

THE HISTORIC BORDER SECURITY
AND IMMIGRATION RECORD OF
PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP'S
FIRST TERM

For decades before Donald J. Trump declared on June 16, 2015 “the U.S. has become a dumping ground for everybody else's problems,” the failed establishment of both political parties had betrayed the American people. Corrupt politicians served their corporate interests by pushing unlimited amnesty for illegal aliens and legal immigration that kills the jobs and wages of lawful U.S. workers. Trump became the lone voice fearlessly campaigning on securing the open border, ending the threats posed to the homeland by a dysfunctional system, and vowing U.S. immigration policy would no longer serve the needs of wealthy donors and powerful politicians. Donald Trump’s America First message appealed to millions of patriots who had been on the sidelines for many election cycles. Trump crushed a deep bench of primary opponents and won the nomination with 14 million votes, the most in the history of the Republican Party.

Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton in November 2016 not by moderating his core beliefs, but by further exposing the broken immigration system that had served the needs of special interests at the expense of middle class families and innocent children. For once, a presidential candidate prioritized the well-being of the American people over the needs of people living in the U.S. illegally. Trump exposed Democrat sanctuary city policies that released violent criminals into our communities, rejected the globalist view of importing millions of unvetted refugees from terrorist hotbeds, and condemned the corporate lobbyists for uncontrolled low-skilled immigration that destroys all aspects of American life. Trump began fighting for the American people long before winning the presidency in a meeting with President Enrique Peña Nieto. Trump’s strong leadership and skillful deal-making in Mexico City was a preview of the bold diplomacy he used to achieve generational breakthroughs that secured the border and kept America safe during his presidency.

When President Donald J. Trump took the oath of office on January 20, 2017, he inherited a failed immigration and border security system as a result of the open borders and mass immigration policies of the Obama Administration. Before the Obama Administration, illegal aliens apprehended at the border were typically single, adult males from Mexico—a population that U.S. Customs and Border Protection facilities are designed to detain and are easy to deport. The Obama Administration upended the system by implementing policies that incentivized family units and unaccompanied alien children, mainly from the Northern Triangle, to show up at the border. These populations are extremely difficult to remove and the Obama Administration’s refusal to detain them fueled higher levels of illegal immigration from around the world. At the same time that the immigration court system was being overwhelmed by these fraudulent asylum claims, the Obama Administration started welcoming record high numbers of refugees from around the world with no regard for their ability to learn English, assimilate into American society, and financially support themselves. As Obama opened the floodgates to refugees and asylum fraudsters, his administration further crippled the economic opportunities of American workers by cutting standards and interviews for legal immigration benefits, issuing visas to temporary workers and immigrant workers through a rubberstamp approval process devoid of vetting or applying eligibility criteria. Additionally, the Obama Administration cheapened the meaning of U.S. Citizenship and brazenly attempted to create new welfare-dependent Democrat voters by cutting corners and rubberstamping a record number of naturalizations.

As President, Donald J. Trump mobilized every resource of the federal government to reverse the destructive open borders policies of his lawless predecessors and implement the first-ever immigration system that served the best interests of America and its workers. President Trump's visionary national interest immigration policy delivered on his campaign promise to secure the border. President Trump executed a multi-layered approach of regulatory and policy reform that enforced the law and ensured that only qualified immigrants who did not threaten the homeland would receive merit-based visas and would be allowed into American communities.

President Trump implemented over 1,000 distinct policies that overhauled the U.S. immigration system. President Trump overcame activist district court judges who tried to interfere with his ability to quickly implement his immigration policies. He rejected the corrupt deep state bureaucrats who attempted to defy the will of the American people by delaying, impeding, and obstructing the policymaking efforts of his administration.

President Donald J. Trump prevailed in the face of government upheaval, successfully implementing the strongest and most robust border security measures ever put into place. He utilized previously untapped or ignored authority to seal the border and fully control who and what entered the United States, and reformed the immigration system to put the American people first. What follows is a description of the most groundbreaking reforms ushered in by President Donald J. Trump to **establish the most secure southern border in our nation's history, keep the American people safe from the threats posed by foreign terrorists and criminal actors, protect and promote American workers so they are not harmed by cheap foreign labor, and fully enforce U.S. immigration law to inject long overdue accountability into the system.**

President Trump Established the Most Secure Southern Border in the History of the United States.

Established Government Wide Policy Ending Catch and Release: Despite section 235 of the Immigration and Nationality Act's (INA) mandate for the Executive Branch to detain illegal aliens or make them wait in Mexico throughout their immigration court proceedings, Presidents Clinton, George W. Bush, and Obama ignored this congressional obligation and mass released illegal aliens into American communities, a practice known as "catch and release." Predictably, many of these released illegal aliens failed to appear at immigration court, impeding ICE's ability to remove them, or committed heinous crimes against Americans. Through [EO 13767](#), President Trump was the first president to end the dangerous "catch and release" policy for aliens apprehended between the ports of entry and those found inadmissible at ports of entry. Instead, the Trump Administration detained illegal aliens claiming asylum at the border and those apprehended by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in American communities. The ending of catch and release combined with record level deportations sent a strong deterrence message that illegal aliens should not take the journey north because they will not be allowed into American communities.

Record Level of Deportations: While open borders zealots claim that former President Obama was the "deporter in chief," this is a myth concocted to present the appearance of enforcement while pitching a mass amnesty. In order to make the Obama Administration appear it was enforcing the law, DHS began cooking the books by including illegal aliens apprehended at the southern border as a removal when all previous administrations distinguished illegal aliens apprehended at the border from those caught in American communities by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and deported. In 2014 after leaving DHS, former Secretary Janet Napolitano [admitted](#) to the "deporter in chief" lie in an NBC interview, saying "A lot of those deportations were individuals who were captured right at the border so they had not yet entered the United States... because of the way we handled them differently than prior administrations, they got counted differently."

As a true Rule of Law president, President Trump issued [EO 13768](#) his first week in office declaring all illegal aliens a priority for removal, reversing the dangerous policy of the previous administration that exempted most illegal aliens from deportation. As a result, ICE agents were empowered like never before and deported almost 1 million illegal aliens during President Trump's first term—and would have surpassed the 1 million deportation threshold if not for COVID-19. Removals increased each of the first 3 years, from 226,119 illegal aliens deported in FY 2017 to 256,085 in FY 2018 to 267,258 in FY 2019. Even with the disruptions caused by COVID-19, ICE deported 185,884 illegal aliens in FY 2020—a level that is 68% higher than the 59,011 illegal aliens removed by the Biden Administration in FY 2021. Of the total removals, President Trump's administration deported 526,884 criminal aliens: 127,719 in FY 2017; 145,262 in FY 2018; 150,141 in FY 2019; and 103,762 in FY 2020.

Issued Regulation to Terminate Flores Settlement Agreement: In 1997, the Clinton Administration entered into the Flores Settlement Agreement (FSA) which limited the amount of time an unaccompanied alien child could remain in custody and imposed other restrictions on the government. In 2015, federal Judge Dolly Gee reinterpreted the FSA to impose the same limitations on the detention of accompanied alien minors. Judge Gee's rogue rewrite of the FSA triggered a nationwide catch and release policy for family units which fueled more family units and fraudulent families to surge to the southern border. Through [EO 13841](#), President Trump ordered DHS and HHS to issue a regulation to terminate the FSA and allow for family units to be detained throughout the immigration court process. In August 2019, the agencies fulfilled President Trump's mandate to finalize a regulation terminating the FSA, thus ending the exploitative practice of migrant children being abused by adults to form fraudulent families to exploit the loophole created by the FSA that previously allowed them into American communities.

Title 42 to End Asylum Abuse: Beginning in March 2020, President Trump exercised previously unused authority found in Title 42 of the U.S. Code to require Border Patrol agents to immediately turn away or repatriate all aliens at the border who lack valid travel documents. President Trump's use of Title 42 effectively sealed the border, denied illegal aliens the opportunity to exploit the asylum system, and apprehensions in April 2020 plummeted to 17,106, the lowest level ever recorded. From March through December 2020, illegal alien border apprehensions averaged around 47,000 per month compared to more than 200,000 illegal aliens per month under the Biden Administration's open borders, mass catch-and-release scheme.

