



# USCIS NEWS BRIEFING

Prepared for the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)  
Office of Public Affairs (OPA), Media Affairs Division

By TechMIS

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## USCIS In The News

### **Trump tightens work permits for migrants, expanding crackdown on legal immigration**

[Wall Street Journal](#) [12/4/2025 4:48 PM, Michelle Hackman] reports that work permits issued to immigrants who have applied for asylum or a range of other humanitarian programs will now be valid for 18 months rather than five years, under a new policy announced Thursday by the Trump administration. By forcing immigrants to renew their work permits more often, the government will have more opportunities to re-vet them, said Joe Edlow, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the agency which handles most legal immigration applications. Edlow framed the change, which reverses a Biden-era policy, as the latest action by the administration to crack down on legal immigration in response to the shooting last week in Washington, D.C., of two National Guard members. Federal officials allege the shooting was carried out by an Afghan national. "It's clear that USCIS must enforce more frequent vetting of aliens," Edlow said in a statement. "All aliens must remember that working in the United States is a privilege, not a right." The shortened expiration dates for work permits will primarily affect immigrants seeking asylum or other forms of humanitarian protections, including refugees, immigrants who have won their asylum cases, or who have another form of deportation relief known as withholding of removal. The policy was expected to go into effect Thursday, and only apply to new work permits for now. The Trump administration's change is likely to raise concerns among immigrant advocates and employers, especially in industries that tend to hire refugees or asylum seekers. Citizenship and Immigration Services has long been stretched thin amid ever-growing legal immigration backlogs. Meanwhile, the administration has announced other initiatives to reopen old immigration cases for re-vetting, which will divert more immigration officers away from reviewing new applications.

### **Trump Officials Cut Length of Work Permits for Asylum Seekers and Refugees**

[New York Times](#) [12/4/2025 6:26 PM, Madeleine Ngo] reports that the Trump administration said it would reduce how long work permits are valid for refugees and asylum seekers, intensifying a sweeping crackdown on legal immigration after an Afghan national was charged with the shooting of two National Guard members in Washington. The federal government will now require some migrants to renew their work permits every 18 months instead of every five years, according to a statement from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on Thursday. The agency said the change would help it screen and vet migrants more often, allowing it to identify people with "potentially harmful intent so they can be processed for removal." The change applies to refugees, asylum seekers and people granted asylum, among others who qualify to work in the United States. It affects migrants who have pending applications or who file applications on or after Dec. 5. As of June, about 434,000 asylum seekers and about 24,000 people granted asylum had pending applications for work permits, according to the latest government data. More than 12,000 refugees also had pending applications. "Reducing the maximum validity period for employment authorization will ensure that those seeking to work in the United States do not threaten public safety or promote harmful anti-American ideologies," Joseph Edlow, the director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, said in the statement. "After the

attack on National Guard service members in our nation's capital by an alien who was admitted into this country by the previous administration, it's even more clear that U.S.C.I.S. must conduct frequent vetting of aliens." The five-year authorization itself had not been in place long. The Biden administration had expanded it from two years in 2023, saying the change was "in the interest of reducing the burden on both U.S.C.I.S. and the public."

### **Trump limits work permit access for migrants, after National Guard shooting**

[Washington Post](#) [12/4/2025 4:36 PM, Lauren Kaori Gurley, 24149K] reports that work permits for asylum seekers will now only be valid for 18 months instead of five years, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said Thursday. The Department of Homeland Security agency said the policy change restricting immigrants access to work is partly in response to the shooting of two National Guard members in Washington last week. "After the attack on National Guard service members in our nation's capital by an alien who was admitted into this country by the previous administration, it's even more clear that USCIS must conduct more frequent vetting of aliens," USCIS Director Joseph Edlow said. The shortened timeline applies to new work permits and work permit renewals for asylum seekers, those admitted as refugees, as well as migrants with other humanitarian protections, including those who have won their asylum cases and migrants with a form of removal relief called withholding of deportation. The move is expected to impact hundreds of thousands of migrants, reversing a Biden-era policy, and particularly hurts industries such as construction, transportation and food services, according to estimates by fwd.us, an immigration advocacy group. The new policy doesn't affect those whose work permits are already approved, but it does affect those with pending applications or those filed on or after Dec. 5.

### **Trump Restricts Migrant Work Permits in Immigration Crackdown**

[Bloomberg](#) [12/4/2025 3:01 PM, Hadriana Lowenkron and Andrew Kreighbaum, 18207K] reports that President Donald Trump's administration restricted employment authorization for asylum seekers and other immigrants, the latest bid to increase scrutiny of migrants entering the country. US Citizenship and Immigration Services on Thursday limited work permits for asylum seekers and others with temporary legal status to 18 months. Current rules allow for as many as five years of employment authorization. The new restrictions on work permits will allow for more frequent opportunities for the federal government to re-vet — and potentially reject — applicants. "It's clear that USCIS must enforce more frequent vetting of aliens," the agency's director, Joseph Edlow, said in a statement. "All aliens must remember that working in the United States is a privilege, not a right." The proposal intensifies broader efforts by the Trump administration to terminate or restrict humanitarian benefits for immigrants. It comes days after Rahmanullah Lakanwal, an Afghan national living in the US, was charged in the shooting of two National Guard members in Washington, DC. USCIS earlier this week also said it would pause all immigration requests from 19 countries listed on a travel ban imposed this summer, which includes Afghanistan, Myanmar, Haiti, Sudan and others. The administration is also expected to expand that list to about 30 countries, Bloomberg previously reported. The US will also launch a "comprehensive re-review" of approvals granted to people from those nations who entered the US on or after the start of former President Joe Biden's term in

2021, USCIS said in a policy memorandum. USCIS already halted processing of some green card applications as it looked to heighten scrutiny of those seeking permanent residency, Bloomberg reported in March. The policy change announced Thursday won't affect foreign workers, including H-1B visa holders, who receive employment authorization as part of their status. Shortening the validity of work permits would require asylum seekers and other immigrants to renew those documents more frequently, putting more pressure on USCIS to process applications. That could result in applicants losing employment authorization while they're stuck in administrative backlogs. Delays for immigrant petitions, work permits and other petitions at USCIS hit a 10-year high this year as the agency focused more on enforcement operations.

