

IV. Immigration

Myth: We have no idea who is coming into our country as a refugee.

Fact: The screening done for our refugee resettlement program is extremely rigorous. On average, candidates wait nearly two years for approval of their applications to enter through our humanitarian programs . It would be a clear violation of U.S. and international law to deny people safe harbor based on their religion they practice or the country of their birth.

- Source: <http://www.state.gov/j/prm/ra/admissions/>

Myth: Immigrants make our communities less safe.

Fact: Studies consistently show that immigrants commit crimes at lower rates than our general population . Attempts to label entire groups of immigrants as “criminals” or “terrorists” are patently false, and run counter to our core values as a nation.

- Source: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/the-mythical-connection-between-immigrants-and-crime-1436916798>

Myth: Our country is being overrun by undocumented immigrants.

Fact: The number of undocumented immigrants in our country peaked in 2007, and has been decreasing steadily since then.

Source: <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2016/04/19/statistical-portrait-of-the-foreign-born-population-in-the-united-states-key-charts/#2013-fb-unauthorized-line>

Myth: Creating a pathway to citizenship will take jobs from U.S. workers.

Fact: Increasing rights and protections for our most vulnerable workers will help lift standards and wages for our entire workforce. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that comprehensive immigration reform would substantially strengthen our economy, increase employment levels and ultimately result in a raise for all working people in our country.

Source: <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/44346>

Myth: Undocumented immigrants don't pay taxes and they drain our social services.

Fact: All undocumented immigrants pay sales taxes that stimulate our state and local budgets, and many pay federal taxes as well. However, undocumented immigrants are not eligible for most public welfare benefits, so they contribute more to our public budgets than they receive, creating a positive net fiscal impact.

Source: <http://www.itep.org/immigration/>

Trump Administration Immigration Policies

- Muslim ban
- TPS (Temporary Protective Status)
- Enforcement
- Terminating DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)

DACA Timeline

- 2012: President Obama created DACA by executive order, a temporary two-year renewable measure to postpone deportation proceedings and provide eligibility for work permits for people brought to the United States as children.
- 2013: Senate passed a bill to reform immigration, and create a path to citizenship while also increasing funding for border enforcement and e-verification. The bill did not reach the House.
- 2014: Texas Attorney General claimed that DACA was unconstitutional and encouraged illegal immigration.
- 2017: President Trump rescinded DACA. The deadline for Congress to pass an immigration reform bill is March 5 2018.

Tell Congress

- Pass the DREAM act immediately without any poison pills that tear apart families!