Title 42 to End Human Trafficking of Illegal Alien Minors: Beginning in March 2020, President Trump also used Title 42 to immediately turn away or repatriate unaccompanied alien children. This policy effectively nullified the loophole in the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act that facilitated the trafficking and smuggling of illegal alien minors, mainly from the Northern Triangle. In April 2020, unaccompanied alien children apprehensions fell to just 741, the lowest level ever recorded. From March through December 2020, Border Patrol apprehended an average of approximately 2,700 unaccompanied alien children as migrant families stopped smuggling and trafficking their children when they realized the minors would not be allowed into American communities. The few who arrived at the border were quickly reunited with their families in their home countries and not allowed into American communities. By comparison, from February 2021 through May 2023 the Biden Administration's inhumane open border policies are responsible for 370,000 unaccompanied alien children being smuggled or trafficked into American communities.

Detained Asylum Seekers Considered Flight Risks: To further discourage abuse of the asylum system as a means of disappearing into American communities, the Trump Administration issued a policy that declared aliens without ties to the U.S. or likely to lose their asylum case a "flight risk" which made them ineligible to be released from detention on a monetary bond. This policy was yet another example of how President Trump issued nationwide policies ending catch and release.

Aliens Crossing Southern Border Unlawfully Ineligible for Asylum: Under section 212(f) of the INA, if the President finds that "the entry of any aliens or of any class of aliens into the United

States would be detrimental to the interests of the United States, he may by proclamation, and for such period as he shall deem necessary, suspend the entry of all aliens or any class of aliens as immigrants or nonimmigrants, or impose on the entry of aliens any restrictions he may deem to be appropriate.” Section 215(a) of the INA includes complimentary authority making it unlawful for aliens to attempt to enter the U.S. in contravention of any Presidential proclamations. Additionally, section 208 of the INA makes clear that asylum is a discretionary form of relief and that no alien is entitled with section 208(b)(2)(C) specifically authorizing the Executive Branch to impose “additional limitations and conditions” on aliens claiming asylum in the U.S.

President Trump harnessed these authorities and issued [Presidential Proclamation 9822](#) declaring ineligible for asylum any alien who crossed the southern border unlawfully instead of appearing at a port of entry. DHS and DOJ subsequently issued a regulation to formalize President Trump’s proclamation, explaining that this policy prioritized the National interest and restored order to the asylum system by establishing an orderly, controlled process and preventing the cartels from distracting Border Patrol agents with large numbers of illegal aliens they have to apprehended between the ports of entry.

Combatted the Trafficking of Illegal Alien Minors: The Trump Administration executed an agreement between DHS and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to share information on unaccompanied alien children and to obtain biometric and biographic data for sponsors, confirming familial relationships, and running criminal background checks on all adults residing in the sponsors home for the purpose of immigration and criminal enforcement.

Imposed DNA Testing to Combat Fraudulent Families and Human Trafficking: When an activist judge limited the amount of time DHS could detain family units, the Trump Administration implemented DNA testing to confirm whether a familial relationship exists, effectively ending the exploitative practice of migrant adults recycling children to create fraudulent families as a way to gain entry into the U.S.

Migrant Protection Protocols/Remain in Mexico Policy: In 1996, Congress created the expedited removal authority as Section 235 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1225. According to section 235(b)(2)(C) of the INA, the DHS Secretary (formerly the Attorney General) “may return the alien to that [contiguous] territory pending a proceeding under section 1229a of this title.” Presidents Clinton, George W. Bush, and Obama failed to utilize this authority over the 20 years they had the opportunity to do so. Through [EO 13767](#) issued on January 25, 2017, President Trump revived this dormant statute with section 7 of the EO ordering the DHS Secretary to “ensure that aliens described in section 235(b)(2)(C) of the INA... are returned to the territory from which they came pending a formal removal proceeding.” In January 2019, DHS launched the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), or Remain in Mexico policy, after President Trump struck a historic agreement with Mexico that illegal aliens claiming asylum must wait in Mexico until their immigration court date.

Far left open borders groups sued to block the policy but President Trump prevailed at the U.S. Supreme Court in a critical victory for the rule of law and the ability to defend our Nation’s sovereignty from foreign invasion. Of the more than 71,000 illegal aliens returned to Mexico

under MPP, less than 1% (641 aliens) were granted asylum by the end of President Trump's first term.

Safe Third Agreements: Under section 208(a)(2)(A) of the INA, an alien may not apply for asylum in the U.S. if the alien may be removed, under a "safe third country" agreement, to a country where the alien "would have access to a full and fair procedure for determining a claim to asylum or equivalent temporary protection." Throughout the history of this longstanding statute, the U.S. only entered into a safe third country agreement with Canada. In just his first term, President Trump entered into three historic safe third country agreements (Asylum Cooperative Agreements) with Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala to stop asylum fraud and disrupt the Mexican cartels and human trafficking networks. Under these agreements, aliens apprehended at the U.S. southern border from the Northern Triangle countries claiming asylum were presented with two options: abandon their fraudulent asylum claim and return home or be removed to one of the other Northern Triangle countries to seek humanitarian relief closer to home.

Historic Surge of Troops to Border: When a crisis was developing at the southern border because illegal aliens were exploiting loopholes in the law impeding the implementation of effective enforcement policies, President Trump launched the historic [Operation Secure Line](#) that deployed nearly 5,000 troops to the Southern border to assist U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel, including installing razor wire and concertina wire. DOD also surged equipment and logistical and medical support. This visionary decision to surge troops to the southern border enhanced the Border Patrol's ability to impede or deny illegal crossings.

Compelled Mexico to Secure its Southern Border: The majority of illegal aliens attempting to cross the U.S. southern border first passed through Mexico with the permission of the Mexican government as long as the migrants continued north. From a position of strength, President Trump leveraged the threat of tariffs and other actions against Mexico if they did not act to secure their own southern border. In another historic first, the Mexican government deployed tens of thousands of their own soldiers and the equivalent of the national guard to secure their border and cutoff the pipeline of illegal aliens from the Northern Triangle countries. The Trump Administration sent DHS experts to Mexico to advise them on effective border security strategies and successfully applied pressure to the Mexican government to ensure that demographics the U.S. traditionally has difficulty deporting are expelled at the Mexican southern border.

Third Country Transit Ban: Section 208 of the INA makes clear that asylum is a discretionary form of relief and that no alien is entitled to it. Additionally, in section 208(b)(2)(C) of the INA, Congress delegated authority to the Executive Branch to enhance the integrity of the asylum system by imposing "additional limitations and conditions" on aliens claiming asylum in the U.S. Confronted with a surge of fraudulent and frivolous asylum claims filed to delay deportation, the Trump Administration issued a regulation under this statutory authority to establish a new bar to asylum eligibility for aliens who traveled through other countries without seeking asylum there and continued to the United States. The policy justification for this rule was commonsense and straightforward: aliens legitimately fleeing persecution should seek

humanitarian relief at the first available country that offers asylum protections instead of “forum shopping” to come to the most prosperous country they can reach, the United States.

Built the Wall: President Trump fulfilled one of his primary 2016 campaign pledges by building over 450 miles of the most robust and advanced border walls ever constructed. Just days into his first term, President Trump issued [Executive Order \(EO\) 13767](#), which among other immigration enforcement measures, directed the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to “take all appropriate steps to immediately plan, design, and construct a physical wall along the southern border, using appropriate materials and technology to most effectively achieve complete operational control of the southern border.” When confronted with an obstructionist Congress that failed to appropriate funds necessary to continue building the wall, President Trump issued [Presidential Proclamation 9844](#) declaring a national emergency to reprogram unused Department of Defense funds to construct the sophisticated and effective border wall system.

