Immigration Update
Policies, Actions and Changes

Denzil Mohammed
Director, Public Education Institute,
The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.,
Malden, MA
dmohammed@ilctr.org

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Delay, Deny, Deport

- 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

• 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”

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

Sources: National Immigration Law Center, The New York Times
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

Sources: National Immigration Law Center, The New York Times
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.

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

Sources: Catholic Legal Immigration Network
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

**Sources:** Catholic Legal Immigration Network
Refugees

- 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

Sources: Catholic Legal Immigration Network
The Border Wall

• 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)

Source: The New York Times
• 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

Sources: The New York Times, PolitiFact, Reuters
Thank You

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dmohammed@ilctr.org