



Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Sends Immigration Bill to Congress

On Inauguration Day, President Biden introduced actions aimed at improving the U.S. immigration system. The new administration's executive actions and proposed legislation seek to undo much of the harm caused by the previous Administration and bring long-overdue reform.

Proposed Legislation

****The U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021** must still be approved by Congress before it becomes law. The bill includes the following proposals:

- **Pathways to Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR, i.e., green card) status and citizenship:**
 - o **Immediate eligibility to apply for LPR status for people with DACA and TPS and immigrant farmworkers.**
 - o **Immediate eligibility for undocumented immigrants to apply for Lawful Prospective Immigrant (LPI) status, which includes work permits and travel, and attaches to spouses and children, for six years.**
 - o **Ability for LPIs to apply for LPR status after five years.**
 - o **Eligibility for citizenship for all Lawful Permanent Residents after three years.**
- Elimination of the 3- and 10-year unlawful presence bars to make it easier to apply for LPR status.
- Faster processing and increased numbers of family- and employment-based visas.
- The ability for family members of LPRs to come to the U.S. until green cards become available.
- Increases in annual numbers of Diversity Visas and U Visas (for victims of crimes).
- Elimination of the one-year deadline for filing asylum claims, and increased protection for U visa, T visa (for victims of trafficking), and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) applicants.

Executive Actions

The following executive orders signed by President Biden take effect immediately:

- Restoration of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program
- Reduction of immigration enforcement to focus only on national security or public safety threats
- 100-day pause on deportations of people with removal orders (with some exceptions)
- End to the Muslim Ban, stop to border wall construction, and inclusion of all in the Census

We are expecting other executive orders, including a rescission of the public charge rule and a potential expansion of Temporary Protected Status (TPS), but these may take more time.

****The U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021** must still be approved by Congress before it becomes law. This may take months, and the bill may undergo changes or fail. Call your senators and representatives and tell them to support this bill.