President Trump’s administration constructed approximately 463 miles of border wall system that was far superior in design and technology that previously built border wall. Some of the border wall system was 18 feet high but the overwhelming majority of it was 30 feet high. President Trump’s border wall replaced ineffective and easily exploitable vehicle barriers and Vietnam style landing materials with a wall built out of poured concrete and reinforced steel rebar. In many places, concertina wire was added to the border wall system, highly powerful fiberoptic lines were installed, and access roads built to enable Border Patrol agents to communicate while apprehending illegal aliens and drug smugglers. In places where existing border wall met President Trump’s standards, a secondary wall was built to create a border enforcement zone.

As a result, unlawful border crossings plummeted by 87% in the places the wall was built. President Trump had the plans, materials, and infrastructure in place for additional border wall system construction before the Biden administration canceled the contracts and let our southern border exposed to illegal aliens and drug traffickers.

Attorney General Vacates Matter of E-F-H-L-: In March 2018, the Attorney General vacated *Matter of E-F-H-L-*, a precedential Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) opinion that held that asylum and withholding of removal applicants were entitled to full evidentiary hearings before Immigration Judges without first stating a prima facie claim for relief.

Attorney General Vacates Matter of A-B- and Overrules Matter of A-R-C-G-: In March 2018, the Attorney General vacated *Matter of A-B-* and overruled *Matter of A-R-C-G-* to restore congressional intent to the definition of particular social group as a grounds of asylum eligibility. The Attorney General determined that domestic and gang violence generally do not qualify for asylum and that a claim based on the conduct of a private actor must establish that the government condoned the conduct or was incapable of controlling it. In January 2021, the Attorney General issued an update to the *Matter of A-B-* to overrule the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals erroneously broad nexus test for establishing asylum as a persecuted member of a particular social group. The Attorney General clarified that the two-pronged test established by the BIA in *Matter of L-E-A* is the proper analysis under the law.

Attorney General Issues Matter of M-S-: In April 2019, the Attorney General issued *Matter of M-S-*, holding that an asylum seeker who unlawfully crossed the southern border and establishes credible fear is ineligible for bond and will be detained throughout the expedited removal process.

Attorney General Issues Matter of L-E-A-: In July 2019, the Attorney General issued *Matter of L-E-A-*, holding that most nuclear families failed to meet the definition of particular social group and are therefore generally ineligible for asylum. The Attorney General directed adjudicators to analyze family-based PSG claims for whether the specific family is “set apart, or distinct, from other persons within the society in some significant way.”

Attorney General Issues Matter of R-A-F-: In February 2020, the Attorney General issued *Matter of R-A-F-*, directing the BIA to review “de novo” claims of torture under the DOJ regulations implementing the Convention Against Torture. This case reined in rogue Immigration Judges who failed to strictly apply the law and were improperly granting relief to some aliens.

Attorney General Issues Matter of O-F-A-S-: In July 2020, the Attorney General issued *Matter of O-F-A-S-*, holding that torture by a public official qualifies under the DOJ regulations implementing the Conventional Against Torture requires the public official or other person “acting in an official capacity” to be performing actions “under color of law.”

Attorney General Issues Matter of A-C-A-A-: In September 2020, the Attorney General issued *Matter of A-C-A-A-*, ordering the BIA to examine the facts found by an Immigration Judge in an asylum case “de novo” to determine whether all statutory elements of asylum are established. The Attorney General additionally held that an asylum claim should be denied unless there is a nexus between the harm and the applicant’s particular social group.

Internal Relocation Guidance and Adjudicator Retraining: Under 8 C.F.R. 208.13(b)(3), adjudicators are required to consider whether an alien seeking asylum by claiming to be the victim of private violence could have safely relocated in a different part of the home country. If internal relocation is possible, asylum officers should be denying the claim. President Trump’s administration restored this arbitrarily discarded analysis under the policies of previous administrations by issuing guidance to adjudicators to consider if the alien met the burden of proof that internal relocation was not possible. As many areas in the Northern Triangle countries are generally very safe, the proper application of internal relocation guidance helped root out abuse of the asylum system. The internal relocation guidance was part of a larger initiative of the Trump Administration to retrain asylum officers to properly apply the law which necessarily resulted in fewer grants of asylum.

Country Conditions Reports and “Stay Home” Campaign: To assist adjudicators in determining whether aliens claiming asylum met their burden of proof that internal relocation was not possible, President Trump’s Department of State (DOS) generated country conditions reports for adjudicators to consult. These reports contained relevant information like the total geographic size and population of the country, the locations where violent crimes occurred, and other factors that would indicate whether a part of a country was safe enough to relocate to. DOS also

Surged Immigration Judges to the Southern Border: When an activist judge obstructed the implementation of the categorical asylum ban regulations, President Trump responded by surging Immigration Judges to the southern border to more quickly hear asylum claims and order removed from the country illegal aliens with meritless or fraudulent claims.

Streamlined Deportation Process: President Trump implemented the Prompt Asylum Claim Review (PACR), for non-Mexicans, and the Humanitarian Asylum Review Process (HARP) programs, for Mexicans, to speed up the screening of illegal aliens claiming asylum at the southern border. Under these programs, illegal aliens remained in CBP custody and had their credible fear screenings within 48 hours of apprehension—preventing them from being coached to pass the screening—and accelerating the deportation of those found ineligible. The prompt return of economic migrants or other aliens seeking to exploit the asylum system sent a strong, chilling effect to other nationals of those countries to not take the journey north because they will not be allowed into American communities.

Removed Incentive for Illegal Aliens to File Baseless Asylum Claims to Obtain Work Permits: Section 208 of the INA makes clear that asylum is a discretionary form of relief and no alien is entitled to it. Section 208(d)(2) further specifies that aliens are not entitled to work permits simply because they filed an asylum claim. President Trump harnessed these authorities and issued [Presidential Proclamation 9822](#) declaring ineligible for a work permit any illegal alien for simply filed an asylum claim. DHS issued a regulation to effectuate President Trump's policy, increased the wait time for other aliens' asylum claims to be pending for at least 1 year (up from 6 months), and automatically terminated the work permit when the asylum claim was denied.

Implemented Last In, First Out Asylum Claim Processing: To prevent economic migrants from exploiting the asylum system and being allowed into American communities for years before their immigration court dates, the Trump Administration implemented a last in, first out processing of claims. As aliens denied asylum were quickly deported it sent a clear deterrent signal to prevent the next wave of illegal aliens from being smuggled or trafficked to the southern border.

Empowered Border Patrol Agents to Hear Credible Fear Interviews: President Trump fought back against the deep state and woke asylum officers by empowering Border Patrol agents to hear credible fear screening interviews from illegal aliens apprehended at the southern border. This personnel surge helped stave off a border crisis and utilized law enforcement-minded officers to apply the law properly instead of asylum officers who disregarded the legal standards because they sympathized with the stories they heard.

President Trump Protected the Homeland and Kept Americans Safe Against Threats from Criminals and Terrorists

Travel Ban: In President Trump's first week in office he issued [EO 13769](#) taking unprecedented action to prevent the entry of malicious actors and enhance the security of the American people. Through this EO, President Trump was the first president to use the fullest extent of the authority given to him under Section 212(f) of the INA to deny the entry of aliens from 7 countries that undermined American security by being hotbeds for terrorism. In March 2017, President Trump built off of EO 13769 by issuing [EO 13780](#). This subsequent EO was a game changer in protecting the homeland by raising the baseline for the screening and establishing extreme vetting of aliens from around the world as a condition of being allowed into the U.S. All countries had to comply with new, uniform extreme vetting and data sharing requirements to ensure that their citizens would not exploit the legal immigration system to infiltrate our country and attack the homeland.

Established the National Vetting Center: President Trump recognized that “[b]order and immigration security are essential to ensuring the safety, security, and prosperity of the United States.” In furtherance of his unparalleled commitment to protect the homeland, he issued a Presidential Memorandum that created the National Vetting Center—the most advanced and comprehensive extreme screening system ever developed to integrate the data possessed across national security components. The National Vetting Center leveraged biographic, biometric, and contextual information for extreme vetting of aliens seeking visas, illegal aliens apprehended at the southern border, and aliens in removal proceedings.