### **Trump Admin Dramatically Scales Back Work Permits For Asylum Seekers**

[Daily Caller](#) [12/4/2025 3:01 PM, Jason Hopkins, 835K] reports that the Trump administration is dramatically scaling back the timeframe in which asylum seekers and other foreign nationals can have valid work permits in the U.S. Work permits issued to foreign nationals who've applied for asylum or other humanitarian programs will only be valid for 18 months rather than five years, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced on Thursday. The decision marks the latest action by the agency tasked with managing the country's immigration system, since two National Guard members were ambushed by an Afghan man shortly before Thanksgiving. "Reducing the maximum validity period for employment authorization will ensure that those seeking to work in the United States do not threaten public safety or promote harmful anti-American ideologies," USCIS Director Joe Edlow said in a public statement. "After the attack on National Guard service members in our nation's capital by an alien who was admitted into this country by the previous administration, it's even more clear that USCIS must conduct frequent vetting of aliens," Edlow continued. The maximum validity period for initial and renewed Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) will be scaled back for foreigners admitted as refugees, granted asylum and granted a withholding of removal order, according to USCIS. The timeframe will additionally change for aliens with pending applications for asylum, withholding of removal, adjustment of status and suspension of deportation, among other categories. The changes affect foreign nationals with applications for employment authorization that are pending or were filed on or after Dec. 5, 2025, according to the agency.

### **DHS slashes work permit term for migrants from 5 years to 18 months**

[Washington Times](#) [12/4/2025 12:00 PM, Stephen Dinan, 852K] reports that Homeland Security's citizenship agency said Thursday it is slashing the standard validity period of work permits issued to migrants from 5 years to 18 months in many cases, saying the shorter times will give the government more opportunities to vet people. The move expands on changes ordered last summer by President Trump's Big Beautiful Bill budget law, which cut the validity period for work permits issued to migrants granted "parole" or who were seeking or granted Temporary Protected Status. Under the new changes, migrants in the asylum or refugee process will only be able to get work permits for up to 18 months, down from the previous 5-year limit. Joseph Edlow, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, said the need for more frequent vetting was driven home by last week's ambush shooting of National Guard soldiers near the White House. The person



accused in the attack is an Afghan evacuee. "Reducing the maximum validity period for employment authorization will ensure that those seeking to work in the United States do not threaten public safety or promote harmful anti-American ideologies," Mr. Edlow said in announcing the changes Thursday. USCIS recorded 3.5 million initial work permit applications and 1.3 million renewals in fiscal year 2024, the last full year under Mr. Biden. By contrast in 2020, the last full year in Mr. Trump's previous administration, there were fewer than 2 million applications received.

### **USCIS slashes work permit validity from 5 years to 18 months for noncitizens citing security concerns**

[FOX News](#) [12/4/2025 2:56 PM, Greg Wehner, 40621K] reports that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is shortening how long Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) remain valid, cutting it from five years to just 18 months. The agency announced Thursday that the shorter work-permit windows will force more frequent background checks on noncitizens working in the U.S., which officials argue will help detect fraud, identity security threats and remove individuals who pose a risk. "Reducing the maximum validity period for employment authorization will ensure that those seeking to work in the United States do not threaten public safety or promote harmful anti-American ideologies," Director Joseph Edlow said. "After the attack on National Guard service members in our nation's capital by an alien who was admitted into this country by the previous administration, it's even more clear that USCIS must conduct frequent vetting of aliens." The policy shift restores the previous 18-month limit for a wide range of categories, replacing the five-year validity period adopted in 2023. The reinstated limit applies to refugees, aliens granted asylum and those granted withholding of deportation or removal. USCIS says the change is intended to ensure regular review of applicants whose immigration cases remain unresolved.

### **U.S. tightens immigration work permits in latest move to expand crackdown**

[CBS News](#) [12/4/2025 3:46 PM, Camilo Montoya-Galvez, 39474K] reports that the Trump administration on Thursday said it would reduce the period of time that work permits are valid for refugees, asylees and other immigrants granted legal protections in the U.S., its latest move to tighten immigration procedures. The overhaul also applies to immigrants with pending applications for asylum or permanent U.S. residency, known as green cards. Those processes that usually take years to complete, mainly because of a massive backlog of unresolved cases. Under the new rules, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said it will issue work permits to these populations that last for a maximum of 18 months, instead of the current 5-year period. In its announcement, USCIS cited the attack against two National Guard members in Washington, D.C., last week, arguing the change will allow the agency to vet and screen immigrants more frequently when they file to renew their work permits. "Reducing the maximum validity period for employment authorization will ensure that those seeking to work in the United States do not threaten public safety or promote harmful anti-American ideologies," USCIS Director Joseph Edlow said in a statement. "After the attack on National Guard service members in our nation's capital by an alien who was admitted into this country by the previous administration, it's even more clear that USCIS must conduct frequent vetting of aliens," Edlow added. The administration has frozen all asylum requests overseen by USCIS, paused visa and immigration applications filed by any

Afghan national and halted all legal immigration cases, including citizenship ceremonies, for nationals of the 19 countries listed on Mr. Trump's "travel ban." U.S. officials told CBS News on Tuesday the Trump administration is considering expanding that travel ban to include a total of 30 nations, also in response to the shooting in D.C.

### **USCIS Drastically Cuts Work Permit Validity for Asylees, Refugees, Citing Security Risks**

[NepYork](#) [12/4/2025 12:00 PM, Kishor Panthi] reports that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has announced a significant reduction in the maximum validity period for Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) for several categories of non-citizens, a policy change officials say is intended to enhance national security and screening against fraud. The updated Policy Manual reverts the maximum validity period from five years back to 18 months for initial and renewal EADs for refugees, asylees, and non-citizens with pending applications for asylum or adjustment of status. USCIS Director Joseph Edlow stated the change is necessary to ensure those working in the U.S. "do not threaten public safety or promote harmful anti-American ideologies." He explicitly cited a recent attack on National Guard service members in the nation's capital, stating it made clear USCIS "must conduct frequent vetting of aliens." The agency confirmed that this reduction, effective for applications pending or filed on or after December 5, 2025, will result in non-citizens in these categories undergoing more frequent background checks and screening. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has announced a significant reduction in the maximum validity period for Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) for several categories of non-citizens, a policy change officials say is intended to enhance national security and screening against fraud. USCIS Director Joseph Edlow stated the change is necessary to ensure those working in the U.S. "do not threaten public safety or promote harmful anti-American ideologies." He explicitly cited a recent attack on National Guard service members in the nation's capital, stating it made clear USCIS "must conduct frequent vetting of aliens." The agency confirmed that this reduction, effective for applications pending or filed on or after December 5, 2025, will result in non-citizens in these categories undergoing more frequent background checks and screening. In addition to the policy manual change, USCIS also confirmed the implementation of new, statutorily mandated EAD restrictions under H.R. 1 – One Big Beautiful Bill Act (Public Law 119-21), signed into law on July 4, 2025.

