admission** - The decision of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to allow or not allow a noncitizen at a United States border or port-of-entry to enter the United States. Whether a person is admitted to legally come into the U.S. and on what date may determine whether that person will be eligible for immigration applications that he/she might file in the future.

**Affidavit of Support** - A form filed by a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident (known as the sponsor) on behalf of a noncitizen seeking lawful permanent residence (a green card) in the U.S. The affidavit is intended to verify that the sponsor has sufficient income to support the persons intending to immigrate to the U.S. It is a legally enforceable contract against the sponsor.

**Affirmative Asylum** - The process in which asylum-seekers in the U.S. voluntarily present themselves to the U.S. Government to ask for asylum. Noncitizens who have not been apprehended by DHS are eligible to file an affirmative asylum application.

**Aggravated Felony** - A term created by statute to refer to a list of specific crimes and categories of crimes that if attached to noncitizens, the government then determines them to be aggravated felons.

**Alien** - Or illegal alien, is a person who is not a citizen of the United States and who is in any immigration status, including lawful permanent residents (holders of "green cards"), temporary visa holders, and undocumented ("illegal") foreign nationals.

**Alternatives to detention (ATD)** - ICE programs using electronic monitoring or enhanced supervision which supplements use of formal detention.

**Amnesty** - A commonly-used term for programs established by the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA) that made it possible for many previously- undocumented non-citizen to legalize their immigration status.

**Apprehension** - In immigration terms, the capture of a noncitizen who may not be legally allowed to be in the U.S. Captures made at or near land borders or at "interior checkpoints" are generally made by Border Patrol agents, who work for the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) division of the Department of Homeland Security. These usually entail noncitizens who are attempting to enter the U.S. or who have recently entered. In addition, agents within the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) division of the Department of Homeland Security apprehend persons in the "interior" of the U.S., that is, usually further from the border.

**Arriving Alien** - A noncitizen applicant for admission at a port-of-entry who either: (1) is coming or attempting to come into the United States, (2) is seeking to travel through the U. S. on to a foreign

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destination, or (3) has been intercepted by U.S. authorities in international or U.S. waters and brought into the U.S.

**Asylum** - A legal status sought by a noncitizen who claims to be afraid of harm in their home country.

**Beneficiary** - A noncitizen on whose behalf a United States citizen, lawful permanent resident, or United States employer has filed a petition. The purpose of the petition is for that person to receive legal immigration status as a result of this relationship.

**Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA)** - The highest U.S. administrative body for interpreting and applying immigration laws. It is within the Executive Office for Immigration Review of the Department of Justice. The BIA has nationwide jurisdiction to hear appeals from certain decisions rendered by Immigration Judges and by some officials of the Department of Homeland Security.

**Cancellation of Removal** - A means of avoiding removal (deportation) and obtaining permanent residence (green card). It cannot be obtained by direct application, but only during a removal hearing in Immigration Court.

**Child** - In legal terms, an unmarried person under 21 years of age who, if not a United States citizen, must meet certain legal requirements with regard to legitimacy (wedlock), parentage, or other factors, in order to be eligible for certain immigration benefits.

**Citizen** - A person who owes permanent allegiance to the United States, and who enjoys full civic rights (for example, the right to vote in elections and to run for elective office)

**Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)** - A bureau of the Department of Homeland Security responsible for the administration of immigration benefits and services, such as processing applications for residency and citizenship

**Conditional Resident** - A noncitizen granted permanent resident status on a conditional basis due to a relationship with a qualified person, generally a United States citizen spouse. Conditional residents must file a second petition within a designated time frame in order to retain United States residency.

**Credible Fear Interview** - An abbreviated interview of a non-citizen who arrives in the United States with false or no documents (and is therefore subject to Expedited Removal) and who expresses a fear of persecution in one's own country or a desire to apply for asylum.

**Customs and Border Protection (CBP)** - A bureau of the Department of Homeland Security responsible for patrolling the borders and monitoring the movement of goods and people into and out of the U.S. and is also part of the Department of Homeland Security. The responsibility for protecting U.S. borders was transferred from the Department of Justice's now-defunct Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) component of the newly-created Department of Homeland Security in 2003.

**Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** - Is the United States government agency charged with protecting the nation. The DHS also offers and administers immigration and citizenship services. These are the DHS-affiliated agencies that work with immigration issues: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

**Department of Justice (DOJ)** - The Department of Justice also deals with some immigration matters. The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) makes determinations in immigration cases. The immigration courts and Board of Immigration Appeals (BOA) are independent of the DHS. The

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immigration courts are charged with interpreting, administering, and enforcing federal immigration laws, including appellate reviews and administrative hearings.

**Deportation** - The administrative process involving the removal of a person from the U.S. who is not a U.S. citizen. Under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, the formal term for deportation was changed to "removal".

**Diversity Visa** - An immigrant visa lottery program established by the Immigration Act of 1990. It makes up to 55,000 immigrant visas per year available to persons from countries with low admission rates to the United States, in an attempt to diversify the immigrant pool to the U.S.

**Employer Sanctions** - The employer sanctions provision of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (I.R.C.A.) prohibit employers from hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee non-citizens known to be unauthorized to work in the U.S. Violators are subject to a series of civil fines for violations or criminal penalties when there is a pattern or practice of such violations.

**E Pluribus Unum** - Out of many, one

**Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR)** - The full title of the office with oversight responsibilities for the immigration court and the Board of Immigration Appeals. It is within the Department of Justice and is abbreviated as EOIR.

**Expedited Removal** - A process in which federal immigration officials immediately remove noncitizens seeking to enter the U.S. who are not authorized to so enter.

**Green Card** - A card given to lawful permanent residents (LPR) of the U.S.

**Homeland Security Act of 2002** - Congressional legislation that created the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Passed by Congress in the aftermath of the events of 9/11, it was reported to be the largest government reorganization in 50 years. The law went into effect in 2003. It called for the placement of many government functions, previously spread over many agencies, into a single department. It placed most immigration responsibilities, formerly administered by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), into the new department. The INS ceased to exist after the creation of DHS.

**I-94 Form** - The Arrival-Departure Record Card, is a form used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection intended to keep track of the arrival and departure to/from the United States of people who are not United States citizens or lawful permanent residents

**Illegal Alien** - Or alien, is a person who is not a citizen of the United States and who is in any immigration status, including lawful permanent residents (holders of "green cards"), temporary visa holders, and undocumented ("illegal") foreign nationals.

**Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA)** - Congressional legislation that substantially revised the Immigration and Nationality Act.

**Immediate Relative** - An immigrant who is exempt from the numerical limitations imposed on immigration to the United States due to his/her close relationship to a U.S. citizen.

**Immigration Act of 1990** - Increased the limits on legal immigration to the U.S., revised grounds for exclusion and deportation, authorized temporary protected status to noncitizens of designated countries, revised and established new non-immigrant admission categories, and revised naturalization authority and requirements.

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**Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)** - The responsibility for the enforcement of immigration laws within the U.S. borders was transferred from the Department of Justice's now-defunct Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) of the newly-created Department of Homeland Security in 2003. These responsibilities include apprehension, detention, and removal of noncitizens.

**Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)** - The primary statute relating to the immigration, temporary admission, removal, and naturalization of noncitizens. Congress passed the I.N.A. in 1952 and has amended several times since, including in 1965, 1980, 1986, 1990, and 1996.

**Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)** - The name of the former branch of the U.S. Department of Justice. It was responsible for a variety of immigration services and enforcement of immigration laws. The INS ceased to exist after its responsibilities were transferred to the newly-created Department of Homeland Security in 2003.

**Immigration Court** - An administrative court responsible for adjudicating immigration cases in the U.S. Cases involve noncitizens who generally have been charged by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with being in violation of immigration law.

**Immigration Judge** - An attorney appointed by the Attorney General to act as an administrative judge within the Executive Office for Immigration Review within the U.S. Department of Justice. Immigration Judges conduct formal court proceedings in determining whether a noncitizen should be allowed to enter or remain in the U.S., in considering bond amounts in certain situations, and in considering various forms of relief from removal.

**Immigration Marriage Fraud Amendments (IMFA) of 1986** - Passed in order to prevent and/or discover immigration-related marriage fraud.

**Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA)** - Legislation passed by Congress. A significant provision of this law established a mechanism to allow members of two groups of previously-undocumented persons to legalize their immigration status.

