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## White House Releases Immigration Principles and Policies

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On 10/08/17, the White House released a detailed outline of President Trump's immigration principles and policies. The White House stated that these reforms must be included as part of any legislation addressing the status of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. The principals were broken out into three categories: border security, interior enforcement, and the creation of a merit-based immigration system.

### **BORDER SECURITY**

**Fund and Build the Border Wall:** Build a wall along the southern border and raise fees from the processing of immigration applications and border-crossings to be used for financing of the wall.

**Implement Restrictions on Unaccompanied Alien Children:** Lowers due process standards for unaccompanied children by subjecting all unaccompanied children to expedited screening by Border Patrol and changes the eligibility criteria in the Special Immigrant Juvenile Status definition by granting protection only to children who suffered abuse, neglect, or abandonment at the hands of both parents and who cannot be reunified with either one.

**Implement More Restrictive Asylum Policies:** Heightens the credible fear screening requirement, requires they also prove that it is more likely than not that their statements are true. Expand the ability to return asylum seekers to safe third countries. Impose and enforce penalties for the filing of frivolous, or fraudulent asylum applications, and expand the use of expedited removal as appropriate.

**Expand the Number of Immigration Judges, ICE Attorneys and Officers:** Add 370 more immigration judges, 1,000 ICE attorneys, and 10,000 ICE officers. Use numeric case completion quotas to evaluate each immigration judge's performance.

**Expand Inadmissibility Grounds:** to include gang membership; those who have been convicted of an aggravated felony; identity theft; fraud related to Social Security benefits; domestic violence; child abuse; drunk driving offenses; failure to register as a sex offender; certain firearm offenses; certain former spouses and children of individuals engaged in drug or human trafficking.

**Expand Expedited Removal:** to include other categories of immigrants

## INTERIOR ENFORCEMENT

**End Sanctuary Cities and Compel State and Local Cooperation on Immigration:** Severe penalties for state and local jurisdictions that refuse to cooperate with federal authorities on immigration enforcement. Implement laws to compel and/or incentivize state and local law enforcement agencies to comply with ICE detainers and cooperate on enforcement matters.

**Visa Overstays:** Increase the penalties for those who overstay or violate the terms of a visa, including barring visa overstays from immigration benefits for a set time period with no waiver. Require DHS to provide all available data relating to any deportable alien to the Department of Justice's National Crime Information Center.

**Expand Detention Authority:** Require the detention of an alien: (1) who was not inspected and admitted into the United States, who holds a revoked nonimmigrant visa or who is deportable for failing to maintain nonimmigrant status; and (2) who has been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person.

**Expand Deportation Grounds** to include gang members, those convicted of multiple drunk driving offenses or a single offense involving death or serious injury, and those who fail to register as a sex offender.

**Additional Visa Security:** Use fraud prevention and detection fees for programs and activities to combat all classes of visa fraud within the United States and abroad. Strengthen laws prohibiting civil and criminal immigration fraud and encourage the use of advanced analytics to proactively detect fraud in immigration benefit applications.

**Legal Workforce:** implementation of mandatory E-Verify for all employers and strong penalties for failure to comply with E-Verify.

## MERIT-BASED IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

The proposal would eliminate all family-based immigration categories, except for spouses and children (under the age of 18) of U.S. citizens and permanent residents. It would eliminate the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program and reduce the number of refugees admitted to the U.S. to just 50,000 per year.

This list highlights some of the significant policy changes, but is not all inclusive of all the proposed principles and policies. Congress has already introduced some bills that echo the principles and policies set forth by the White House. These policies would increase immigration enforcement, criminalize undocumented immigrants, and could result in mass deportations.

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