### **Trump Admin Makes Major Change to Immigrant Work Permits—What to Know**

[Newsweek](#) [12/4/2025 3:49 PM, Peter Aitken, 53955K] reports that President Donald Trump will shorten the validity of work permits issued to immigrants in the U.S. under certain conditions, marking another significant crackdown on immigration. Newsweek reached out to the USCIS by email on Thursday afternoon for comment. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced a change to its policy manual that reduces the validity of work permits granted to immigrants to only 18 months as opposed to five years, according to a press release issued Thursday. The changes will affect immigrants with applications for employment authorization pending or filed on or after December 5 and based on the specific categories. The administration believes a tighter frame of validity will allow for more opportunities to re-vet immigrants, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Joe Edlow, who directly cited the attack as a motivating

factor behind the policy change. Director Joseph Edlow in a statement: "Reducing the maximum validity period for employment authorization will ensure that those seeking to work in the United States do not threaten public safety or promote harmful anti-American ideologies." "After the attack on National Guard service members in our nation's capital by an alien who was admitted into this country by the previous administration, it's even more clear that USCIS must conduct frequent vetting of aliens," Edlow added.

Reported similarly:

[The Hill](#) [12/4/2025 4:21 PM, Ashleigh Fields, 12595K]

[Law360](#) [12/4/2025 7:17 PM, Britain Eakin, 395K]

[Just the News](#) [12/3/2025 4:05 PM, Misty Severi, 844K]

[The Epoch Times](#) [12/4/2025 12:00 PM, Jacki Thrapp, 5924K]

[\(B\) The National News Desk](#) [12/5/2025 4:18 AM, Staff]

[States Newsroom](#) [12/4/2025 5:22 PM, Ariana Figueroa]

### **Trump's sweeping changes to US immigration policy – here's what to know**

[The Guardian](#) [12/4/2025 8:00 AM, Roque Planas, 78777K] reports that Donald Trump is seizing on the shooting of two national guard members, allegedly by an Afghan man, to press his immigration crackdown still farther. In the aftermath of the attack, which left guard member Sarah Beckstrom dead and colleague Andrew Wolfe in critical condition, Trump directed US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to pause all pending asylum applications. USCIS followed up that announcement with more seismic shifts to immigration policy. This is how the White House is reshaping the process for requesting asylum, green cards and citizenship. Tuesday's memo leads with a change that the USCIS director, Joseph Edlow, first announced last week in a tweet: the agency is pausing consideration of the roughly 1.5m asylum applications before it. The pause does not appear to apply to the immigration courts, where most asylum cases are currently playing out. The change marks a sharp reversal for the Trump administration, which had worked at a breakneck pace to clear the asylum backlog as quickly as possible. USCIS's most recently published quarterly report shows that the number of completed asylum cases nearly quintupled to 135,091, compared with the same period last year. The number of denials rose six times, to 6,850, while the backlog shrank modestly after increasing since 2021. The memo also directs USCIS to pause consideration of a broad range of immigration benefits – which appeared to include work authorizations, green cards, naturalization and sponsoring family members – for citizens or nationals of 19 specific countries that the administration previously classified as "high-risk". That change has sweeping implications, appearing to block migrants from those countries from applying for work authorizations, green cards, naturalization or sponsor visas for family members. The USCIS memo also orders a "comprehensive re-review" of applications from all migrants from those 19 countries who secured immigration benefits since 20 January 2021 – the day that Joe Biden took office. The unprecedented mass double-checking of immigration benefit applications may require "a potential interview and, if necessary, a re-interview, to fully assess all national security and public safety threats along with any other related grounds of inadmissibility or ineligibility", the memo says. The review of those applications will allow USCIS officials to check if applicants have been identified in federal terrorist-screening databases or are unable to establish their identity, the memo says. It is already standard practice to check whether applicants are terrorists or lying about their identities, however.



### **Trump admin implements swath of visa restrictions for dozens of countries**

[The Center Square](#) [12/4/2025 1:23 PM, Bethany Blankley, 344K] reports that the Trump administration has implemented a swath of visa restrictions citing national security threats, human rights abuses and illegal immigration. After National Guard troops were shot in Washington, D.C., the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced they suspended entry to foreign nationals from 19 countries whose "entry would be detrimental to the interests of the United States." They include Afghanistan, Burma, Burundi, Chad, Republic of Congo, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Laos, Libya, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Turkmenistan, Venezuela and Yemen. However, the ban is retroactive to June and restrictions for these countries were already in place since June, in accordance with an executive order President Donald Trump issued. The order directed federal agencies to review vetting and screening capabilities and information sharing policies with other countries. They also reviewed country-specific risk factors, including countries' terrorist presence, visa-overstay rate and cooperation with accepting back their citizens the U.S. wants to remove.

Reported similarly:

[Spectrum News](#) [12/4/2025 8:00 PM, Jeff Van Sant, 808K]

[Dallas Express](#) [12/4/2025 12:00 PM, Carlos Turcios, 49624K]

### **[IN] Indiana officials say review found 21 noncitizens voting in state**

[Indiana Capital Chronicle](#) [12/4/2025 7:00 AM, Tom Davies, 307K] reports that state officials say a federal agency review found 21 noncitizens have cast ballots in Indiana elections, along with 165 noncitizens who registered to vote in the state. Those figures were included in an announcement Wednesday from the offices of Attorney General Todd Rokita and Secretary of State Diego Morales about the settlement of a lawsuit in which they sought to force the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to verify the citizenship of more than 585,000 registered Hoosier voters. It was not clear how many of those voter registrations had been reviewed by the federal agency and when the illegal voting was alleged to have occurred. In 2024, Indiana had 4.8 million registered voters and just under 3 million, or 62%, voted in that year's general election. The Hoosier state has one of the lowest voter turnouts in the country. Voting-rights advocates previously denounced as attempted voter intimidation the request from Rokita and Morales for review of the nearly 600,000 registrations by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services — which is housed within the homeland security agency. The Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, which is representing several Indiana groups in legal challenges to state election law changes, criticized the actions by Rokita and Morales. "Hoosiers who have become U.S. citizens are needlessly harmed by these efforts. This preliminary information from USCIS has not been verified," the organization said. Eaton said the secretary of state's office "believes information received from USCIS is accurate and we will provide more information concerning referrals to law enforcement in the near future."

## **Top News**

**Biden allowed a 'free-for-all' for asylum seekers, Homeland Security Secretary Noem says**

[FOX News](#) [12/4/2025 9:15 PM, Staff, 40621K] reports that Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and I.C.E. Deputy Director Madison Sheahan discuss threats against I.C.E. agents, give an update on the Trump administration's travel ban and more on 'The Ingraham Angle.' [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

### **Noem confirms full travel ban will include over 30 countries**

[Washington Examiner](#) [12/4/2025 10:08 PM, David Zimmermann, 1394K] reports that Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem confirmed on Thursday that President Donald Trump's full travel ban will be expanded to include more than 30 countries. Noem confirmed recent reports that the Department of Homeland Security is considering expanding the list to at least 30 countries beyond the initial 19 countries already placed under a travel ban, but declined to comment on the specific number of total countries on the list. "The president is continuing to evaluate countries," the Cabinet secretary said on Fox News's The Ingraham Angle on Thursday evening. "If they don't have a stable government there, if they don't have a country that can sustain itself and tell us who those individuals are and help us vet them, why should we allow people from that country to come here to the United States?" she asked. Afghanistan was one of 19 countries that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced would be affected by an indefinite pause in all pending immigration requests for nationals belonging to those countries. Afghanistan and the other 18 nations — Burma, Burundi, Chad, Cuba, the Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Laos, Libya, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Turkmenistan, Venezuela, and Yemen — were previously included in Trump's June 4 proclamation for full and partial travel restrictions.

