



“Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929”

We believe that a successful legalization program for the undocumented population must be attainable, affordable, expedient, unifying, and equitable. With the *“Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929”*, there is an opportunity to help provide approximately 8 million immigrants with permanent legal status while also satisfying these core principles. To that end, updating the “Registry”, which would make green cards available to longtime residents, can help realize this goal.

WHAT IS THE “REGISTRY”?

[§ 249 \(8 U.S.C. § 1259\) of the Immigration and Nationality Act](#) provides that the Attorney General (DHS Secretary) has the discretion to grant lawful admission for permanent residence (a green card) to certain immigrants. Currently, the person must have: (a) entered the US prior to **January 1, 1972 (commonly known as the “registry date”**); (b) has been here continuously since then; (c) be of good moral character; and (d) not be ineligible for citizenship or deportable on national security or certain other grounds.

WHEN WAS IT LAST UPDATED?

The registry has been updated several times. Most significantly, the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) moved the cut-off date from June 30, 1948, to January 1, 1972. Thus, without an update the registry is now effectively obsolete.

HAS REGISTRY REFORM BEEN PROPOSED AFTER 1986?

Yes, as highlighted by the [Congressional Research Service](#), registry reform has been proposed in several immigration bills including by current Members of Congress. Most recently:

- March 2023: Reps. Lofgren (CA-18), Torres (CA-35), Meng (NY-6), Correa (CA-46), Espaillat (NY-13), and “Chuy” Garcia (IL-4) introduced [H.R.1511](#), the “Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929,” which would:
 - allow for an immigrant to qualify for lawful permanent resident status if they have been in the U.S. for at least seven years before filing an application; and
 - make the eligibility cutoff rolling, instead of tying it to a specific date, as it is now.
- July 2023: Senators Padilla (D- CA), Sanders (D-VT), Warren (D-MA), Booker (D-NJ), Luján (D-NM), and Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) introduced companion legislation, [S.2606](#).

WHO AND HOW MANY MIGHT BE IMPACTED?

With an updated registry, millions of [individuals “who have set down roots here, those who have lived and worked in service to our communities”](#) could be eligible for a green card. Rather than creating a patchwork of provisions and adding further complexity to existing immigration law, a single update to the registry would offer a form of universal relief to DREAMers, TPS-holders, and other long-time community members. The Migration Policy Institute [estimates](#) that **between 7-8 million** have lived in the U.S. for seven years or longer and could be eligible for relief if “Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929” becomes law.

For more on Registry, please contact Carl Bergquist at CBergquist@chirla.org