**Inadmissible** - The immigration status of a noncitizen who does not qualify to enter or remain in the U.S. because of a prohibited status or activity.

**Inspection** - The process by which U.S. immigration officials determine whether people can enter the U.S. It usually occurs at a port-of-entry at a land border or international airport. It is conducted by Immigration Inspectors who are employed by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security.

**Labor Certification** - The process for U.S. employers to recruit and employ certain noncitizen workers.

**Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR)** - An immigrant who has been granted a status allowing him/her to live and work permanently in the U.S. Most LPRs are eligible to apply to naturalize after five years, though shorter waiting periods apply to certain categories of LPRs.

**Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP)** - In December 2018, the Trump administration announced the creation of a new program called the "Migrant Protection Protocols" (MPP 1.0)—often referred to as the "Remain in Mexico" program.

**Moral Turpitude** - A classification of crimes committed by noncitizens which might justify their deportation from the U.S. or denial of certain immigration benefits.

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**Naturalization** - The process by which immigrants become U.S. citizens.

**Non-Immigrant** - A noncitizen who wants to enter the U.S. for a temporary period of time and for a specific purpose. Unlike "immigrants", visas for "non-immigrants" are limited to temporary stays in the U.S. and are restricted to the activity specified in their visa.

**Non-Immigrant Visa** - A visa issued to a person who has qualified for non-immigrant status.

**Notice to Appear (NTA)** - A document which alleges that a particular noncitizen has violated certain immigration laws and should be removed (deported) from the U.S. as a result. In most cases, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) prepares this document, serves it on the noncitizen and files it with the Immigration Court which has jurisdiction over the noncitizen. The filing of this document commences removal proceedings against the individual.

**Parole** - Permission granted to an noncitizen to enter the United States who is or may be legally ineligible to enter. Parole is not a formal invitation to enter ("be admitted to" the U.S. with the legal benefits that this would entail.) Rather, parolees are given temporary status, requiring them to depart the U.S. when the conditions supporting their parole status cease or the designated time period expires.

**Persecution** - A type of harm that is central to applications for asylum. The term is not defined in the U.S. asylum statute. However, it has been defined by U.S. courts to mean "a threat to the life or freedom of, or the infliction of suffering or harm upon, those who differ in a way regarded as offensive." Generally, such severe forms of harm as imprisonment, torture, and rape as well as death threats are thought of as constituting persecution.

**Port of Entry (POE)** - Any location in the U.S. or its territories that is designated as a point of entry for noncitizens and U.S. citizens. At the present time, there are about 300 ports of entry.

**Prosecutorial Discretion (PD) Program** - Individuals allowed to stay, at least temporarily, in the country based upon the exercise of ICE's prosecutorial discretion.

**Public Charge** - Is a ground of inadmissibility that could bar an individual's admission to the United States on a visa or application for lawful permanent residence if the government determines the individual is likely to rely on certain public benefits in the future.

**Refugee** - A person who is outside his or her country of nationality and who is unable or unwilling to return to that country due to past persecution or a "well-founded" fear of (future) persecution in that country.

**Removal** - The expulsion of a person from the U.S. who is not a U.S. citizen. The more common term for this is "deportation." The process often involves a hearing before an Immigration Judge who also may determine whether any exceptions to deportation should be applied.

**Removal Hearing** - A court hearing to determine whether certain noncitizens are subject to removal (deportation) from the U.S. The hearings are administered by the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), also known as the Immigration Court, and presided over by an Immigration Judge. EOIR is part of the Department of Justice.

**Special Agricultural Workers (SAW)** - The term created by the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 that refers to previously-undocumented agricultural workers who were eligible under the law to apply for legalization of their immigration status.



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**Special Immigrant Juvenile** - A non-U.S. citizen juvenile who is physically present in the U.S. and may apply for lawful permanent resident status (green card.) The juvenile must have been declared, by an appropriate local juvenile or family court, to be "dependent" on the court or a state, due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

**Temporary Protected Status (TPS)** - A legal grant of permission for nationals of particular countries temporarily to remain in the U.S. Specific countries are designated for TPS by the Attorney General after consultation with government agencies. Countries are selected where unstable or dangerous conditions would pose a temporary threat to returning persons. TPS was created by the Immigration Act of 1990.