Reported similarly:

[Daily Caller](#) [12/4/2025 11:01 PM, Mariane Angela, 835K]

### **Sen. Schmitt to Newsmax: Biden Broke Law by Allowing Afghans Entry**

[Newsmax](#) [12/4/2025 11:57 AM, Staff, 4109K] reports that Sen. Eric Schmitt, R-Mo., told Newsmax Thursday that then-President Joe Biden "broke the law" by allowing nearly 200,000 Afghans into the United States through what he called an abused humanitarian parole process, arguing the policy reflected a broader collapse of border and immigration enforcement. Appearing on "National Report," Schmitt described the Afghan parole program as a "real-life example of the disaster that was our open border system and a really broken immigration system that the Biden administration ... administered." He said the scale and speed of admissions after the Afghanistan withdrawal in 2021 amounted to "suicidal empathy," adding, "This is totally insane. No sane country would do this." Schmitt argued that the administration admitted large numbers of Afghans without sufficient background checks. "Let nearly 200,000 people into your country through this ... Afghan parole process and not have any idea who they are," he said. "You don't know who they are; you don't know their criminal background; you don't know if they're a problem. It's totally insane." Schmitt called for an immediate halt to further admissions until vetting can be verified, saying, "There needs to be obviously a pause," and those already here must be screened.

## **Trump Administration Cracks Down on Somali Immigrant Community in Minnesota in Light of Fraud Activities**

The [Wall Street Journal](#) [12/4/2025 9:48 PM, Scott Calvert and Jeanne Whalen] reports that massive fraud blamed on dozens of Minnesota residents of Somali descent has jumped to national attention, with House Republicans launching an investigation into how pervasive corruption in the state's social-services system was allowed to fester under Democratic Gov. Tim Walz's administration. The probe by the GOP-led House Oversight Committee deepens scrutiny of the scandal in Minnesota, where federal prosecutors say the fraud exceeded \$1 billion and that dozens of people bilked taxpayers by setting up scam social-services companies. Close to 60 defendants have been convicted, and federal prosecutors last week charged the 78th person in a prong of the cases that authorities called "the largest Covid-19 fraud scheme in the country." Years after some of the Minnesota fraud cases came to light, the issue has stirred up the governor's race and drawn in President Trump. On social media, he called the state "a hub of fraudulent money laundering activity" and said he would immediately end temporary protected status for Somali immigrants in Minnesota. [FOX News](#) [12/4/2025 3:55 PM, Breanne Deppisch, 40621K] reports that senior Trump administration officials announced fresh investigations this week, including a new Treasury Department probe into how taxpayer dollars were allegedly diverted to the terrorist organization al-Shabaab, according to Secretary Scott Bessent. Meanwhile, city officials in Minneapolis are bracing for an influx of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents after the agency announced plans for a new operation in the state. And Trump last month cited the fraud as a driver of his decision to terminate the Temporary Protected Status designation for thousands of Somali migrants living in Minnesota, saying in a Truth Social post that they should "go back to where they came from." The scheme exploited the U.S. Department of Agriculture's decision to waive many of its standard requirements for the Federal Child Nutrition Program during the pandemic, including relaxing its requirement for non-school-based distributors to participate in the program. Conspirators falsely claimed to have served millions of meals during the pandemic, but instead used the money for personal gain. They also are accused of fabricating invoices, submitting fake attendance records and falsely distributing thousands of meals from hundreds of so-called food distribution "sites" across the state. [Axios](#) [12/4/2025 5:00 PM, Jason Lalljee, 12972K] reports that Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem said on Tuesday that her agency will be targeting visa fraud in Minnesota, where around 87,000 people with Somali roots live. "You told me to look into Minnesota and their fraud on visa programs, 50% of them are fraudulent," Noem said, blaming Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz during a Tuesday Cabinet meeting, without citing evidence for the figure. In a response to a request for evidence about the 50% figure, the DHS told Axios that Noem was referring to Operation Twin Shield, an investigation led by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, ICE and the FBI. "Investigations found approximately half of the cases investigated were fraudulent," spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said. "This operation targeted cases including naturalization, H-1B visas, marriage fraud, and the Ukrainian humanitarian parole program." "USCIS is working to implement the most rigorous screening and vetting protocols in agency history," McLaughlin said, accusing the Biden administration of "prioritizing sheer numbers over rigorous vetting and strict adherence to legal requirements."

## **Chinese Students Would Be Blocked From Sensitive US Labs Under New Proposal**

[Newsweek](#) [12/4/2025 1:00 PM, Ellie Cook, 53955K] reports that Chinese students and researchers could be among those barred from U.S. labs working on sensitive national security topics under a new bill to be introduced later on Thursday. North Carolina Republican Representative Pat Harrigan will formally present the bill that would block visas for students, researchers and some professionals to stop Chinese, Russian, Iranian, North Korean and Cuban nationals from working in science, technology, engineering mathematics (STEM) roles in the U.S. Under the bill, citizens from these five countries would be prevented from working in U.S. research labs and in STEM programs propped up by the U.S. government. It is expected it would impact Chinese nationals the most out of the five nations. "For years, adversarial regimes have exploited our visa system to place their people inside U.S. labs, harvest our research, and move America's hard-won breakthroughs straight into the hands of foreign intelligence services," Harrigan, a China hawk and a relative newcomer to Congress, told Newsweek on Thursday. "It should never have been allowed."

### **Trump Admin Takes First Steps To Tackle 'Religious Cleansing'**

[Daily Caller](#) [12/4/2025 1:39 PM, Derek VanBuskirk, 835K] reports that the Trump administration and GOP leaders are moving to investigate the persecution of Nigerian Christians and restrict visas for anyone tied to global religious persecution. Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced Wednesday that the State Department "will restrict U.S. visas for those who knowingly direct, authorize, fund, support, or carry out violations of religious freedom." Although the restrictions are in response to the persecution of Christians in Nigeria, Rubio added that they will also apply to governments and individuals responsible for religious persecution around the world. Sean Nelson, senior counsel for religious rights legal advocacy at ADF International, said on X that Rubio is using a clause in the Immigration and Nationality Act that allows the secretary to deny a visa when given "reasonable ground to believe [the entry] would have potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States." Nelson interprets the new directive as Rubio signaling that having anybody in the U.S. who supports persecuting religious minorities is "a stain that could have serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the U.S."

