



Issue Background: Immigration

Background: Over the past 20 years, U.S. immigration policy has been shaped by a mix of major legislative acts, executive actions, and stalled reform efforts. In the absence of legislative consensus, executive actions have taken center stage—from DACA (2012), granting relief to undocumented youth, to the Trump-era travel ban, asylum restrictions, and expanded deportation priorities. Over time, immigration enforcement has grown more aggressive, with increasing detention, surveillance, and border militarization.

Current Status: Our immigration system is broken. There are [over 10 million undocumented immigrants](#) in the U.S. without a pathway to citizenship. A pathway to citizenship would allow for people who have been regularly contributing to their communities and calling this country their home to be recognized as what they are: Americans. U.S. immigration enforcement is at a historic high, with over 60,000 people detained ([New York Times, 8/11/25](#)) and a surge in ICE arrests—more than 70% of whom have no criminal convictions. Public concerns are rising about abuse, due process violations, and deteriorating conditions in detention facilities. The recently passed tax and spending bill H.R.1, the so-called One Big Beautiful Bill, dramatically expands the immigration detention and enforcement budget by \$170 billion over 4 years (a 300% increase) while undermining due process and humanitarian protections (read [more](#) from National Immigration Law Center).

Why the Faith Community Cares: In the Scriptures, we are challenged and called to welcome the stranger and the foreigner. In the 25th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus teaches that we must welcome the stranger: “For I was...a stranger and you welcomed me.” This calling asks us to reform U.S. immigration policy to welcome and extend compassion to the migrant.

Why FAN Cares: The foundation for FAN’s work on immigration is found in scripture, Catholic social teaching, and Franciscan tradition and values. St. Francis persistently acted in solidarity with people who were marginalized by his society, and Franciscan-hearted people today practice that solidarity with people experiencing the threat of deportation.



Bill Briefer: S. 2468/ H.R. 4696 (Immigration)

Bill Summary: This bill would create a streamlined path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, DACA recipients, TPS holders, farmworkers, and undocumented essential workers while ensuring its affordability. The legislation would amend Section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), which governs the “registry” process (a path to legal status for certain long-term residents) and currently has the cut-off date set at January 1, 1972. The most recent update to this rule was in 1986 during the Reagan administration. If passed, the registry process would have a new rolling requirement: an individual must have entered the U.S. at least **7 years before** applying.

The U.S. does offer some types of temporary legal status, including:

- **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** has protected nearly 800,000 undocumented young people from deportation and granted them two-year work permits, renewable if they remain eligible. DACA is not a path to citizenship, leaving recipients in constant uncertainty. For the past five years, the program has faced ongoing court challenges and policy shifts. Currently, no new applications are being accepted, and its future remains unclear.
- **Temporary Protected Status (TPS)**, created by Congress in 1990, allows foreign nationals to remain in the U.S. when war, disaster, or other crises make return unsafe. The Department of Homeland Security designates eligible countries, which currently include Burma (Myanmar), El Salvador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Lebanon, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Yemen. Venezuela, Syria, South Sudan, Burma (Myanmar), and Ethiopia are set to expire in 2025. Haiti, Somalia, El Salvador, Sudan, and Ukraine are set to continue but then expire in 2026.

Current Status: The Renewing Immigration Provisions bills, in both the House and the Senate, have been sent to their respective committees of the Judiciary after being introduced in July of 2025. At present, neither bill has advanced beyond referral to committee.



FAQs:

1. How is this bill different from previous immigration reform legislation?
 - a. Unlike previous legislation that introduced new systems for immigration, this bill focuses on updating existing legal pathways for immigration which were last revised in 1986.
2. What specific “streamlined path” does it propose? How long would it take to earn citizenship?
 - a. The bill would reopen existing legal channels so that undocumented immigrants, DACA recipients, TPS holders, farmworkers, and essential workers can apply for permanent residency and after 7 years apply for citizenship through an affordable process.
3. If our member has already endorsed this, what can we ask them to do?
 - a. If your meeting is with a representative who has already cosponsored this bill, you can ask them to encourage their peers to do the same. You could also ask the member to speak directly with the chair of the committee the bill is sitting in and other members to persuade them to move the bill forward

The Franciscan Action Network acknowledges and thanks our fellow advocates at the Ignatian Solidarity Network for generously sharing their immigration content, so FAN can unite our voice with their voice to help protect our migrant brothers and sisters.