Extreme Vetting for Legal Immigrants: President Trump instituted extreme vetting standards to evaluate all aliens seeking legal immigration benefits to ensure that foreign nationals allowed into the U.S. does not pose a threat to the safety and security of the American people. In addition to the extreme vetting established by the National Vetting Center, the Trump Administration ended the previous practice of USCIS rubberstamping approvals of lawful permanent resident applications by increasing the use of in-person interviews for certain aliens seeking lawful permanent resident status and adding the vetting of all social media accounts operated by the alien. For lawful permanent residents seeking to naturalize, the Trump Administration was the first administration to properly apply Section 316 of the INA to ensure that the alien was “lawfully admitted for permanent residence” and that the alien satisfied the “good moral character” requirement at all times instead of just during the period as a lawful permanent resident.

Ended Refugee Resettlement From Terrorism Hotbeds: Through a series of Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations, President Trump suspended the admission of refugees from the world's most dangerous countries and terror-afflicted regions and established new extreme vetting measures for all refugees. President Trump used his authority under Section 212(f) of the INA to bar all refugees from Syria, Somalia, and Yemen as part of a broader plan to keep radical jihadist ideology out of the United States.

Lowest Refugee Settlement Every Year: On January 27, 2017, President Trump issued [EO 13769](#) which slashed the FY 2017 refugee resettlement ceiling from 110,000 to 50,000—the lowest level in history at the time. President Trump subsequently bested his own record each following year, further reducing the FY 2018 refugee resettlement ceiling to 45,000, setting the FY 2019 ceiling at 30,000 refugees, the FY 2020 refugee resettlement ceiling down to 18,000, and the FY 2021 refugee resettlement ceiling was further reduced to 15,000. President Trump recognized that refugee resettlement in the U.S. was prohibitively more expensive on American taxpayers than keeping refugees in countries closer to their home nation. President Trump showed leadership on the world stage through tactical diplomacy to compel other countries to take in more refugees so his administration could solve the crisis of illegal aliens already on U.S. soil exploiting the asylum system.

Imposed 243D Visa Sanctions Against Uncooperative Countries: Section 243(d) of the INA authorizes the Executive Branch to deny visas of nationals from countries that refuse or unreasonably delay accepting their nationals after they've been ordered removed from the U.S. Previous administrations failed to use this tool against recalcitrant countries and, as a result, many of these aliens were released back into American communities instead of being repatriated. One of President Trump's first executive orders, Executive Order 13768, ordered the Departments of State and Homeland Security to impose Section 243(d) visa sanctions and to “ensure that diplomatic efforts and negotiations with foreign states include as a condition precedent the acceptance by those foreign states of their nationals who are subject to removal from the United States.” The Trump Administration repeatedly used the Section 243(d) authority against recalcitrant countries until they relented under the pressure of visa denials and began taking back their nationals.

Instituted Global Information Sharing Requirement: President Trump implemented a uniform security and information-sharing baseline that all foreign countries must meet as a condition for their nationals to be allowed to be admitted into the United States.

Exposed Extent of Crimes Committed by Illegal Aliens: Through EO 13768, President Trump required DOJ and DHS to publish information on illegal alien crime, including the immigration status of aliens incarcerated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the U.S. Marshals Service, and aliens in state and local detention facilities. The EO also required DOJ and DHS to publish the immigration status of criminal offenders when new crimes are committed to provide transparency to the American people about the threat of criminal aliens to public safety.

Social Media Extreme Vetting: In its zeal to rubberstamp as many legal immigration benefits as possible, the Obama Administration approved visas for aliens with red flags of national security and public safety concerns—reflecting a dangerous pre-9/11 mindset. The clearest vetting failure of the Obama Administration was the 2015 San Bernardino terrorist attack that killed 14 Americans and injured 21 others by a jihadist husband and wife. The wife had numerous social media posts that indicated her allegiance to ISIS and disdain for America but these were ignored by adjudicators when issuing her a fiancé visa and missed again when she was approved for lawful permanent resident status. Furthering his legacy of protecting Americans from the threat of jihadists, President Trump's administration was the first to require aliens to disclose their

social media accounts when seeking immigration benefits in order for adjudicators to learn what an alien truly believes before being approved for a visa and being allowed into the U.S.

Electronic Device Inspection of High Risk Aliens: The Trump Administration issued guidance for U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials to conduct inspections of electronic devices of suspicious aliens or those who meet high risk national security threat categories when they appear at a port of entry.

Extreme Vetting of Family Members of Refugees: While the law allows certain family members of a refugee to come to the U.S. after the principal alien, previous administrations did not thoroughly scrutinize these “follow-to-join” foreign nationals. President Trump instituted extreme vetting requirements to these family members to ensure they received the same screening and extreme vetting as the principal refugee in order to protect the homeland and prevent radical extremist family members from infiltrating the U.S.

Extreme Vetting and Visa Restrictions of Chinese Students: Recognizing the national security threat posed by China and the CCP, the Trump Administration unveiled extreme screening and vetting standards for Chinese students and researchers in sensitive fields and, in some instances, limited the validity of visas due to national security concerns.

Restricted Admission Period for Chinese Journalists: President Trump recognized the CCP was exploiting legal immigration channels to pose a threat to the homeland, including through the use of Chinese nationals posing as journalists. To safeguard the Nation, the Trump Administration reduced the validity of visas for Chinese journalists to a maximum of 90 days.

Suspended Entry of Chinese Students and Researchers: President Trump again thwarted the attempt by the CCP to exploit the legal immigration system by denying the entry of any Chinese student or journalist employed by a Chinese entity that supports China’s “military-civil fusion strategy.”

Expanded the Criminal Misconduct that Amounts to an Aggravated Felony Conviction: The Trump Administration issued an order that deemed a criminal alien as having been convicted of an aggravated felony, and thus removable, if the elements of the conviction can be combined to form an aggravated felony.

Creation of the DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking: The Trump Administration launched with Center for Countering Human Trafficking within DHS to support federal investigations, intelligence analysis, and educational outreach on combatting human trafficking and forced labor.

Led Strategic Regional Partnerships to Dismantle Human Smuggling Networks: President Trump led the coalition with Mexico and other regional partners to dismantle human smuggling networks that profit from human misery and exploit vulnerable populations by strictly enforcing immigration law and making an unprecedented commitment to border security.

Ended Abuse of the Visa Lottery By Immigration Fraudsters: Every year, the U.S. awards up to 55,000 lawful permanent resident status (green cards) to aliens from countries that do not send a large number of immigrants to the U.S., typically very poor countries and those with unreliable government identity databases. Nefarious criminal actors were committing identity theft to improperly win the visa lottery, increasing the likelihood of a dangerous criminal or terrorist gaining entry to the U.S. through deceit. President Trump ended this abuse by requiring the submission of a passport in the visa lottery application, which resulted in a significant decline in applications indicative of past levels of immigration fraud.

Gave American Victims of Immigrant Crime Enforcement a VOICE: Through EO 13768, President Trump established the Victims of Immigrant Crime (VOCIE) Office within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to provide proactive, timely, adequate, and professional services to victims of crimes committed by illegal aliens and to the family members of such victims.

President Trump Took Unprecedented Actions to Protect American Taxpayers and Prevent Aliens From Exploiting Welfare Benefits

Issued First Ever Public Charge Rule to Keep New Immigrants Off Welfare: Pursuant to Section 212(a)(4) of the INA, an alien is inadmissible if he/she is likely to become a public charge. While the statute did not define public charge, it included certain mandatory factors that adjudicators needed to consider when determining the likelihood of an alien ending up on welfare. The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act and Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act, both from 1996, strengthened the public charge doctrine but the term remained undefined. In 1999, the Clinton Administration issued a memorandum (Pearson Memo) defining public charge as an alien who is “primarily dependent” on “cash welfare.”