## **Employment-based Visas**

### **State Department to deny visas to fact checkers and others, citing 'censorship'**

[NPR](#) [12/4/2025 5:22 PM, Shannon Bond, 28013K] reports that the State Department is instructing its staff to reject visa applications from people who worked on fact-checking, content moderation or other activities the Trump administration considers "censorship" of Americans' speech. The directive, sent in an internal memo on Tuesday, is focused on applicants for H-1B visas for highly skilled workers, which are frequently used by tech companies, among other sectors. The memo was first reported by Reuters; NPR also obtained a copy. "If you uncover evidence an applicant was responsible for, or complicit in, censorship or attempted censorship of protected expression in the United States, you should pursue a finding that the applicant is ineligible" for a visa, the memo says. It refers to a policy announced by Secretary of State Marco Rubio in May restricting visas from being issued to "foreign officials and persons who are complicit in censoring Americans." The Trump administration has been highly critical of tech companies' efforts to police what

people are allowed to post on their platforms and of the broader field of trust and safety, the tech industry's term for teams that focus on preventing abuse, fraud, illegal content, and other harmful behavior online. Tuesday's memo calls out H-1B visa applicants in particular "as many work in or have worked in the tech sector, including in social media or financial services companies involved in the suppression of protected expression." It directs consular officers to "thoroughly explore" the work histories of applicants, both new and returning, by reviewing their resumes, LinkedIn profiles, and appearances in media articles for activities including combatting misinformation, disinformation or false narratives, fact-checking, content moderation, compliance, and trust and safety.

### **The US will now review H-1B applicants' social media — and require them to make profiles public, State Department says**

[Business Insider](#) [12/4/2025 8:06 AM, Thibault Spirlet, 34963K] reports that the US will soon require H-1B visa applicants to make their social-media profiles public so consular officers can review their online activity, a State Department spokesperson told Business Insider. Beginning December 15, consular officers worldwide will conduct "online presence reviews" for all applicants in the H-1B specialty-occupation category, along with their H-4 dependents, the spokesperson said. The policy, which the department described as part of the Trump administration's focus on "protecting our nation and our citizens," marks one of the broadest expansions of digital vetting ever applied to foreign workers. Applicants will be instructed to adjust their privacy settings to "public" across all social-media platforms, ensuring officers can access posts, networks, employment information, and other digital activity. The agency already conducts similar reviews for foreign students and exchange visitors in certain categories. However, the new directive extends this practice to one of the most widely used visa pathways in the US labor market. "A US visa is a privilege, not a right," the spokesperson said. "In every visa case, we will take the time necessary to ensure an applicant does not pose a risk to the safety and security of the United States." The spokesperson declined to comment on reports of an internal State Department cable outlining additional vetting criteria, but confirmed that the new policy will apply globally to applicants "of all nationalities."

### **Public comment period ends for proposed change to H-1B visa selection process**

[Daily Texan](#) [12/4/2025 12:56 PM, Anjum Alam, 70K] reports that the public comment period ended on Nov. 24 for a rule proposed by the Department of Homeland Security to change the selection process of H-1B visas, which allow foreign professionals, such as graduating international students, to work in the U.S. The H-1B program allows U.S. employers to register a petition for a worker whose job requires a bachelor's degree or the equivalent to stay in the U.S. for an initial three-year period that can be extended later, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Ruby Powers, an immigration attorney with Powers Law Group, said now that the public comment period is over, the agency will begin to review the public's comments before determining the new selection process. "We'll all be on pins and needles to figure out what's going to happen, and how we're going to pivot," Powers said. "There's a hypersensitivity to what's happening in this space." Aside from certain cap-exempt employers, there is an annual limit of 65,000 new H-1B visas issued each year, with an additional 20,000 reserved for workers with a master's degree or higher from a U.S. institution, according to the agency. If the number of



registrations exceeds the numerical cap, the agency uses a lottery system to select which registrations can continue to the petition stage, according to the National Immigration Forum, an immigrant advocacy group. Under the proposed rule, the agency would use a weighted selection process for H-1B visas based on applicants' level of experience through the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics program data, which categorizes employee's experience and salary into four wage levels, according to the forum.

### **Unprepared Companies At Risk In H-1B Visa Immigration Crackdown**

[Forbes](#) [12/4/2025 9:35 AM, Stuart Anderson, 53413K] reports that the Department of Labor's H-1B visa crackdown has moved into full swing, with the announcement of up to 200 investigations. By reasserting its investigative role, DOL has wrested back control of H-1B oversight from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which has undertaken enforcement actions that may be beyond its legal authority. Attorneys say companies that assess and address their vulnerabilities will be best positioned to withstand a DOL investigation. H-1B temporary visas are often the only way for high-skilled foreign nationals to work in the United States long term. Employers must pay the higher of the actual or prevailing wage paid to U.S. professionals with similar experience and qualifications. When companies recruit at U.S. universities, they find that international students account for approximately 70% of full-time graduate students in AI-related fields, such as computer and information sciences. The H-1B annual limit is 65,000, with an exemption of 20,000 for individuals with master's degrees or higher from a U.S. university, or about 0.05% of the U.S. labor force. With sizable investments in artificial intelligence at stake, Amazon, Meta Platforms, Microsoft, and Google had the most approved new H-1B petitions in FY 2025, and Apple ranked 6th, according to an NFAP analysis. At the same time, Indian-based companies have almost disappeared from the top rankings, with their numbers plummeting. Only three Indian companies were among the top 25 employers of new H-1B visa holders in FY 2025. When the Trump administration imposed a \$100,000 fee on the entry of new H-1B visa holders, the Department of Labor declared it would begin new H-1B investigations of employers. DOL will also propose a rule to raise the prevailing wage requirement. Almost two-thirds (63%) of H-1B visa holders have a master's degree or higher, according to USCIS, and usually in demanding fields like electrical engineering. It's unclear why anyone believes they have "ordinary" skills. Immigration experts note that a left-wing organization originally spread the "entry-level" salary argument, but it has since been picked up by people on the right.

### **Scale of H-1B Visa Fraud From India Detailed by Former Official**

[Newsweek](#) [12/4/2025 11:55 AM, Billal Rahman, 53955K] reports that a former U.S. diplomat has claimed that a substantial portion of H-1B visas issued to Indian applicants were obtained through fraud. Mahvash Siddiqui, who worked as a consular officer at the U.S. consulate in Chennai (formerly Madras) from 2005 to 2007, said on the Center for Immigration Studies' podcast that she adjudicated roughly 51,000 non-immigrant visa applications, most of them H-1Bs. She alleged that between 80 and 90 percent of H-1B visa applications from India involved fraudulent documentation or unqualified applicants. "I would say 80 to 90 percent of the people that I encountered in each of the visa categories, you know, especially the young people between the ages of 20 to 45 that, you know, had very few ties to India, were basically using the non-immigrant visa pipeline to essentially

come and work in the United States and never go back home and essentially displace American workers," Siddiqui said. Siddiqui described widespread use of forged documents, including degrees, property papers, marriage certificates, fake transcripts, and fake bank statements. She said that certain districts, notably around Hyderabad, were hubs for visa consultancy shops that allegedly sold fraudulent credentials and trained applicants to pass the visa issuance process. She claims consular officers who tried to raise alarms and deny suspicious applications were pressured by political interventions and orders from above, rendering many anti-fraud efforts ineffective. "The fraud unit was considered a rogue operation because we were caring for America's first interests," Siddiqui said. The H-1B program grants up to 85,000 new visas annually, not counting current visa holders who qualify for renewals.

