

IMMIGRATION

Texas Democrats recognize that the United States is a vibrant nation of immigrants. We value those who come from different countries and cultures. Immigrants have added to the prosperity and resilience of this great country and we believe in fostering better bilateral relationships with all nations including our southern neighbor whom we share an extensive border with. Importantly, we understand that viewing immigrants through a lens of fear and prejudice only hurts our nation and Texas. We recognize that through a more fair and equitable immigration system our county is strong. We therefore:

- support comprehensive immigration reform, including an attainable path to citizenship;
- support the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (“DACA”), its expansion, and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (“DAPA”) programs and denounce the Republican efforts in *Texas v. United States*;
- support the passage of the DREAM Act;
- support the expansion of visa availability in order to expedite family reunification and lessen visa wait times;
- support the 14th Amendment provision of the U.S. Constitution which makes all persons born in this country citizens of this country;
- support expanding the Affordable Care Act to cover undocumented immigrants;
- call on Congress to clarify that the Childhood Status Protection Act allows pending visa applicants to retain their place for visas if they aged out;
- support providing equal housing opportunities to all immigrants and denounce all xenophobic or racist conduct that denies equal housing to immigrants;
- support the lawful and humane treatment of immigrants by all law enforcement and correction officers;
- support strict enforcement and appropriate punishment against those who exploit undocumented workers rather than targeting the workers themselves;
- support providing everyone, especially children, legal representation in front of immigration judges;
- support reducing the current backlogs in U.S. Immigration Court;
- support recognizing asylum claims or Temporary Protected Status for refugees fleeing forced gang recruitment and violence perpetrated by gangs;
- support law enforcement agencies disseminating information and assisting immigrants who are victims of crimes or human trafficking and may be eligible for U and T visas and including efforts to reduce turnaround time for certification requests;
- support increasing U Visa availability;
- support allowing all Texas residents to obtain a driver’s licenses regardless of immigration status;

- support counties and Sheriffs who end the voluntary cooperation with ICE and the Priority Enforcement Program;
- support efforts which prevent law enforcement from inquiring about immigration status for malicious purposes;
- support the current in-state tuition statute which allows undocumented students to obtain a higher education and denounce all repeal efforts;
- support the fair and just treatment of all people in immigration proceedings regardless of race, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other characteristics;
- while we support DPS working cooperatively with federal and local officials for added border security efforts, we oppose redirecting precious state resources for political purposes;
- denounce any type of bans based on religious affiliation or country of origin;
- denounce efforts to build a border wall of any size and the unrealistic claims a foreign country will pay for a border wall;
- denounce Section 287g programs of the Immigration and Nationality Act which allow memorandums of understanding between ICE and local law enforcement agencies to act as federal immigration officials;
- denounce the immigration detention facility bed mandate that creates perverse incentives to increase deportations for private profit;
- denounce and call for an end to all family detention centers;
- denounce efforts to grant child care licenses to family detention centers;
- denounce efforts to limit and interfere with established federal refugee programs;
- denounce all xenophobic, racist, vigilante, and bigoted efforts which scapegoat immigrants; and
- denounce efforts to enforce immigration laws prohibited by preemption.