



Early Executive Actions on Migration by the Biden Administration

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President Joe Biden was sworn in to office on January 20, 2021, and subsequently signed [17 Executive Orders \(EO\) and Presidential Proclamations](#), including some reversing immigration policies and procedures enacted by the outgoing administration. The migration-related executive actions have addressed a wide range of issues that have long been of interest to the advocacy community. Please find below an overview of some of the key actions that have occurred on the first day of his administration.

What actions has President Biden taken on DACA?

Following efforts to dismantle the program by the previous administration, President Biden issued a Memorandum, “[Preserving and Fortifying Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals](#)”, instructing the Secretary of Homeland Security, together with the Attorney General, to take all action they deem necessary “to preserve and fortify DACA”.

How has President Biden addressed existing discriminatory bans on entry into the United States?

During his first day of office, President Biden put an end to the travel bans, sometimes referred to as the “Muslim ban”, that the Trump Administration initially put into effect in 2017. In his “[Proclamation on Ending Discriminatory Bans on Entry to the United States](#)”, President Biden noted that these bans “are a stain on our national conscience and are inconsistent with our long history of welcoming people of all faiths and no faith at all.”

What actions has President Biden taken at this point on immigration enforcement?

The President's [Executive Order on the Revision of Civil Immigration Enforcement Policies and Priorities](#) overturns the Trump-issued Executive Order that pushed aggressive efforts to indiscriminately find and deport unauthorized immigrants, and implemented a 100-day moratorium on certain deportations, allowing for a comprehensive review of current immigration enforcement policies.

In addition to enforcement efforts focused on the interior, President Biden issued a [Proclamation](#) that halted construction of the border wall between the United States and Mexico. The order includes an “immediate termination” of the national emergency declaration that allowed the Trump Administration to redirect billions of dollars to the wall. It states the new administration will begin “a close review” of the legality of the effort to divert federal money to fund the wall.

What other migration-related executive actions has President Biden taken in the early days of his administration?

In addition to the above-mentioned executive actions issued by President Biden on his first day in office, he also took action to reinstate [Deferred Enforced Departure for Liberians](#), which blocks the deportation of Liberians living in the United States and, notably, [revoked](#) the previous Administration's plan to exclude non-citizens from the census count used for congressional apportionment.

Has President Biden addressed the broader question of immigration reform?

In addition to signing into effect various executive actions that addressed discrete issues of immigration-related matters, President Biden also committed to work with Congress to pass [immigration reform legislation](#) that would, among other things, provide an 8-year path to citizenship, an expansion of the refugee resettlement program, and the deployment of increased technology at the border as a mechanism to control illegal entry. Additionally, the legislation would allow DACA beneficiaries and recipients of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to apply for a green card immediately. Finally, any legislation would also address the root causes of migration that drive many people to leave their homeland in the first place.

Endnotes

1. Elliot Spagat, “Biden bets big on immigration reform in opening move,” January 20, 2021, https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/religion/biden-bets-big-on-immigration-reform-in-opening-move/2021/01/20/299ae1e8-5b65-11eb-a849-6f9423a75ffd_story.html.