## **EB-5 Visas**

### **Senator Seeks to Tap Foreign Visa Program to Ease Housing Costs**

[Bloomberg](#) [12/4/2025 9:00 AM, Katy O'Donnell, 18207K] reports that Arizona Senator Ruben Gallego wants to use an employment-based visa program to draw more foreign investment into the US housing market, the latest proposal from Washington aimed at easing an affordability crunch caused by years of underbuilding and higher mortgage rates. Gallego – a Democrat whose travel to key states this year spurred speculation of a 2028 presidential run – on Thursday introduced legislation to amend the EB-5 immigrant investor visa program in order to funnel more money into the construction and rehabilitation of homes. "By steering more EB-5 investment towards housing, we can boost the housing supply, bring down costs, and create good jobs for American workers," Gallego, 46, said in an emailed statement. Gallego's bill would extend the lower \$800,000 threshold to investment in projects dedicated to the "production, preservation, or rehabilitation of rental housing or housing available for purchase only for use as a principal residence." It would also expedite processing for applications linked to affordable housing.

## **Humanitarian – Asylum/Refugees**

### **Exclusive: No New Somali Refugees Have Entered the US Since Jan. 20, State Department Says**

[Daily Signal](#) [12/4/2025 3:59 PM, Tyler O'Neil, 549K] reports that a State Department spokesperson confirmed to The Daily Signal Wednesday that no new Somali refugees have been admitted to the U.S. since President Donald Trump took office. The Somali community in Minnesota has gained renewed scrutiny in the wake of multiple fraud scandals, including a massive \$250 million fraud scandal involving the now-defunct nonprofit Feeding Our Futures. "Since President Trump took office on January 20, 2025, no Somali refugees have been admitted in our nation," the State Department representative told The Daily Signal. "Admitted refugees during the Biden-era receive reception and placement services, the first 90 days of which have been provided by the State Department." The State Department's Refugee Admissions Program tracks how many refugees the U.S. admits every month. Since Trump signed an executive order suspending entry into the U.S. under the program, only a handful of refugees have been admitted from three countries: Afghanistan, El Salvador, and

South Africa. Thousands of Somali refugees entered the country in the first months of fiscal year 2025, however, which began on Oct. 1, 2024. The program records the admission of 4,992 Somali refugees from October through January. Six hundred and seventy of them settled in Minnesota. Ohio received the second-largest number at 245, followed closely by New York at 211. In fiscal year 2024, 1,267 Somalis settled in the Land of 10,000 Lakes. Roughly 76,000 people of Somali descent live in Minnesota, more than half of whom were born in the U.S., according to Census Bureau data cited by CBS News.

### **Tom Tiffany reintroduces bill to give state, local governments final say over refugee resettlement**

[WEAU-TV NBC Eau Claire](#) [12/4/2025 10:30 PM, Staff, 356K] reports that Tom Tiffany reintroduces bill to give state, local governments final say over refugee resettlement. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

## **Humanitarian – Visas**

### **Crime victims trying to get U.S. visas are being deported. Expert says that makes us all less safe**

[KJZZ-FM NPR Phoenix](#) [12/4/2025 3:27 PM, Lauren Gilger, 221K] reports that as the Trump administration's aggressive deportations continue, one group is being targeted that has some law enforcement and prosecutors concerned: U visa applicants. U visas are specifically for victims of crimes in the United States. They are often used for people who have information about criminal activity that could be useful for investigators or prosecutors. A common example is a victim of sex trafficking. Prosecutors or law enforcement investigators might try to get them a U visa so they can testify against their traffickers. Now there are reports that these applicants are being deported or detained before they can get that visa — and that could interfere with investigations and prosecutions. A statement from the Law Enforcement Immigration Task Force — including Tucson Police Chief Chad Kasmar — says targeting U visa applicants for deportation could create a damaging chilling effect and discourage crime victims from coming forward. Kristin Fitzharris is director of litigation and advocacy at Southern Arizona Legal Aid. She works with people who are trying to get U visas. She said they're already seeing fewer people willing to apply for them. [Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

## **DACA News**

### **Democrats Reintroduce Dream Act, Seeking Pathways to Citizenship for DACA Recipients**

[The Hill](#) [12/4/2025 9:31 PM, Raquel Martin, 12595K] reports that Democrats and immigration advocates joined forces on Capitol Hill Thursday to call for renewed protections for young undocumented immigrants as the Trump administration ramps up nationwide immigration raids. Lawmakers reintroduced the Dream Act, legislation that would create a pathway to citizenship for people brought to the United States illegally as children, often known as "Dreamers." Advocates say stepped-up enforcement has left many in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) community living in fear. "Our

communities are being hunted,” Greisa Martinez Rosas, the executive director at United We Dream, said, urging Congress to act. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) who is retiring at the end of his term, noted he has introduced the Dream Act every Congress since 2001. “I’m not giving up,” Durbin said, calling himself “a proud son of an immigrant” committed to helping the next generation. He also urged former President Barack Obama to create the DACA program in 2012, which has allowed hundreds of thousands of undocumented young people to legally work and live in the United States without immediate threat of deportation. The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) [12/4/2025 4:00 PM, Mary Norkol, 3344K] reports that the legislation, which has been introduced several times but never passed, would allow Dreamers — or noncitizens without lawful status who were brought to the U.S. as children — to pursue citizenship if they meet military, education or work requirements. Dreamers are protected from deportation under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy, which was launched by former President Barack Obama 13 years ago and covers more than 800,000 people. “I want everybody who comes into my office to understand this is a proud son of an immigrant who’s doing everything he can to help the next generation of immigrants be part of America’s future,” Durbin said at a news conference Thursday announcing the reintroduction of the bill.

