

## CURRENT IMMIGRATION NEWS

**A. The Week, February 26, 2021.** The flood has just begun, said Mark Morgan in Washington Times.com. Now that Biden has taken "a wrecking ball" to border security - including halting construction of President Trump's border wall - CBP (Customs and Border Protection) reported 78,000 arrests in January, a 10-year high for that month.

**B. The Denver Post, February 25, 2021.** President Biden reopened the country Wednesday (02/24/21) to people seeking green cards, ending a ban on legal immigration that President Trump imposed last spring.

**C. MSNBC, Chris Hayes, February 25, 2021.** There are 505 children still remaining without knowledge of who or where their parents are.

**D. The Denver Post, February 19, 2021.** President Biden's allies unveiled the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021. It would allow virtually all 11 million immigrants without legal status an eight-year path to citizenship; increase legal immigration; add measures to secure ports of entry and speed processing of asylum-seekers; and invest \$4 billion in the economies of Central American countries to reduce migration; expand worker visas. The administration issued temporary guidance requiring immigration agents to seek approval before trying to deport individuals who do not present national security threats, do not have felony convictions or have not recently tried to cross the border illegally.

**E. The Denver Post February 16, 2021.** Possible Colorado bills: standardizing U Visa responses (**U visa's** are for victims of certain crimes who have suffered abuse and are helpful in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity.); preventing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement from using state databases for civil immigration enforcement.

**F. The Denver Post, February 13, 2021.** San Diego. The Biden Administration is allowing the first wave of an estimated 25,000 asylum-seekers with active cases in the "Remain in Mexico" program into the U.S. on February 19th, with two border crossings each processing up to 300 people a day and a third crossing taking fewer numbers.

**G. The Washington Post, February 2, 2021.** Nick Miroff and Kevin Sieff. The Mexican government has stopped taking back Central American families (mainly in south Texas), prompting U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to release more parents and children into the U.S. interior. The policy is applied unevenly. In a number of border cities (Nogalas) families continue to be returned to Mexico.

The Biden administration directed CBP to stop expelling minors who arrive without a parent, allowing them to go to a U.S. shelter.

The Biden Administration is working with Mexico to increase shelter capacity for families south of the border, while coordinating the release of families through U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

**H. The Denver Post, February 2, 2021.** Miriam Jordan (The New York Times Co.) The White House is expected to announce a task force that will look at demands for restitution, expanded mental health services, the readmission of deported parents and possible permanent legal residency for families who suffered lingering damage from a policy intended to make it too emotionally punishing for migrant families to attempt to cross into the U.S.

More than 1,000 migrant children still in the U.S. likely remain separated from their parents and another 500 or more who have yet to be located. Some children are being deported even though their parents are still in the U.S. trying to obtain legal residence. The ACLU has a class-action lawsuit against the family separation policy.

Related: A complaint said a top Trump homeland security official sought to constrain the Biden administration's immigration agenda by agreeing to hand policy controls to the pro-Trump union representing ICE.

**I. The Denver Post, February 4, 2021.** Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Michael D. Shear, (The NY Times Co.) Biden and Alejandro Mayorkas are encountering pockets of internal resistance, especially at agencies charged with enforcing the nation's immigration laws, where the gung-ho culture has long favored the get-tough policies that Trump embraced. After "four years of a newly empowered and politicized workforce, ICE and CBP agents are more likely to push back against an incoming administration than in the past." Pockets of government employees loyal to Trump and his agenda remain ensconced in other parts of the bureaucracy.

**J. Time, February 8, 2021.** "only 47 miles of wall have been built where no barrier previously existed." The Trump Administration built a total of 452 miles of border wall, but roughly 400 miles were reconstructions of existing barriers.

**K. The Denver Post, February 12, 2021.** Patty Nieberg.

ICE agents have requested identifying information on applicants for driver's licenses. Emails showed that staff within the DMV fraud investigations unit contacted ICE to identify people and their immigration status. Colorado law allows individuals who cannot demonstrate lawful presence in the U.S. to apply for a license.

Following the disclosure, the DMV will require supervisor approval for federal agency requests for personal information. Democratic lawmakers will introduce a bill under which personal information on file with the state could not be used for immigration enforcement.

**L. USA Today, January 21, 2021.** Jayne Deerwester.

President Joe Biden rescinded the ban on travelers from several majority Muslim countries.

**M. January 19, 2021** Seung Min Kim, "Biden to propose overhaul of immigration laws on first day in office" The Washington Post, January 18, 2021.

1) An eight-year pathway, which would put millions of qualifying immigrants in a temporary status for five years and then grant them a green card once they meet certain requirements such as a background check and payment of taxes. They could apply for citizenship three years later. To qualify, immigrants must have been in the US as of January 1, 2021, a move meant to blunt a rush to the border.

2) DACA. Beneficiaries of DACA and temporary protected status migrants could apply for a green card immediately. Hopes to reinstate a program granting minors from Central America temporary legal residence. The administration wants to set up a reunification program for Central American relatives of US citizens that would allow those who have been already approved for US residency to be admitted into the country.

3) Border enforcement: Department of Homeland Security to develop a proposal that uses technology and other infrastructure to implement new security measures. Will not expand the border wall.

4) Bolster the number of key employment- and family-based visas available. Exempting spouses and children of green-card holders from quotas that restrict immigrants from varying countries from entering the US. Grant work permits for spouses and children of temporary worker visa holders, although visas for high- and lower-skilled non-agriculture workers won't be expanded.

Doctoral graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields are also exempted from visa limits.

5) A "flurry of executive orders on his first day" including: repeal the ban on citizens of some majority-Muslim nations' and review of temporarily protected status programs, including benefits for immigrants who fled El Salvador, Nicaragua and Haiti.