



EXODUS REFUGEE

The Life Ahead

Letter Writing & Advocacy Day 2.27.25



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Welcome!



- Thank you for joining us today
- Every voice matters, and we appreciate you taking the time to use yours in support of our immigrant neighbors
- The key part of advocating is sharing your why – why do you care about an issue and how does it impact you/your community
- Note per current IU policies regarding Advocacy: non-IU emails need to be used for communication with legislators and with any reference to advocacy efforts with Exodus

Federal Issues



The administration's actions so far:

- An indefinite ban on refugee resettlement, stranding tens of thousands of refugees who have gone through years of security screening and remain in danger overseas.
- A 90-day suspension of all foreign aid to displaced people overseas — followed by stop work orders implicating services to refugees and forcibly displaced people who are already here.
- A total ban on access to asylum and other protections for anyone arriving at the border
- Authorizing and mobilizing the military to stop people seeking protection from entering the United States via the southern border.
- An expansion of detention and deportation in the interior of the United States and an end to guidance preventing ICE enforcement actions in churches and schools.



Asks

- Urge the President to resume Refugee Resettlement
- Urge the Secretary of State to resume federal aid and oversees processing of refugees
- Urge the President to stop using the military to stop people seeking asylum at the southern border. Seeking Asylum is a human right.
- Urge the President to prevent ICE from entering sensitive locations, such as churches and schools
- Urge the Secretary of State and Homeland Security to report to the President that the US Refugee Admissions Program should resume at the end of the initial 90-day pause



Who to Contact

Secretary of State (Address as Mister Secretary)

The Honorable Marco Rubio

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

[Contact Form](#)

Secretary of Homeland Security (Address as Madam Secretary)

The Honorable Kristi Noem

Secretary of Homeland Security

Washington, D.C. 20528

The President (Address as Mister President)

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW

Washington, D.C. 20500

[Contact Form](#)

Asks for Members of Congress



- Call on the Trump administration to immediately rescind the refugee ban, reverse course on stop-work orders, and oppose other executive orders that target our asylum-seeking and immigrant neighbors and the communities that welcome them.
- Support legislation and appropriations that uphold decades of precedent for welcoming newcomers – and oppose legislation that further codifies harm to immigrants.
- Publicly express your support for refugees and humanitarian protections. I urge you to be vocal in support for refugees and recognize and uplift the value refugees and newcomers bring to our community – including via press events, floor statements, and on social media

Indiana Senators & Representative



Senator Todd Young

Contact Form: <https://www.young.senate.gov/contact/email-todd/>

Mail: 185 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Phone: 202-224-5623

Indianapolis Phone: 317-226-6700

Senator Jim Banks

Contact Form: <https://www.banks.senate.gov/share-your-opinion/>

Mail: B85 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Phone: 202-224-4814

Fort Wayne Phone: 260-321-7130



Find your Representative here: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

State Issues



Executive Order 25-29 Supporting Federal Immigration Policy and Protecting Hoosier Workers by Indiana's State Agencies

- Requires agencies and departments of the State of Indiana, and state and local law enforcement to report to and fully cooperate with ICE

Who to Contact

- Governor Braun

Mail:

Office of the Governor

Statehouse

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2797

Phone – 317-232-4567

Contact Form: <https://in.accessgov.com/gov/Forms/Page/gov/ask-mike/>

HB 1114 - Driving without a license - passed House



- This bill would raise the penalty charge for driving without a license to a felony charge, and would implement additional charges for driving a vehicle registered to a business of nonprofit
- Many immigrants who are ineligible for a driver's license (including those on humanitarian parole), may register their car under an LLC. All vehicles registered to an LLC have the same expiration on their license plate – a tactic already used by police for traffic stops.
- Raising the penalty charge for driving without a license puts these already vulnerable at risk if other state and federal bills pass, making it easier for them to be deported for this charge.
- It would target many individuals who feel like they have to drive without a license because there is no other option for transportation to get to work, to get their kids to school, or to function in their community

Contact State Senator



HB 1393 - Immigration notice - passed House

- This bill requires that if a law enforcement officer arrests an individual for a felony or misdemeanor charge and has probable cause to believe the individual is not lawfully present, they must report them to the Sheriff, who must then report them to ICE
- This bill would lead to an increase in racial profiling and unnecessary detention of our immigrant neighbors
- It would put further strain on local law enforcement resources, and erode trust between vulnerable communities and local law enforcement
- This bill would put part of Governor Braun's Executive Order into law, which would make it harder to repeal in the future

Contact State Senator

HB 1531 – Various immigration matters – passed House



- This bill gives local and state law enforcement the ability to enforce federal immigration policy, and provides guidelines for handling immigration detention requests
- This bill also opens governmental agencies and businesses to being sued by the Attorney General, even if they were unaware of an individual's unlawful presence
- Requires a judge to report to ICE if an individual has been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony that would provide grounds to be deported
- Raises penalty for a Humanitarian Parole sponsor if they provide false information
- This bill is encouraging racial profiling and distrust of immigrants, and requires a high use of state resources to play the role of federal law enforcement. It also unfairly opens other entities to liability, such as employers and universities.