## **Public Charge**

### **Trump Admin To Stop Food Stamp Payments To Democrat States Covering Up Welfare Fraud**

[The Federalist](#) [12/4/2025 8:50 AM, Breccan F. Thies, 785K] reports that the Trump administration announced that it will soon stop food stamp funding to 21 Democrat-led states and Washington, D.C., because they refuse to provide data about recipients, choosing instead to run cover for illegals and massive welfare fraud. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said in a Tuesday cabinet meeting that 28 states and Guam, run by Republicans, have provided data like names and immigration statuses for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients, but that the remaining Democrat-run states are refusing to comply. “So as of next week, we have begun and will begin to stop moving federal funds into those states, until they comply and they tell us and allow us to partner with them to root out this fraud and to protect the American taxpayer,” Rollins said at the White House. Food assistance like SNAP is one of the biggest categories of welfare for immigrants. If the Trump administration wants to root out even more fraud, it should be looking for ways to denaturalize and deport any immigrant, legal or illegal, who is on public welfare. For years there was a law against immigrants coming into the country who would be a “public charge,” but it was completely neutered by the Clinton administration. Earlier this year, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) issued a memo bringing it back. “President Trump has made it a priority to ensure that the availability of public benefits does not encourage or reward illegal immigration into the United States. Consistent with this priority, USCIS officers are reminded that they must strictly adhere to the statutes, regulations, and USCIS policy when making inadmissibility determinations, including under the public charge ground,” the memo states. “Aliens subject to the public charge ground of inadmissibility must demonstrate that they are not likely at any time to become a public charge.”

## Citizenship/Naturalizations

### **[NY] 86 people become U.S. citizens at naturalization ceremony in Central Islip — the first since the government shutdown**

[Newsday](#) [12/4/2025 8:02 PM, Maureen Mullarkey, 1287K] reports that since arriving in the United States from Guyana in 1985 at age 18, Lotwyn Nedd has lived a full life. Nedd married his wife, Andrea Nedd, had five children and worked as a New York City Transit Authority bus operator. But after 40 years of building a life in this country, Nedd and 85 others officially became United States citizens at a naturalization ceremony on Thursday — the first since the government shutdown ended. "We are a better nation because you came," U.S. Circuit Court Judge Joseph F. Bianco told the new citizens. The ceremony began with Bianco administering the Oath of Allegiance, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, in the Alfonse M. D'Amato U.S. Courthouse in Central Islip to new citizens from 37 different countries in front of their friends and family. U.S. Circuit Court Judge Joseph F. Bianco presided at the naturalization ceremony at the Alfonse M. D'Amato United States Courthouse in Central Islip on Thursday. "You have waited years and years and years for this day to come," he said. "You made it."

### **[NY] Citizens from 11 different nations sworn in as new Americans**

[Rome Daily Sentinel](#) [12/4/2025 7:00 PM, Alexis Manore] reports that Utica welcomed just over a dozen new citizens at a naturalization ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 4. The nation's newest citizens took the Oath for Citizenship in front of their friends, families and loved ones and celebrated the momentous occasion together. Hon. Anthony J. Brindisi, U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of New York, presided over the ceremony at the Alexander Pirnie Federal Building in Utica. "The poet Maya Angelou once said, 'We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all threads are equal in value, no matter their color,'" Brindisi said. "You are becoming a part of the beautiful fabric of this nation. In a moment, we will welcome 17 new citizens from 11 different countries. This is your day; celebrate it, cheer for your friends, your family, yourselves. You have earned it." The Oneida County Sheriff's Office Color Guard presented the colors, and Immigration Services Officer Jeff Robbins and Taylor Lewis from the Syracuse Field Office of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services, presented the candidates for citizenship. Deputy Clerk Zach Cortese administered the Oath for Citizenship. After they recited the Oath of Allegiance, each individual was called up to receive their certificate of citizenship, officially making them a U.S. citizen.

### **[NY] Utica Welcomes 17 New American Citizens from 11 Countries**

[WKTV-TV NBC Utica](#) [12/4/2025 7:03 PM, Staff, 289K] reports that a special session of federal court took place Thursday morning in Utica, where 17 individuals from 11 different countries became U.S. citizens. Judge Anthony Brindisi presided over the ceremony at the Federal Building in downtown Utica. The new citizens received their naturalization certificates and an American flag. Brindisi said, "A lot of uncertainty, a lot of hard work. It's a long process to become an American citizen, but these folks worked hard at it. They persevered and certainly are excited for the prospect of becoming new citizens." Dr.



Christopher Spence, superintendent of the Utica City School District, was a guest speaker at the event. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

**[MS] Citizenship is official for those seeking the American Dream during naturalization ceremony**

[WLBT-TV NBC Jackson](#) [12/4/2025 7:06 PM, Roslyn Anderson, 658K] reports that America stands out as a nation of freedom, which is sought after by immigrants across the globe. On Thursday, the United States added to its ranks when people here in Mississippi officially became American citizens. Fifteen people from eight countries took the oath to become U.S. citizens, joining a union of more than 348,000,000 Americans. A naturalization ceremony was held in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi before an audience of proud family and friends. "We the people now includes you," said Magistrate Judge Andrew Harris. "The rights and privileges of American citizenship are now yours to share, but they're also yours to guard." Applicants completed a complex process, renouncing foreign nations of their birth to be a part of this nation's tapestry. "I'm just glad I'm an American citizen," said Terence Ngala. The 20-year-old Navy Logistics Specialist is from Cameroon. Ngala lived in Texas before being stationed in Gulfport. "It's gonna make me become a better person because I want to serve the nation, and I believe it's an open door for opportunity to help my family get better opportunity and to live a dream," Ngala continued. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Reported similarly:

[WAPT-TV ABC Jackson](#) [12/4/2025 6:38 PM, Richard Bourne, 357K]

[WJTV-TV CBS Jackson](#) [12/4/2025 6:11 PM, Marie Mennefield, 219K]

**[AZ] Watch: Meet the newest Americans: Naturalization ceremonies continue under Trump Admin**

[KNXV-TV ABC Phoenix](#) [12/4/2025 8:14 PM, Rachel Louise Just, 1020K] reports that as the immigration debate intensifies, naturalization ceremonies in the U.S. and Arizona carry on. ABC15 was there for two ceremonies on Thursday, as lifelong dreams came true for the newest American citizens, ending their hard-won journeys to citizenship. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

## **Editorials and Op-Eds**

**3 Countries That Should Be Next On Trump's Travel Ban List**

[The Federalist](#) [12/4/2025 7:00 AM, Brianna Lyman, 785K] reports that the Trump administration announced Tuesday it would halt immigration applications from 19 countries — but there are three countries that should be added to the list. Following the deadly suspected terrorist attack in Washington D.C., allegedly by an Afghan national let in through President Joe Biden's reckless Operation Allies Welcome refugee resettlement program, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) instructed personnel to place a hold on all asylum applications "regardless of the alien's country of nationality" and "place a hold on pending benefit requests for aliens" from 19 countries identified by the administration. The agency also ordered a "re-review, potential interview, and re-interview of all aliens from high-risk countries of concern who entered the United States on or after

January 20, 2021 is necessary." The 19 countries are: Afghanistan, Burma, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela. To be clear, the administration's criteria for these countries is rooted in security concerns, namely that the U.S. cannot confirm whether these immigrants were properly vetted. But in addition to these security-driven freezes, the United States should add Mexico, China, and India for reasons that go beyond merely vetting. According to a 2023 report from CNN, Mexicans "make up the largest group of immigrants in the US," followed by India and China. "These statistics include both immigrants who came to the United States legally and those who are living in the country without authorization" (aka illegally), CNN reported. When only accounting for illegal aliens in the U.S., the top six countries of origin were Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Honduras, and China, the outlet continued, citing a 2021 Department of Homeland Security report.