President Trump recognized that this definition of public charge was inconsistent with longstanding principles of U.S. immigration law that aliens be self-sufficient. The Trump Administration fixed this problem and protected American taxpayers by issuing the first ever public charge regulation to ensure that new immigrants are financially self-sufficient and are not intending to rely on taxpayer funded welfare. Specifically, the rule established that an alien is inadmissible as a public charge if he/she receives one or more public benefits, including cash and non-cash welfare, for more than 12 months, in aggregate, within any 36-month period.

Held Sponsors Accountable for Repaying Immigrant Welfare: The principle of immigrant self-sufficiency has been enshrined in U.S. immigration law since the 1880s but previous administrations failed to enforce it. In furtherance of President Trump’s commitment to prevent nonimmigrants and immigrants from becoming a fiscal drain on the American people, he issued [Presidential Memorandum: Enforcing the Legal Responsibilities of Sponsors of Aliens](#) that directed his administration to fully enforce the legally enforceable contract signed by the sponsor of an intending immigrant, known as the affidavit of support. President Trump was the first president to fully enforce Section 213A of the INA that requires the sponsor to reimburse every dollar of welfare benefits an immigrant receives while the affidavit of support is in effect.

Sponsor Deeming for Immigrant Welfare Eligibility: Section 421 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 states that when an alien with an affidavit of support under Section 213A of the INA applies for any Federal means-tested welfare benefit, the income and resources of sponsor and sponsor’s spouse are “deemed” to be income and resources of the alien for determining the alien’s eligibility for the welfare and the amount of the public benefit received. Through [Presidential Memorandum: Enforcing the Legal Responsibilities of Sponsors of Aliens](#), President Trump required all federal agencies to update their procedures and guidance to ensure the law is being enforced and American taxpayers are protected.

Proposed Keeping Illegal Aliens Out of Public Housing: Section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980 limits eligibility for public housing assistance and Section 8 vouchers to U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and limited categories of aliens. The

Trump Administration issued a proposed regulation through the Department of Housing and Urban Development that required the verification of immigration status of all current and future recipients of housing assistance. The proposed rule also would have banned mixed-status families, those where some members are here legally but others are here unlawfully, from living in public housing or receiving Section 8 vouchers.

Barred Immigrants Unable to Obtain Health Insurance: President Trump used his executive authority under Section 212(f) of the INA to bar immigrants from coming to the U.S. if they were unable to show proof of health insurance or an ability to pay for medical costs. This policy protected American taxpayers from the potential of poor immigrants accessing health care from emergency rooms and skipping out on paying their medical bills.

DACA Ineligible for Federally-Backed Mortgages: The Trump Administration issued a policy that made illegal aliens covered by President Obama's unlawful executive amnesty program, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), ineligible for mortgages backed by the Federal Housing Administration.

DHS-SSA Data Sharing to Prevent Deported Aliens From Receiving Taxpayer Money: The Trump Administration expanded a data matching program between DHS and the Social Security Administration to ensure that SSA suspended payment of taxpayer benefits after an alien is removed or voluntarily departs the U.S. The agreement also empowered SSA to recover any overpayment of taxpayer benefits that may have erroneously been distributed to the alien.

President Trump Took Unprecedented Actions to Protect American Workers from Cheap Foreign Workers

Numerous Policies to Permanently End the Displacement of U.S. Workers by H-1B Foreign Workers

Upskilled the H-1B Worker Visa, Part 1: President Trump is the only president to declare the American people the primary stakeholder in U.S. immigration policy and take concrete steps to protect American workers from cheap foreign workers. President Trump issued [EO 13788 "Buy American and Hire American"](#) directing his administration to reform the H-1B “high skilled” worker visa to ensure they are awarded to the most skilled or highest paid foreign workers and not used to displace American workers. In furtherance of BAHA, President Trump’s DHS issued a regulation that defined “specialty occupation” consistent with Congressional intent and made Indian “body shops” ineligible for obtaining H-1B workers with the purpose of displacing qualified American workers.

Upskilled the H-1B Worker Visa, Part 2: Pursuant to EO 13788, President Trump’s DHS issued a regulation that ended the inefficient and arbitrary lottery to distribute H-1Bs and replaced it with a merit-based process that ensured H-1B visas are awarded to the highest skilled and highest paid foreign workers.

Protected American Wages From Cheaper H-1B Wages: Pursuant to EO 13788, President Trump’s Department of Labor issued a regulation that ended the ability of companies to legally pay H-1B workers below market wages compared to similarly skilled American workers. Known as the “prevailing wage,” previous administrations had set the 4 levels of wages to be paid to H-1Bs at arbitrarily low levels, putting American workers at a competitive disadvantage for jobs or forcing them to accept below market wages. The DOL regulation significantly increased the minimum wages an H-1B could be paid and, importantly, marked the first time the H-1B prevailing wage levels had been adjusted since the H-1B program was created by Congress.

Fired the Chairman and a Board Member of the TVA: President Trump fired the chairman and a board member of the Tennessee Valley Authority, a federal entity that oversees power generation in the mid-South, after learning that TVA intended to fire 200 American workers and replace them with outsourced, cheap H-1B foreign workers.

Prevented Future TVAs: On the same day that President Trump fired the chairman and a board member of TVA, he issued [EO 13940](#), *Aligning Federal Contract and Hiring Practices With the Interests of American Workers*, to require all Federal agencies to prioritize the hiring of U.S. workers over foreign workers whenever possible and prevent Federal agencies from displacing American workers with cheap foreign workers.

Foreign Data Entry Workers Largely Ineligible for H-1B “High Skilled” Worker Visa: The Trump Administration issued a policy that presumes entry level computer programmers do not

meet the statutory definition of “specialty occupation” and are ineligible for the “high skilled” H-1B foreign worker visa.

Ensured Statutory Compliance for H-1Bs at Third Party Worksites: President Trump protected American workers by issuing a policy that required H-1B employers who intend to place the foreign worker at a third-party worksite to produce all relevant contracts and itineraries to demonstrate visa eligibility for the entirety of the visa. The use of third-party worksite was an arrangement often utilized by companies to fire U.S. workers and use cheaper, H-1B workers in their place.

Fully Scrutinized H-1B Visa Renewal Requests: The Trump Administration rescinded a policy of adjudicators giving deference to past approvals of H-1Bs when reviewing extensions. The prior policy improperly removed the burden of proof from being on the alien and was replaced with a policy that requires all renewals to receive the same scrutiny as an initial application to ensure that the alien was, and continues, to maintain eligibility for the work visa.

First Official H-1B Population in the U.S. Report: President Trump’s Administration was the first to conduct an official government report estimating the total population of H-1B foreign workers in the U.S. The report found that approximately 583,420 foreign workers are holding American jobs as of 2019.

Generally Protected American Workers from Cheap Foreign Workers

Comprehensive Nationwide Worksite Enforcement: In the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, Congress enacted Section 274A of the INA barring employers from hiring illegal aliens and subjecting them to civil and criminal penalties. Previous administrations rarely enforced this law, allowing millions of illegal aliens to take American jobs and suppress American wages. President Trump shattered that mold and executed a comprehensive, nationwide worksite enforcement strategy throughout his first term. In FY 2018, the first full fiscal year under President Trump (and the most recent official data available) ICE’s Homeland Security and Investigations unit [doubled](#) worksite enforcement efforts compared to the previous record. President Trump empowered HSI to conduct unannounced site visits to prevent unscrupulous employers from hiding their illegal alien workers when agents arrived. As a notable example, President Trump’s ICE conducted the record setting individual worksite enforcement effort arresting 680 illegal aliens across seven Mississippi chicken processing plants. President Trump’s commitment to worksite enforcement and protecting American workers continued throughout his first term, further cementing his legacy as the most pro-American worker president in our Nation’s history.

In addition to the nationwide immigration enforcement at worksites to combat illegal alien workers, the Trump Administration also implemented policies across DHS and the Department of Labor to detect foreign worker visa fraud through targeted site visits to ensure that foreign workers were complying with their visas and to bring enforcement actions against foreign workers and their employers who were using foreign labor to harm the wages and job opportunities of qualified American workers.