Contact State Senator

SB 2 - Medicaid matters - passed Senate



- Increasing paperwork requirements to maintain Medicaid benefits. This is already very difficult for our clients who have language barriers.
- 2 key changes to HIP Medicaid, which is the Medicaid category for adults age 19-64 who do not qualify for SSI/SSI Disability (adults with SSI/SSI Disability qualify for another form of Medicaid)
 - Limiting HIP Medicaid to only 500,000 people. Currently there are 750,000 people with HIP Medicaid in Indiana, so 250,000 people would seemingly lose their HIP Medicaid and there would be a very long waitlist to get HIP Medicaid
 - Limiting individuals to only have HIP Medicaid for 3 years total in their entire life. Which means after someone has had HIP Medicaid for 3 years, they would not qualify for it again and would need to get employer's insurance which is not always available, or Marketplace insurance which costs money and is not great coverage
- 1 in 7 Hoosiers rely on HIP
- Not only would this bill cost money to implement, Indiana would lose over \$3 billion from our state's economy

Contact State Representative



SB 430 - Grants for participation in the 287(g) program - Passed Senate

- 287(g) is the program under the Immigration and Nationality Act that gives local law enforcement agencies ability to conduct federal law enforcement
- This means that local law enforcement across the state would be required to comply with orders to ICE, and any other federal law enforcement agencies
- This bill would make Governor's Braun Executive Order Law, which would be harder to repeal in the future
- This bill would lead to an increase in racial profiling and unnecessary detention of our immigrant neighbors
- It would put further strain on local law enforcement resources, and erode trust between vulnerable communities and local law enforcement

Contact State Representative



State Rep & State Senator

- Find Your Legislators:
 - <https://iga.in.gov/information/find-legislators>





Sample Letter & Phone Calls

Dear Senator/Rep. [Last Name],

I am writing to express my deep concern about [bill number] which is currently under consideration [in the House/Senate/Indiana House/Senate]. This bill, in my opinion, poses significant risks to both the safety of immigrants in our state and to the economic well-being of our communities.

As one of your constituents, I urge you to oppose this bill.

I am concerned that the provisions of this bill would create an environment of fear and uncertainty for many immigrants in Indiana, including refugees, those with Temporary Protected Status, asylum seekers, and those with Humanitarian Parole. Our immigrant neighbors are valuable members of our workforce, contributing to the success and growth of Indiana's economy. They attend our churches, go to school here, and contribute so much to our communities.

By making it more challenging for them to live and work here, this bill could ultimately reduce the labor pool and exacerbate workforce shortages in critical industries such as agriculture, hospitality, healthcare, and construction. It will make it more difficult for our communities to thrive. Indiana has long benefited from the diverse perspectives and skills brought by immigrant communities, and I am deeply concerned that this bill would undermine that.

I urge you to carefully consider the long-term consequences of this bill, not just for immigrant communities, but for the broader economy and the prosperity of Indiana as a whole. We need policies that promote inclusivity, support workers, and ensure our state remains competitive and attractive to employers and families alike.

Please consider voting against [bill #], as I believe it would have harmful consequences for both our neighbors and our state's future. I appreciate your attention to this important issue and thank you for your service.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]



Sample Letter & Phone Calls

Dear Senator/Representative [Last Name],

I am writing to you today to express my concern about the proposed [bill #], which would require state law enforcement agencies to carry out tasks that are traditionally the responsibility of federal employees, particularly in areas of immigration enforcement. While I understand the need for public safety, I believe this bill is problematic for several reasons.

First, I am concerned that the bill places undue strain on local law enforcement officers, who are already tasked with ensuring the safety and security of our communities. Immigration enforcement is a complex and specialized area of law, and it should be handled by federal agencies that have the appropriate training, resources, and expertise. Asking state officers to take on these duties could divert their attention from essential local public safety tasks, potentially leading to a decrease in the overall effectiveness of law enforcement in Indiana.

Additionally, this bill could damage the trust between immigrant communities and local law enforcement. When state officers are involved in immigration enforcement, it creates fear and reluctance among immigrants to report crimes or cooperate with law enforcement. This harms public safety by making it harder for authorities to solve cases and protect all residents, regardless of their immigration status.

Finally, I believe that immigration enforcement should be handled at the federal level, as it is a federal matter. It is critical that we ensure proper allocation of responsibilities and resources, and I do not believe it is in the best interest of Indiana residents to impose these duties on state officers.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to reconsider supporting [Bill #]. It is crucial to preserve the role of local law enforcement as protectors of our communities and to ensure that immigration enforcement remains a federal responsibility.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue. I appreciate your service and hope you will act in the best interest of our state.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

CWS Action Alerts



[CWS Action Alert 1/28/25](https://cwsglobal.org/action-alerts/take-action-tell-congress-the-white-house-that-you-oppose-trumps-indefinite-refugee-ban-and-executive-actions-targeting-newcomers/) - Tell Congress & the White House that you **OPPOSE** Trump's Indefinite Refugee Ban and Executive Actions Targeting Newcomers

<https://cwsglobal.org/action-alerts/take-action-tell-congress-the-white-house-that-you-oppose-trumps-indefinite-refugee-ban-and-executive-actions-targeting-newcomers/>

[CWS Action Alert 2/10/25](https://cwsglobal.org/action-alerts/take-action-tell-congress-and-the-state-department-to-resume-life-saving-funds-for-refugees-and-end-stop-work-orders/) - Tell Congress and the State Department to Resume Life-Saving Funds for Refugees and End Stop Work Orders

<https://cwsglobal.org/action-alerts/take-action-tell-congress-and-the-state-department-to-resume-life-saving-funds-for-refugees-and-end-stop-work-orders/>

Tip: Once you submit the email form, you can click on the phone icon to bypass tweeting, and it will dial your phone to connect you to the office numbers for your 2 Senators and Representative



**CONTACT YOUR TWO
SENATORS AND ONE
REPRESENTATIVE
TODAY!**