



## Freedom to Thrive: Priorities for Executive Action on Immigration in 2022

### Protecting Communities and Expanding Pathways to Status

Although congressional efforts to enact a permanent pathway to citizenship have stalled, the Biden administration can take several steps to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation and authorize them to live and work in the United States, including:

- ▶ Use well-established executive authority to create robust policies on Parole, including Parole in Place (PIP), and deferred action to provide work authorization for specific groups, including essential workers, climate resilience workers, and beneficiaries of family-based petitions currently residing in the U.S.
- ▶ Issue new Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) Designations/Redesignations to protect immigrants from being sent to unsafe countries that experience conflict, natural disasters, or other temporary emergencies
- ▶ Pursue policies that ensure a fair and consistent immigration system and promote family unity instead of focusing on removal driven enforcement

### Redress the Harms of the Muslim and African Bans

The Department of State should immediately and automatically reconsider, reopen, and expedite all visa applications subject to the prior bans that have not yet been granted or were previously denied, without new fees.

### Safeguarding Worker Rights and Civil Rights

The Biden administration has committed to enforce labor protections and preserve workers' rights to organize. It should clarify the process for accessing

affirmative protections for immigrant workers involved in a labor dispute or who are asserting their legal rights in the workplace.

### Restoring Access to Protection at the Southern Border

President Biden campaigned explicitly on reversing the Trump administration's unrelenting attacks on the asylum process. Instead, the Biden administration has embraced – and even expanded – some of the worst of Trump-era cruelties. The administration must end Title 42 expulsions, reopen asylum processing at ports of entry, and terminate the Migrant Protection Protocols (Remain in Mexico).

### Improving Immigrant Access to Health Care

The pandemic has exposed the disparities that have long existed in the health system. It has also made clear how the health of families and communities are interconnected and how everyone is better off with access to health care. The administration should clarify that people with DACA and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) are lawfully present and therefore eligible for programs like the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

### Investing in Immigrant Economic Justice

Undocumented immigrants pay tens of millions of dollars in federal taxes every year using an IRS-issued Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), but it takes far too long to receive one. The Treasury Department should make it easier to apply and shorten the time it takes to process an application. Doing so will increase immigrants' access to benefits that they are entitled to under the law – including tax credits and policies aimed at helping people survive the pandemic and economic crisis.