Federal Contractors Must Ensure a Legal Workforce: The Trump Administration issued a policy that required federal contractors and subcontractors with a Federal Acquisition Regulation requirement to be enrolled and in good standing in E-Verify to ensure they operate with a legal workforce.

Increased Civil Penalties for Employers of Illegal Aliens: The Trump Administration increased the civil penalties employers of illegal aliens are subject to. By holding employers accountable for employing unauthorized labor, President Trump furthered his commitment to American workers by disincentivizing employers from relying on cheap, illegal alien labor instead of hiring U.S. workers.

Invalidated Work Permits for Noncompliant Alien Workers on Student Visas: By regulation, certain aliens admitted on a student visa are allowed to work in the U.S. for 12-36 months but the job must be directly related to the course of study and the alien is required to have the employer on record in the federal foreign student database. The Trump Administration identified tens of thousands of noncompliant alien workers, either no record of employer or job not directly related to the course of study, and terminated these work permits after giving the alien the opportunity to respond.

Suspended Entry of Low Skilled Immigrant and Nonimmigrant Workers: In April 2020, President Trump issued [Presidential Proclamation 10014](#) to use his authority under Section 212(f) of the INA to ban the entry into the U.S. of immigrant workers after determining that the U.S. faces a “potentially protracted economic recovery with persistently high unemployment if labor supply outpaces labor demand.” President Trump noted that excess labor supply harms the most vulnerable American workers including African Americans and other minorities, those without a college degree, and the disabled. The banning of immigrant workers protected these historically marginalized U.S. workers as President Trump rebuilt the greatest economy after the disruption caused by COVID-19. In June 2020, President Trump issued [Presidential Proclamation 10052](#) that extending the ban of immigrant workers through December 31, 2020 and added a ban of non-essential nonimmigrant workers with H-1B, H-2B, J, and L visas through December 31, 2020 to further protect American workers as their lives were significantly disrupted by COVID-19.

Ended Chain Migration: Through Presidential Proclamations 10014 and 10052, President Trump banned through December 31, 2020 the entry of family-based immigrants, known as chain migration. These aliens are overwhelmingly low skilled and low educated and get green cards through family members. President Trump ended chain migration during COVID-19 to protect blue collar American workers and minimize the negative economic impact caused by the pandemic.

Suspended Entry of Low Skilled Visa Lottery Immigrants: Through Presidential Proclamations 10014 and 10052, President Trump banned through December 31, 2020 the entry of immigrants selected through the visa lottery process. The visa lottery gives out green cards to up to 55,000 aliens annually who are overwhelmingly low skilled and low educated and who are armed with an “open market” work permit to take jobs from blue collar Americans with no wage or recruitment protections.

SSA Issues 'No Match' Letters to Employers: President Trump ordered the Social Security Administration to resume the abandoned practice of issuing 'no match' letters to employers when the information they submit on workers does not match SSA records. This process rooted out and identified illegal aliens who stole the identities of Americans and stole their jobs by working unlawfully.

Protected Blue Collar American Workers: The Trump Administration launched an initiative to protect blue collar American workers from being displaced by low-skilled, seasonal H-2B workers by requiring employers seeking H-2Bs to provide evidence that U.S. workers are unavailable and that employing H-2Bs will not harm the wages of similarly situated American workers.

President Trump Fully Enforced the Law and Implemented an America First Immigration System

Restored Expedited Removal Authority: In 1996, Congress added a streamlined deportation process for illegal aliens apprehended at the border, known as expedited removal, at Section 235 of the INA. It was the will of Congress that any alien apprehended anywhere in the U.S. within 2 years of unlawfully entry be eligible for rapid deportation under expedited removal, which can occur without the alien going before an Immigration Judge. President George W. Bush nullified congressional intent by limiting expedited removal eligibility to aliens apprehended within 100 miles of the border within 2 weeks of their unlawful entry. President Trump's DHS issued a regulation restoring expedited removal to its fullest authority and unlocking a powerful tool to quickly deport illegal aliens.

Net Immigration Flatlined Throughout Trump's 1st Term: According to [expert analysis](#) of data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) collected by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the total foreign born population in the U.S. flatlined throughout the four years of President Trump's first term. President Trump accomplished this impressive pro-American worker feat in two ways: (1) the lowest average additional foreign-born population month-over-month in modern history combined with (2) record levels of removals and illegal aliens self-deporting. As the [experts](#) explain, the net-0 growth of immigrants between 2017-2021 is most impressive because President Trump established the booming economy our Nation has ever experienced and immigration, both legal and illegal, tends to increase when the U.S. economy is thriving. President Trump's America First immigration policies resulted in the lowest unemployment rate ever recorded for African American and Hispanic Americans—two population groups that are disproportionately harmed by high levels of legal and illegal immigration.

Imposed Civil Fines and Penalties on Illegal Aliens Who Failed to Deport: In the 1990s, Congress authorized the Executive Branch to impose fines and penalties on illegal aliens who fail to return to their home country after receiving a final order of removal from an Immigration Judge. The administrations of Presidents Clinton, George W. Bush, and Obama failed to use this power tool to compel compliance with U.S. immigration law. President Trump is the only president to use the authority under 8 U.S.C. 1229c and 8 U.S.C. 1324d to issue fines and penalties on aliens who fail to depart voluntarily and those who willful fail or refuse to deport, respectively. Through these civil fines and penalties, the Trump Administration forced illegal aliens to pay the government for their failure to deport and incentivized many others to self deport to avoid being subject to these fines and penalties.

President Trump used authority never exercised by previous administrations to impose civil fines and penalties on illegal aliens who failed to deport when ordered removed from the U.S. The Administration added additional fines for document fraud.

Cutoff Money to Sanctuary Cities: President Trump issued an Executive Order stripping discretionary Federal grants from deadly sanctuary cities that defied immigration enforcement efforts and protected dangerous illegal aliens.

Expanded 287(g) Partnerships with State and Local Law Enforcement: The Trump Administration entered into numerous 287(g) partnerships with state and local law enforcement agencies that allow them to help Federal immigration enforcement efforts.

Record Number of Immigration Prosecutions: Under the Trump Administration, the Department of Justice smashed previous records for prosecuting immigration-related crimes. In FY 2017, DOJ prosecuted 53,614 illegal aliens for unlawful entry or reentry and accelerated that total to 106,312 prosecutions in FY 2019—a 98% increase. Prosecutions in FY 2020 dropped to 27,630 illegal aliens but the decline is attributed to the majority of illegal aliens being expelled at the border under Title 42 during the beginning of COVID-19.

Enhanced All Statutory Grounds of Inadmissibility: Section 212(a) of the INA sets forth various grounds for an alien being found inadmissible, and therefore, ineligible for a visa and ineligible to be admitted to the U.S. President Trump’s administration took unprecedented steps to bolster policies to fully enforce various grounds of inadmissibility including: health-related grounds under Section 212(a)(1) of the INA; criminal related grounds under Section 212(a)(2) of the INA; national security and terrorism related grounds, including totalitarian regimes, under Section 212(a)(3) of the INA; first ever public charge regulation under Section 212(a)(4) of the INA; and unlawful voters under Section 212(a)(10)(D) of the INA.

Thwarted Delay Tactics by Illegal Aliens in Immigration Court: The Trump Administration issued guidance that Immigration Judges should only issue continuances in rare circumstances to combat the stall tactics used by illegal aliens and their attorneys to delay the issuance of a removal order and the execution of the deportation.

Protected Migrant Children from Human Traffickers: President Trump launched the Family Fraud Initiative to identify adult illegal aliens who were fraudulently presenting themselves as family units at the border, often with a trafficked child who was then “recycled” to another fraudulent family to attempt to gain entry to the U.S.

Required State and Local Law Enforcement to Detain Aliens Until ICE Takes Custody: President Trump reversed the dangerous non-enforcement policies of President Obama and order state and local law enforcement to continue detaining aliens until ICE can obtain custody and initiate the alien’s removal.

Disrupted the Foreign Baby-Mill Scheme: The Trump Administration issued regulations to combat the horrendous practice of “birth tourism” where pregnant foreign nationals deceptively obtain visas for the purpose of giving birth inside the U.S.