**Undocumented Immigrant** - A person who is not a citizen of the U.S. and who does not have lawful immigration status in the U.S. Most undocumented immigrants either entered the U.S. "without inspection" (i.e., they did not enter the U.S. at a designated port of entry with valid documents) or they were "inspected and admitted" with valid documents but violated the terms of that status. In legal terms, undocumented immigrants are "unlawfully present" in the U.S. Persons who are unlawfully present for more than a year and then depart the U.S. are ineligible to return to the U.S. for a period of ten years. Undocumented immigrants were formerly referred to, and still are, as "illegal aliens."

**Visa** - Evidence of official permission for a noncitizen to enter the U.S. and to remain there for a certain period of time and for a specific purpose.

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# Immigration Madness

## Author Bio



*Author: Corey Lee Wilson.*

Corey Lee Wilson was raised an atheist by his liberal *Playboy* Bunny mother, has three Anglo-Hispanic siblings, a bi-racial daughter, a brother who died of AIDS, baptized a Protestant by his conservative grandparents, attended temple with his Jewish foster parents, baptized again as a Catholic for his first Filipina wife, attends Buddhist ceremonies with his second Thai wife, became an agnostic on his own free will for most of his life, and is a lifetime independent voter.

Corey felt the sting of intellectual humility by repeating the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and attended eighteen different schools before putting himself through college (without parents) at Mt. San Antonio College and Cal Poly Pomona University (while on triple secret probation). Named Who's Who of American College Students in 1984, he received a BS in Economics (summa cum laude) and won his fraternity's most prestigious undergraduate honor, the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity's Shideler Award, both in 1985. In 2020, he became a member of the Heterodox Academy, in 2021 a member of the National Association of Scholars and 1776 Unites, and in 2023 a member of Moms for Liberty.

As a satirist and fraternity man, Corey started Fratire Publishing in 2012 and transformed the fiction "fratire" genre to a respectable and viewpoint diverse non-fiction genre promoting practical knowledge and wisdom to help everyday people navigate safely through the many hazards of life. In 2019, he founded the SAPIENT Being to help promote freedom of speech, viewpoint diversity, intellectual humility and most importantly advance sapience in America's students and campuses.

The SAPIENT Being has three programs: Make Free Speech Again On Campus (MFSAOC) Program, Free Speech Alumni Ambassador (FSAA) Program, and the Sapient Conservative Textbooks (SCT) Program—all working together to promote its mission and vision of sapience.

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Since the very formation of the United States, millions of people have entered this great nation as pilgrims, refugees, entrepreneurs, opportunists, nomads, missionaries, and pioneers as eloquently noted by sapient author Cole P. Zail in his *AMAC Magazine* Summer 2018 article "Immigration: Solidarity, Identity, and the American Dream."

At its core, America is a country that unites people, however vast their differences may be, in the pride and exceptionalism of being able to call oneself an American. In a country made up of people from every race and nationality on earth, it's pertinent we preserve the significance of legal immigration, assimilation, and the process of becoming a naturalized American citizen.

While we should celebrate our unique differences, we should, perhaps more importantly, celebrate the fact that we have joined together and blended ourselves into one nation, in spite of these vast differences. America's Founding Fathers were wise; they knew that our national strength could be preserved through unity. However, individuals who are not citizens do not have a right to American citizenship without the consent of the American people.

As such, *e pluribus unum* exemplifies this unity and distills the essence of the United States, highlighting how we are a nation of individuals united by shared ideas and values, rather than by race or origin. Our populace is not bonded together by blood or birthplace, rather, we are united by our adherence to mutual values and our commitment to the Constitution. Becoming an American citizen has nothing to do with ancestry or ethnic identity; being American is a state of mind and a devotion to beliefs.

This spirit of unity, this celebration of American citizenship, this shared faith in a national ideal—this is the true majesty of our great nation. Unfortunately for America and its legalized citizens—illegal immigration does not abide by these ideals—and its inherent costs to America's taxpayers, its assault on the core principles of the American Dream, and its disregard of American immigrations laws—all present clear and present dangers as this textbook will clearly, concisely and factually demonstrate.