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To: Interested Parties

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Ref: Biden-Harris Administration's Pivotal Actions on Immigration

President Joe Biden has established a strong track record of decisive actions to improve the country's immigration system through a [publicly-supported, balanced approach](#) that ensures order and safety at the border and offers legal pathways for Dreamers and hard-working immigrants in the U.S. Despite inheriting an immigration system fractured by over two decades of congressional inaction and destructive measures taken by former President Donald Trump, President Biden has drawn a stark contrast to his predecessor's cruel, chaotic, and [unpopular](#) actions against America's immigrant families. The Biden-Harris administration has delivered impactful, voter-backed, and economically pragmatic immigration policies, proving to be the most [active](#) presidency on immigration yet.

President Biden and Vice President Harris Have Taken Pivotal Actions to Rebuild Our Immigration System, Focusing on Families and Security

Since Day One, President Biden has issued [over 500 executive actions](#), including [over 300 actions](#) to undo harmful Trump-era immigration policies that separated families, jeopardized the lives of Dreamers and long-settled immigrant families, and created chaos at the border. The Biden administration also invested in border infrastructure and smart technology and [increased the screening and apprehension of human and drug traffickers](#). **The Biden-Harris administration has taken critical steps to keep American families together, offer legal pathways, and secure our border.**

Keeping Families Together, America Safe and Workers Empowered

- **A Path Forward for Spouses and Children of American Citizens.** In June 2024, President Biden [announced](#) an executive action to extend protections to over half a million undocumented spouses and children of U.S. citizens, an action that [73% of voters support](#). This action, the biggest relief program for long-settled immigrants since the Obama-Biden administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, will keep American families together and grow our economy.
- **Dreamers Gain An Opportunity to Legally Work.** The June 2024 announcement also included a groundbreaking initiative to expedite access to work visas for Dreamers with college degrees, aiming to reform the existing nonimmigrant visa process which requires individuals to leave the U.S. and face extreme wait times that stretch for months or even years. The new policy promises a streamlined process, enabling quicker approvals and faster integration into the workforce. With 49% of DACA recipients having received some form of college education, this policy is set to significantly offset unemployment rates in labor intensive industries.
- **Honoring Military Veterans with Citizenship.** President Biden allowed deported military veterans who were deported under Trump to access a path to return to the U.S. and gain citizenship, an action supported by [68% of voters](#).

- **Legal Pathways for Hard-working Immigrants and Families Seeking Safety.** The Biden-Harris administration expanded legal pathways for over 2.3 million immigrants in the U.S. and those fleeing violence or dangerous conditions:
 - Launched the "Uniting for Ukraine" program, allowing more than [170,000](#) Ukrainian nationals to reunite with their American family members;
 - Restored protections for survivors of domestic violence that was revoked under Trump;
 - Authorized Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for over 1 million immigrants already in the U.S., allowing them to legally work and remain; and
 - Granted nearly [435,000 individuals](#) from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela advanced travel authorization to reunite with family in the U.S. after they were vetted and passed criminal background checks.
- **Reducing the Backlog to Citizenship.** In fiscal year 2023, USCIS completed [876,000](#) naturalizations while reducing the backlog by over 25%. During the first three years of Biden's presidency, USCIS completed over two and a half million naturalizations (combined data from [2021](#), [2022](#), and [2023](#)).
- **Worker Protections.** President Biden has strengthened worker protections to empower all workers against unscrupulous employers and exploitation by creating the Deferred Action for Labor Enforcement program.
- **Americans Welcoming New Families.** The administration is actively working to restore the refugee resettlement process, including through the creation of the Welcome Corps that allows Americans to engage in welcoming refugee families seeking safety and the American Dream.
- **Strengthening America's Border Security.** President Biden worked with Congress to deliver bipartisan legislation to address the border that was sabotaged by Trump and House Republicans in Congress. In response, the president announced an executive action in June 2024.

President Biden has invested [\\$3.4 billion](#) to build and modernize ports of entry on the country's northern and southern borders, an action [54% of voters support](#).

- Constructed 11 new processing facilities, and successfully requested \$3.4 billion to build and modernize land ports of entry on the country's northern and southern borders through the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill.
- Hired hundreds of additional personnel to secure the border, including the first increase in the number of Border Patrol Agents in 11 years, an action supported by [68% of voters](#).
- Made investments in border security and drug operations that led to a [54% increase](#) in fentanyl seizures from 2020 to 2021, with the Biden administration seizing 11,201 pounds of fentanyl in its first year compared to 7,267 pounds in 2020 under the Trump administration. To date, the Biden administration has seized over [60,000 pounds](#) of fentanyl.
- Strengthened anti-smuggling and anti-trafficking operations to investigate and prosecute individuals involved in migrant smuggling, human trafficking, and other crimes against migrants. In April 2021, DHS announced [Operation Sentinel](#), a new operation targeting organizations involved in criminal smuggling.
- President Biden and Vice President Harris have implemented measures to address the [causes of migration](#), including working partnership with leaders in the Western Hemisphere to tackle global migration, ensure business and philanthropic investment in the region, and launch other programs to keep families safe and thriving and prevent dangerous migration to the border.