Withdrew from the United Nations’ Global Compact on Migration: President Trump defended National sovereignty by exiting the global agreement that prevented the U.S. from developing immigration policies without input from other foreign countries.

Ended Temporary Protected Status (TPS) De Facto Amnesty: Under Section 244 of the INA, a country may be designated for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) if there is (1) an ongoing

armed conflict, (2) a natural disaster, or (3) extraordinary and temporary conditions that prevent the safe return of nationals. A grant of TPS comes with a deportation reprieve and a work permit. Presidents of both political parties abused TPS for years by designating and extending TPS for reasons that had nothing to do with the statutory requirements. President Trump's administration ended the de facto amnesty and terminated TPS for the following countries after determining that the country conditions fail to meet the statutory requirements: Sudan, Nicaragua, Haiti, Nepal, Honduras, and El Salvador.

Empowered States to Refuse Refugee Resettlement: President Trump issued [EO 13888](#), Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement, a historic Executive Order that empowered State and local governments to veto the resettlement of refugees into their jurisdictions. Previously, the Department of State would blindside State and local jurisdictions by placing refugees in their jurisdictions without notice or consent. Through EO 13888, the State Department could only resettle refugees into States and localities that affirmatively opted in to receive them.

Stopping Executive Amnesties: President Trump terminated the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) executive amnesty program that would have given work permits to over 1 million illegal aliens. President Trump attempted to terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) executive amnesty program but Chief Justice John Roberts, an appointee of pro-amnesty President George W. Bush, sided with the liberal justices to block the termination on a procedural technicality.

Removed Asylum Status When Eligibility Circumstances Change: The Trump Administration issued a policy that empowered immigration officers to invalidate an alien's asylum status if he/she no longer meets the definition of refugee. The law passed by Congress authorizes this authority but previous administrations failed to adhere to it.

Reduced the Immigration Court Backlog: The Trump Administration issued a policy that required immigration judges to determine 700 cases per year in order to reduce the years-long backlog of asylum cases and ensure those denied are deported.

DOJ Creates Denaturalization Unit: President Trump's Department of Justice created a unit within the Office of Immigration Litigation to aggressively pursue the denaturalization of terrorists, war criminals, sex offenders, and other fraudsters who illegally obtained naturalization. While criminal denaturalization has a statute of limitations, there is no statute of limitations on DOJ bringing a civil denaturalization case and despite the burden of proof, DOJ won 95% of the denaturalization cases it brought.

USCIS Creates Denaturalization Unit: President Trump's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services created an office of attorneys and immigration officers to review cases of immigrants ordered deported and those suspected of using fake identities to unlawfully obtain lawful permanent resident status and become naturalized U.S. citizens. The USCIS denaturalization unit specifically prioritized over 300,000 sets of historical fingerprints that were never scanned into the current electronic database.

Restored Transparency to Privacy Policy: The Trump Administration reversed the policies of previous administrations that treated the personally identifiable information of aliens, including illegal aliens, on par with the Privacy Act protections afforded to U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residences. The previous misguided policy deprived the American people of knowing the immigration status of criminals and other bad actors.

Ended Alternatives to Detention Programs that Functioned as Defacto Amnesty: The Trump Administration ended the ineffective “alternatives to detention” Family Case Management Program that was prohibitively costly to American taxpayers and resulted in an unacceptably low number of deportations for illegal aliens after their asylum claims were denied.

Expanded Presumption of Misrepresentation By Nonimmigrants: The Trump Administration issued guidance that if an alien violates his/her immigration status within 90 days of entry, that an adjudicator can presume willful misrepresentation by the alien which triggers being found inadmissible under INA 212(a)(6)(C).

Terminated Unlawful Parole Program for Central American Minors: President Trump restored integrity to the immigration system by terminating the categorical parole program known as Central American Minors (CAM) parole for alien minors from the Northern Triangle countries who do not qualify for refugee status or a legal visa. Parole is a narrow authority that should only be used on a case by case basis for “urgent humanitarian reasons” or “significant public benefit” but was abused by the Obama Administration to create a side door to the immigration system in violation of the law.

Empowered Immigration Judges to Deny Cancellation of Removal Applications: Under the law, Congress allows 4,000 illegal aliens per year to have their removal order canceled if they have been in the U.S. for at least a decade and meet certain other criteria. The Trump Administration issued a regulation that empowered immigration judges to deny cancellation of removal applications once the annual cap was met. The previous rule handcuffed the ability of the Federal government to deport an alien who applied for cancellation of removal after the cap was filled.

Empowered ICE to Detain Aliens at Courthouses: President Trump empowered ICE agents to conduct civil immigration enforcement actions inside courthouses against aliens with criminal convictions, gang members, national security or public safety threats, and aliens ordered removed who have failed to do so. Authorizing enforcement actions in courthouses reduced safety risks to the public and ICE agents as the aliens were pre-screened for weapons before being allowed into the courthouse.

Added Extreme Vetting Questions to Immigration Benefit Forms: To ensure that only aliens statutorily eligible for immigration benefits received them, the Trump Administration added questions to forms including about prior arrests or convictions, gang membership, or other relevant information that was erroneously not previously captured by the forms.

Denied Immigration Benefits Submitted on Incomplete Forms: By regulation, immigration benefit forms must be completed in their entirety to make the case of eligibility. The Trump Administration issued a directive to deny incomplete forms, overturning the previous policy to

request additional information from the alien which injected significant inefficiencies into the processing and adjudicating of legal immigration benefits.

Invalidated Passports of Sex Offenders: President Trump's Department of State issued a regulation to deny or revoke passports of foreign nationals convicted of child sex offenses or sex tourism offenses.

Privatized Asylum Officer Training Documents: The Trump Administration determined that economic migrants, the cartels, and unscrupulous immigration attorneys were using public-facing training documents for asylum officers to game the system. The administration responded by pulling down these materials to curb asylum fraud.

USCIS Ramped Up Issuing Notices to Appear: Under President Trump's leadership, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ended its previous reputation of being a rubber stamp approval operation for aliens and instituted extreme screening and vetting. This included issuing a policy where USCIS significantly increased its direct issuance of NTAs, the charging document to begin removal proceedings, instead of referring cases to ICE.

Combatted Visa Overstays, Part 1: The Trump Administration combatted this immigration fraud by expanding the use of biometrics, including facial recognition software, on aliens at ports of entry and sending notices to aliens of the consequences of overstaying their visas if they fail to timely depart.

Combatted Visa Overstays, Part 2: To ensure aliens comply with the terms of legal visas, the Trump Administration imposed a financial bond requirement on aliens seeking entry to the U.S. from countries with a high overstay rate. If the alien complied with the terms of the visa, the bond would be returned once the alien was back in his/her home country.

Combatted Visa Overstays, Part 3: President Trump used his authority under 212(f) of the INA to deny entry of aliens from countries with a high visa overstay rate.

Jumpstarted the Unlawful Presence Clock for 'Duration of Status' Aliens: While most aliens are admitted to the U.S. with a specified period of time on their visas, some aliens (e.g., students and cultural exchange persons) are admitted for "duration of status," meaning an indefinite period as long as the alien complies with the terms of the status. The Trump Administration issued a policy that if these aliens fail to maintain their status, they immediately begin accruing unlawful presence—reversing the previous policy where the unlawful presence clock did not start until after the alien was caught.

DHS Transfers Money to Fund Additional ICE Detention Beds: When an obstructionist Congress refused to appropriate additional funds to increase ICE detention bed capacity, President Trump's DHS reprogrammed \$10 million from FEMA to ICE to fund the beds.

Significantly Strengthened the Test of those Seeking U.S. Citizenship.: The most meaningful immigration benefit the U.S. offers is the ability of an alien to become a naturalized U.S. Citizen. President Trump realized that the civics test administered to lawful permanent residents seeking

to naturalize failed to meet the statutory requirement that the immigrant demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals and principles of U.S. government. The Trump Administration overhauled the civics test and produced an updated version that made the test more meaningful.