### **Many Somali Americans, most of them U.S. citizens, are fearful of Trump's immigration policies**

[NBC News](#) [12/4/2025 10:32 PM, Nicole Acevedo, Maggie Vespa and Kailani Koenig, 34509K] reports that many in Minnesota's Somali community — even those who are citizens — say they are fearful after Immigration and Customs Enforcement launched an operation in the region and after President Donald Trump's rants against Somalia and Somali immigrants living in the United States. "Nobody is leaving their homes right now," a 21-year-old Minnesota native of Somali descent, who asked to not be named for fear of harassment, told NBC News. "They don't even have anything to run for. They're citizens. They've been living here for years." Many of the shops at Karmel Mall — a hub of Somali businesses, merchants and restaurants in Minneapolis — were closed Thursday, and the normally busy mall was quieter than usual. Some establishments had signs that read "No ICE." While a senior law enforcement official previously said ICE officers are not specifically targeting Somali immigrants, the operation in Minneapolis coincided with Trump's saying Wednesday that Somalis have "destroyed Minnesota" and "our country." Trump spoke following news reports that dozens of people of Somali descent have been convicted in fraud schemes related to Covid relief that netted over \$1 billion. "The mistakes of a few individuals can never be used to generalize or stereotype an entire community," Imam Hassan Jama, executive director of the Islamic Association of North America, said Thursday. He added that the majority "of Somali Americans in Minnesota are hardworking, reasonable and deeply committed to contributing to the prosperity of our state and our country." "There are a lot of people who have come to this country to flee persecution, war," Zakaria Abukar, a Somalia-born tech entrepreneur in Minnesota, told NBC affiliate KARE of Minneapolis. Abukar settled in Rochester, Minnesota, nearly three decades ago, when he was 6 years old. "Many of us have gone through the legal channels," he said. Those legal channels have narrowed for Somalis. Most recently, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services paused all immigration requests for applicants from 19 countries the Trump administration deemed "high risk" in June, including Somalia, and launched a "reexamination of every Green Card" granted to people from those countries of concern. "We feel hunted," Osman said. "That is unacceptable."

### **Trump Vows to Remove US Citizens. Can He Do That?**

[Bloomberg](#) [12/4/2025 9:55 AM, Erik Larson, 18207K] reports that the Trump administration has unveiled plans to remove legal immigrants from the US, including by canceling green cards and “denaturalizing” some US citizens, after an Afghan national who entered the country in 2021 was accused of shooting two members of the West Virginia National Guard. “Only REVERSE MIGRATION can fully cure this situation,” President Donald Trump declared on social media after the Nov. 26 shooting in Washington, DC, in a sharp escalation of his anti-immigration rhetoric. Presidents have wide latitude over immigration, a power that the Supreme Court has repeatedly reaffirmed, including in lawsuits challenging earlier Trump policies. But experts say that at least some of Trump’s new initiatives are likely to face significant legal challenges in court. Here’s what to know about the president’s powers over immigration and what legal questions may arise. Reverse migration is a non-legal term generally understood as the process by which immigrants in the US voluntarily leave the country. What Trump is proposing is different: steps to ramp up removals by stripping immigrants of their legal status or denying their applications to stay in the US, essentially forcing them to leave. In a pair of Nov. 27 Truth Social posts that disparaged immigrants, Trump said he would “remove anyone who is not a net asset to the United States, or is incapable of loving our Country,” without providing detail. That same day, Joseph Edlow, the head of US Citizenship and Immigration Services, said that his agency — under Trump’s orders — was conducting “a full scale, rigorous reexamination of every Green Card for every alien from every country of concern.” A June presidential proclamation lists 19 countries the US considers “deficient with regards to screening and vetting” of its citizens, including Afghanistan, Haiti and Somalia.

### **Don’t betray our Afghan allies over one man’s terrorism**

[Washington Examiner](#) [12/5/2025 6:00 AM, Beth Bailey, 1394K] reports that during times of tragedy, we are poised to forget our Afghan allies’ service, sacrifice, and success. On Nov. 26, Afghan national Rahmanullah Lakanwal allegedly ambushed and shot two members of the West Virginia National Guard deployed to Washington, D.C. Following the attack, Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe remains in critical condition, while Spc. Sarah Beckstrom died of her wounds on Nov. 27. In the aftermath of this tragic attack, leaders in the Trump administration have announced policies that target Afghans as a whole. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has announced a pause on all visa issuance for Afghans, while U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced a halt on asylum decisions. The United States will also re-screen all Afghans who were resettled in the U.S. under the Biden administration. Sensible precautions are obviously justified, but we should not abandon our allies because of the terrorism of one individual.

### **[FL] Central Florida immigrants seeking legal residency thrust into limbo with Trump directive**

[Orlando Sentinel](#) [12/4/2025 3:10 PM, Natalia Jaramillo and Cristóbal Reyes, 1189K] reports that the immigration process for hundreds in Central Florida and thousands across the country has ground to a stop following the Trump administration’s sweeping directive aimed at immigrants from 19 countries dubbed high-risk. As the region’s largest of the listed groups, Venezuelans and Haitians awaiting their asylum, green card or naturalization ceremonies discovered this week they were canceled with no new date set, leaving them in limbo and vulnerable, immigration attorneys said. A naturalization ceremony on Thursday

in Orlando moved forward with immigrants from 36 countries, but none of the 19 on the Trump administration list. Florida is home to the country's largest population of Haitians and Venezuelans, according to data from the Migration Policy Institute. The greater Orlando region has the state's second largest community of Haitians with over 41,000. Similarly over 64,000 Venezuelans call Central Florida home, also the second largest concentration in the state. A Venezuelan man living in Central Florida who is married to a U.S. citizen had been waiting years for his green card interview. But on Thursday his Kissimmee-based immigration attorney, Ingrid Morfa, learned his interview next week has been canceled. His online case status read simply "we cancelled or descheduled the interview" and said he will be notified "if the appointment is rescheduled." "It's just disastrous," Morfa said. "I think that's a way to try and halt our immigration adjudication and scare people." The Tuesday Dec. 2 order from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services came just a week after an Afghan national allegedly shot two National Guard personnel in Washington, killing one. "We could go one way or the other, and we're going to go the wrong way if we keep taking in garbage into our country," President Trump said in a cabinet meeting Tuesday.

**{End of Report}**