



EXODUS REFUGEE

The Life Ahead

Letter Writing 4.24.25



Overview



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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?



Exodus Refugee

Mission Statement



Exodus Refugee Immigration is dedicated to the protection of human rights by serving the resettlement needs of refugees and other displaced people fleeing persecution, injustice, and war by welcoming them to Indiana.



Definitions



A refugee is someone who...

“Owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.”

-(1951 Refugee Convention)

What is Humanitarian Parole?



Parole is granted on a case-by-case basis.

- Allows entry into the US for individuals who would otherwise be ineligible to enter
- For individuals with urgent humanitarian needs like medical emergencies or family reunification
- Provides temporary protection from deportation
- **Is not** a path to green card or permanent residency in the US

What is Temporary Protected Status (TPS)?



TPS is granted to groups of people: eligible nationals of certain countries.

- Granted to people who are already in the U.S. so that they may remain in the U.S. for a set period of time.
- Granted due to conditions in the country that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely such as:
 - Ongoing armed conflict (such as civil war)
 - An environmental disaster (such as earthquake), or an epidemic
 - Other extraordinary and temporary conditions
- Provides temporary protection from deportation
- **Is not** a path to a green card or permanent residency in the U.S.

Who is an asylum seeker?



An asylum seeker is someone seeking international protection and has applied for asylum or intends to do so.

- While refugee status is processed abroad, asylum is processed in the U.S.
- To be eligible for asylum, an individual “must demonstrate a well-founded fear of persecution based on:
 - race,
 - religion,
 - nationality,
 - membership in a particular social group,
 - or political option.”
- Six months after filing for asylum, asylum seekers are eligible for a work permit.
- People who are seeking asylum are waiting years to have their cases heard by an immigration judge or other immigration official.
- Asylum **is** a path to a green card or permanent residency.

Federal Issues



Actions taken by the Trump administration 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.
- Termination of Reception and Placement contracts for all resettlement agencies
- 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.



Actions taken by the Trump administration cont.:

- Termination of Humanitarian Parole CHNV (Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, Venezuelans), meaning more than half a million people will lose their status on April 24th and are being issued notices to depart the US.
- Issuing notices to those who received Humanitarian Parole through the CBPOne app the Biden administration used to depart the US within 7 days.
- Terminated a majority of contracts for the Unaccompanied Children Program, which provides legal representation to thousands of unaccompanied immigrant children across the country, including infants.
- USCIS has issued a pause on processing green card applications for refugees.



Asks

- Urge the President to resume Refugee Resettlement.
- Urge the Secretary of State to resume federal aid and overseas 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.



Whom to Contact

Secretary of State (Address as Mister Secretary)

The Honorable Marco Rubio

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Contact Form - bit.ly/SecStateContactForm

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 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

Ongoing Litigation



- There are several lawsuits that have been filed, and we will continue to see more filed in the future
- CWS, our national partner, has filed as part of *Pacito v. Trump* in response to the indefinite pause on refugee resettlement, and on the termination of the Reception and Placement contracts
- CWS publishes a State of Play email every weekday with updates about actions taken by the Trump administration and updates to ongoing litigation – you can subscribe and find the online version here: <https://cwsglobal.org/blog/daily-state-of-play-trumps-indefinite-refugee-ban-and-funding-halt/>
- The New York Times is tracking all ongoing litigation against the Trump administration, including issues beyond immigration: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/us/trump-administration-lawsuits.html>

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.
- Hold the Trump administration accountable to rulings from the courts. Many of the preliminary injunctions state that Congress should be the one to exercise authority over immigration matters, not the President.

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

Governor Braun



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

Urge the Governor to veto HB 1114, HB 1393, SB 2

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/>

2025 State Sessions Deadlines



April 29th - Last Day for Adjournment of both chambers

The Office of the Governor reviews all legislation, and the Governor has seven days to sign or veto the bill.

If he does not sign it, it automatically becomes law on the eighth day after receipt.

HB 1114 – Driving without a license



- 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



HB 1393 – Immigration notice

- This bill requires that after an individual is arrested for a felony or misdemeanor charge, and the detention facility 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

SB 2 – Medicaid matters



- Increasing paperwork requirements to maintain Medicaid benefits.
This is already very difficult for our clients who have language barriers.
- Quarterly Reporting Requirements where FSSA will review eligibility every 3 months
- Adds work and volunteer requirements to Medicaid eligibility
- 1 in 7 Hoosiers rely on HIP
- This bill will cost Indiana money to implement, despite claims that this bill is to help achieve a balanced budget
- This bill has been amended from its original version, which shows that advocacy works!

State Legislator Asks



While the 2025 Session has essentially concluded, there are still ways to advocate to your state Senator and Representative.

- If your Representative or Senator opposed anti-immigration legislation this session, be sure to thank them for standing up for our immigrant neighbors!
- Once the session concludes, interim study committees will be formed to look at what legislation should be considered for next year, and is an important time to contact authors of bills to ask them to not reintroduce harmful legislation, and to ask committees to look at legislation that would support immigrants, such as Driving Privilege Cards.



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]. 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 actions taken so far by the Trump administration targeting immigrants in our country. While I understand the need for public safety, these actions are inhumane and ultimately go against the legacy of welcome upheld by the United States.

Firstly, I urge you to publicly express your support for refugees and humanitarian protections. 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. 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.

Additionally, I want you to hold the Trump administration accountable to rulings from the courts. Many of the preliminary injunctions from ongoing litigation against the President state that Congress should be the one to exercise authority over immigration matters, not the President. It is your responsibility to represent all of your constituents, especially vulnerable humanitarian immigrants, who pursued lawful pathways to come to the United States. It is our responsibility to honor those protections as they seek safety.

It is critical that we ensure proper allocation of responsibilities and resources, Support legislation and appropriations that uphold decades of precedent for welcoming newcomers – and oppose legislation that further codifies harm to immigrants.

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, and our country.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

CWS Action Alerts



CWS Action Alert 4/3/25 – TAKE ACTION TODAY: Urge Your Member of Congress to Defend Refugee Resettlement

<https://cwsglobal.org/action-alerts/take-action-today-urge-your-member-of-congress-to-defend-refugee-resettlement/>

CWS Action Alert 3/25/25 – Protect Immigrant Children: Tell Congress to Restore Vital Services and Push Back on Rapid Deportations

<https://cwsglobal.org/action-alerts/protect-immigrant-children-tell-congress-the-white-house-to-stop-deporting-unaccompanied-migrant-children/>



Questions?



Thank you!

Exodus Refugee Immigration

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Instagram: @exodus_refugee

LinkedIn: Exodus Refugee Immigration