

The Dismantling of US Immigration (October, 2018)

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NOTE: Please use this list as a starting point for your own research because immigration issues are highly volatile and the information here may no longer be correct or complete. Not only are new federal- and state-specific laws and regulations being proposed and implemented but the legal status of these changes is in flux as they are challenged in the courts. Feedback to the author, Alyson Ball, is welcome at alysonhoweball@gmail.com.

Refugees - Reduced to 30K in 2019 (from 110K under Obama). 45K allowed in 2018 but disrupted administrative processes and unfilled federal positions processed less than 23K resettled refugees.

Asylum Seekers - no longer allow gang violence or domestic violence to be considered persecution.

Asylum Seekers metered at Southern Border Ports of Entry - overcrowding in Mexico at the US ports of entry as Central American and Mexican asylum seekers wait days or weeks to be processed.

Children - ending the Flores agreement (“release (unaccompanied) children w/o unnecessary delay”). No mention of how long children traveling with parents can be detained.

Ban on Country-specific travelers, visitors, refugees- (no permanent/temporary visas - varies by country) Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen (upheld by the Supreme Court)

Temporary Protected Status recipients (3000,000) - Some TPS countries cancelled in 2019 - El Salvador, Honduras, Haitians, Nicaragua, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan, and Liberia. Note: An estimated 273,000 US citizen children have been born to TSP recipients. (Judge stops this - court hearing pending)

All Applications to USCIS - Deny Visa or Green Card application if missing evidence/error on application. And more detailed requests for information/evidence.

Work Visa Holders - new application requirements for H1B visas and possible cancellation of H4 (work visa for spouses of H-1B visa holders). (H-1B is high skilled - usually technology sector employees)

Family Unification Visa Applicants - Regulations, administrative guidelines, and application processing changes at foreign, consular offices and USCIS have delayed processing or reduced successful applications.

DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) cancelled (approx.700,000) - going to Supreme Court

Border Crossers - Zero Tolerance - Detain, incarcerate, prosecute (with federal criminal charges) anyone (including families with young children) caught crossing the border between ports of entry.

287 (g) Agreements - ICE agreements provide training and some technology to deputize local police (currently in 76 jurisdictions and increasing, some cancellations) so they can process people on federal immigration charges. Costly for local jurisdictions. (ex. Prince Wm County, VA spent an estimated \$6.4 million the first year)

Judge Quotas - Increasing the number of cases each immigration judge is expected to complete each year. Hiring more immigration judges. (Immigration judges union calling for their courts to be outside of the DoJ.)

All Unauthorized Residents - ICE priority is all unauthorized, not violent criminals. Now allowing the detention of pregnant women.

Unauthorized with previous “Administrative Closure” - while ICE had allowed some unauthorized to stay in the US without fear of deportation (and sometimes work permits), these have been reversed recently.

Sanctuary Cities - withholding federal grants. (Challenged in the courts)

Central Americans coming north through Mexico - US government pays Mexico to prevent CA citizens from coming through Mexico to the US southern border to present themselves for asylum. (We’ve outsourced our asylum process (and responsibilities?) to Mexico.)

Green Card Holders - Proposal Pending - Expanded “public charge” rationale (historic use of benefits and income) for denying citizenship application.

US Citizens - Some US citizens denied passports (questioning their citizenship) if born near the TX-MX border and a mid-wife signed birth certificates.

US Citizens - USCIS is reviewing (past) applications of naturalized citizens for application errors and omissions.

Children born to non-citizens on U.S. soil will no longer be US citizens (proposed Presidential Executive Order)

Other changes advocated: Harsh anti-immigration rhetoric by US leadership, reduce the number of green cards issued each year, reduce the number of visas for family reunification, prioritize English-speakers, skilled labor, financially self-sufficient, build a border wall, increase the number of Border Patrol Agents, eliminate the diversity lottery (50K/year).