Ensured Immigrants Seeking to Naturalize Continuously Possess Good Moral Character: In order to naturalize, an immigrant must possess “good moral character.” The Trump Administration reversed past policy of only looking at the immigrant’s conduct during the previous 5 years and implemented a policy consistent with the law that the entirety of the immigrant’s past and present conduct needed to be analyzed for satisfying the good moral character requirement.

Ended Exploitation of Civics and English Requirements to Naturalization: The Trump Administration issued a policy requiring immigrants seeking to naturalize to submit any waiver request for the civics and/or English language requirements at the time they file the naturalization application. This policy ended an exploitative practice of immigrants failing the naturalization test and then submitting a medical waiver of these requirements when they reapply.

Illegal Aliens with TPS Ineligible for Green Card: The Trump Administration issued a policy through the *Matter of Z-R-Z-C-* that illegal aliens who receive Temporary Protected Status have not been “admitted” to the U.S. and remain ineligible to adjust their status to lawful permanent residence (green card). Activist courts in liberal jurisdictions, like the 9th Circuit, ignored the law to give illegal aliens with TPS the ability to obtain a green card. President Trump’s application of the law was subsequently vindicated by a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court decision.

Multiple DUIs Create Presumption of Ineligibility for Cancellation of Removal: The Trump Administration issued a ruling that an alien with 2 or more DUI convictions is presumed to lack the good moral character requirement to qualify for cancellation of removal.

Excluded Illegal Aliens From the Apportionment of Congressional Seats: Under the U.S. Constitution, apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives is tabulated every 10 years. President Trump put the American people first and restored integrity and accuracy to this constitutionally enshrined process by ordering the exclusion of illegal aliens from the apportionment base after the 2020 Census. The past practice of counting illegal aliens was anti-American and rewarded Leftist sanctuary states who defied immigration law by protecting and welcoming illegal aliens into their states.

Bolstered Discretionary Factors to Deny Green Cards: President Trump’s administration issued a policy that empowered immigration adjudicators to use discretionary authority to deny lawful permanent resident status (green card) including having a lack of family ties, previous immigration violations, past unlawful employment, and moral depravity. The previous policy on green cards treated them as an entitlement and deprived adjudicators of their authority to look at all relevant factors before rendering a decision.

Bolstered Discretionary Factors to Deny Work Permits: The Trump Administration issued a policy that empowered immigration adjudicators to use discretionary authority to deny work permits for aliens with a pending application for adjustment of status or a grant of deferred action. This policy reversed past precedent that impermissibly treated these work permit applications as entitlements and deprived adjudicators of their authority to look at all relevant factors before rendering a decision.

Issued Illegal Alien Lifecycle Report: President Trump's administration was the first to issue a report covering the full lifecycle of an illegal alien from the entry without inspection or overstaying a visa through the removal process. The report conclusively showed the benefits of detention, with over 95% of detained illegal aliens removed compared to a far smaller percentage of those released on alternative to detention. This seminal report makes the most compelling case yet for increasing detention space and discontinuing the practice of allowing illegal aliens into American communities, even in a supervised manner.

ADDENDUM

LIST OF PRESIDENT TRUMP’S BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDA

Executive Order 13767, Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements (Jan. 25, 2017)

Executive Order 13768, Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States (Jan. 25, 2017)

Executive Order 13769, Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States (Jan. 27, 2017)

Executive Order 13773, Enforcing Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking” (Feb. 9, 2017)

Executive Order 13776, Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety” (Feb. 9, 2017)

Executive Order 13780, Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States (Mar. 16, 2017)

Executive Order 13788, Buy American and Hire American (Apr. 18, 2017)

Executive Order 13802, Amending Executive Order 13597 (June 21, 2017)

Executive Order 13810, Imposing Additional Sanctions with Respect to North Korea (Sept. 21, 2017)

Executive Order 13815, Resuming the United States Refugee Admissions Program With Enhanced Vetting Capabilities (Oct. 24, 2017)

Executive Order 13828, Reducing Poverty in America by Promoting Opportunity and Economic Mobility (Apr. 10, 2018)

Executive Order 13841, Affording Congress an Opportunity to Address Family Separation (June 20, 2018)

Executive Order 13880, Collecting Information About Citizenship Status in Connection with the Decennial Census (July 11, 2019)

Executive Order 13882, Blocking Property and Suspending Entry of Certain Persons Contributing to the Situation in Mali (July 26, 2019)

Executive Order 13884, Blocking Property of the Government of Venezuela (Aug. 5, 2019)

Executive Order 13888, Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement (Sept. 26, 2019)

Executive Order 13894, Blocking Property and Suspending Entry of Certain Persons Contributing to the Situation in Syria (Oct. 14, 2019)

Executive Order 13902, Imposing Sanctions With Respect to Additional Sectors of Iran (Jan. 10, 2020)

Executive Order 13928, Blocking Property of Certain Persons Associated With the International Criminal Court (June 11, 2020)

Executive Order 13936, Hong Kong Normalization (July 14, 2020)

Executive Order 13940, Aligning Federal Contracting and Hiring Practices With the Interests of American Workers (Aug. 3, 2020)

Presidential Memorandum: Implementing Immediate Heightened Screening and Vetting Applications for Visas and Other Immigration Benefits, Ensuring Enforcement of All Laws for Entry into the United States, and Increasing Transparency among Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government and for the American People (Mar. 6, 2017)

Presidential Memorandum: Optimizing the Use of Federal Government Information in Support of the National Vetting Enterprise (Feb. 6, 2018)

Presidential Memorandum: Securing the Southern Border of the United States (Apr. 4, 2018)

Presidential Memorandum: Ending “Catch and Release” at the Border of the United States and Directing Other Enhancements to Immigration Enforcement (Apr. 6, 2018)

Presidential Memorandum: Additional Measures to Enhance Border Security and Restore Integrity to Our Immigration System (Apr. 29, 2019)

Presidential Memorandum: Enforcing the Legal Responsibilities of Sponsors of Aliens (May 23, 2019)

Presidential Memorandum: Visa Sanctions (Apr. 10, 2020)

Presidential Memorandum: Excluding Illegal Aliens From the Apportionment Base Following the 2020 Census (July 21, 2020)

Presidential Memorandum: Inadmissibility of Persons Affiliated with Antifa Based on Organized Criminal Activity (Jan. 5, 2021)

Presidential Proclamation 9645, Enhancing Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry into the United States by Terrorists or Other Public-Safety Threats (Sept. 24, 2017)

Presidential Proclamation 9723, Maintaining Enhanced Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry into the United States by Terrorists or Other Public-Safety Threats (Apr. 10, 2018)

Presidential Proclamation 9822, Addressing Mass Migration Through the Southern Border of the United States (Nov. 9, 2018)

Presidential Proclamation 9842, Addressing Mass Migration Through the Southern Border of the United States (Feb. 7, 2019)

Presidential Proclamation 9844, Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Southern Border of the United States (Feb. 15, 2019)

Presidential Proclamation 9931, Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons who Threaten Venezuela's Democratic Institutions (Sept. 25, 2019)

Presidential Proclamation 9932, Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Senior Officials of the Government of Iran (Sept. 25, 2019)

Presidential Proclamation 9945, Suspension of Entry of Immigrants Who Will Financially Burden the United States Healthcare System (Oct. 4, 2019)

Presidential Proclamation 9983, Improving Enhanced Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry (Jan. 31, 2020)

Presidential Proclamation 9984, Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus (Jan. 31, 2020)

Presidential Proclamation 9982, Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus (Feb. 29, 2020)

Presidential Proclamation 9993, Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus (Mar. 11, 2020)

Presidential Proclamation 10014, Suspending Entry of Immigrants of Who Present Risk to the U.S. Labor Market During the Economic Recovery Following the COVID-19 Outbreak (Apr. 22, 2020)

Presidential Proclamation 10041, Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus (May 24, 2020)

Presidential Proclamation 10043, Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Students and Researches from the People's Republic of China (May 29, 2020)

Presidential Proclamation 10052, Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the U.S. Labor Market Following the Coronavirus Outbreak (June 22, 2020)