



IMMIGRATION ACTION

MOVING FORWARD

One year ago, President Obama announced a package of administrative actions, within his authority, to reform our broken immigration system in order to bring greater accountability to the system and strengthen our national security and economy.

The President's announcement calls on the Department of Homeland Security to concentrate its limited enforcement resources on removing the most serious criminals and recent border crossers – rather than breaking up families who have been living and working in our communities for years. Presidents of both parties have taken executive action to address immigration issues for the past half century.

The deferred action policies are a well-established feature of the immigration system, and the Administration will continue fighting to implement them. The Department of Justice has filed a petition seeking review from the Supreme Court of the United States to allow the policies to move forward.

For generations, our leaders have understood that we are not only a nation of laws, but also a nation of immigrants. We must continue to live up to this tradition. That's why President Obama has repeatedly called on Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT LAST YEAR, MANY OF HIS EXECUTIVE ACTIONS HAVE MOVED FORWARD, MAKING OUR NATION STRONGER:

IMPLEMENTING NEW ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has implemented new department-wide enforcement priorities that focus efforts and resources on the removals of the worst offenders, like national security threats, convicted criminals, and recent border crossers.

Today, over 99% of individuals removed by ICE fall into the top three priorities, which are focused on those that pose the greatest danger to our nation's safety and border security.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

DHS is strengthening and enhancing collaboration with local law enforcement through the Priorities Enforcement Program (PEP).

PEP allows federal immigration officials to take custody of convicted criminals or other top enforcement priorities by working in collaboration with local law enforcement. These actions help keep communities safe while preserving community trust.

The vast majority of local law enforcement agencies – and more than half of previously uncooperative jurisdictions – are now cooperating via PEP.

MODERNIZING THE LEGAL IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

Through new regulations and policies, the Administration is also invested in efforts to modernize the legal immigration system for families, employers, students, entrepreneurs, and workers.

The White House also released a report that announced further steps the Administration will take to modernize and streamline the legal immigration system so that we can transform the largely paper-based system into a 21st century, electronic system.

These changes are already making a difference: Over 30,000 spouses of high-skilled workers on their path to getting green cards are now able to work and contribute to their families and our economy.

SUPPORTING INTEGRATION EFFORTS OF IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

President Obama established the White House Task Force on New Americans, a government-wide effort tasked with better integrating and welcoming immigrants and refugees into American communities.

In April, the Task Force released its strategic action plan with 48 recommendations to advance these goals.

The Administration launched the Building Welcoming Communities Campaign to support municipalities seeking to build more inclusive, welcoming communities. 47 cities and counties have already signed on.

In September, the Task Force launched the "Stand Stronger" Citizenship Campaign to raise awareness about the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship, and to provide more information and new tools. According to the most recent estimates, there are 8.8 million legal permanent residents who are eligible to apply to become citizens of this great nation.