

# Immigration Update

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## Policies, Actions and Changes

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# Delay, Deny, Deport

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- Green card, visa processing slowed sharply
- Rising denials and challenges of high-skilled worker visas
- New protocols result in automatic denials versus Requests for Evidence
- All resulting in delays, which cause many to fall “out of status”

# Enforcement Priorities

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- Eliminates categories for prosecutorial discretion
- Convicted of, charged with or committed an act that constitutes a criminal offense
- Subject to deportation no matter how old the offence
- Arrests at traditionally safe spaces: courthouses, immigration offices, etc.

# “Public Charge”

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## Proposed definition change:

- Refers to a person who is primarily dependent on the government to meet their basic needs
- Definition broadened to include range of basic needs no matter how long/short assistance was used
- Includes SNAP, Medicare, Medicaid, public housing, as well as those “at high risk of becoming a public charge” due to medical conditions
- Currently under formal review

# DACA

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## Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals:

- In 2012, DHS said it would not deport certain undocumented youth who came to the U.S. as children
- Temporary and does not provide a path to lawful permanent resident status
- 700,000 people currently registered
- In 2017, Trump administration announced termination of DACA

# DACA

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## Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals:

- Move been blocked by district courts. Supreme Court seems unlikely to hear the case
- Accepting only renewals, no new applications, which are still assessed on case-by-case basis
- Renewal cases should involve attorneys or accredited representative

# TPS

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## Temporary Protected Status:

- Humanitarian status for foreign nationals, including undocumented immigrants, who cannot safely return to home country due to extraordinary circumstances such as armed conflict or environmental disaster
- Long seen as bipartisan, regularly extended (18 months)
- Many have lived in U.S. for more than 20 years

# TPS

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## Temporary Protected Status:

- Trump administration terminated TPS for 98% of holders or 315,000 people from Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, Nepal, Sudan and Liberia
- TPS intact for now for South Sudan, Nicaragua, Syria and Yemen (April 2019 to March 2020)
- Ongoing litigation has stayed TPS for El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua and Sudan

# Refugees

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- Person forced to leave home country to escape war, disaster, persecution, etc.
- For 2018, Trump administration announced historically low refugee admissions ceiling of 45,000. Only about 22,000 were settled.
- Cap for this year: 30,000
- Number of displaced persons worldwide: 68 million, including 25 million refugees

# The Border Wall

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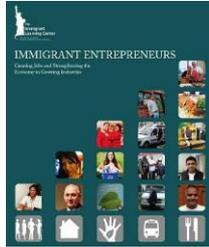
- Trump declared a state of emergency: “I didn’t need to do this, but I’d rather do it much faster.”
- Plans to divert military funds, including for anti-drug efforts, to fund a border wall
- Last time an emergency declaration authorized military action: Sept. 11, 2001
- 3 lawsuits filed (16 states, TX landowners/ environmental groups, conservation groups)

# The Border Wall

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- Trump initially said he could build the wall for \$4 billion
- Estimates range from \$12 billion to \$70 billion
- New border policies for asylum seekers:
  - Daily limits on the number of people who can apply
  - Heightened standard of proof to qualify
  - People (incl. children) must wait in Mexico for the full duration of their cases, which can take years

# Thank You



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