

# The Immigrant's Journal

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Vol.79

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## Let the Dreams Begin... Deferred Action for Dreamers — Application Filing Process Likely to Open Third Week in August

The Immigrant's Journal Legal & Educational Fund, Inc. (IJLEF) is gearing up to provide direct assistance to immigrant youth and their families August 15, 2012, when it expects the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to formally initiate the filing process for young immigrant students seeking Deferred Action for Dreamers (DAD).

On June 15, 2012, President Obama announced that effective immediately; young immigrants who entered the country without authorization before the age of 16 (and under 31 now), may qualify to receive immigration relief known as

deferred action. Deferred action for students stops a young person's deportation and qualifies him for a work permit renewable every two years.

IJLEF has been preparing for the eventuality that the announcement will soon be made. On August 15, IJLEF will open its doors at 9am and begin processing applications as per USCIS guidelines. Applicants and IJLEF members can expect to find trained professionals and peers who will guide them through the application, filing, and follow-up process. Before August 15, IJLEF will provide updates at monthly meetings, held the last Thursday and first Saturday,

church presentations, radio programs (Saturdays 10am-7pm on DiasporaRadio 620 AM & 6pm-7pm on WPAT 930AM), forums, classroom presentations, website ([www.ijlef.org](http://www.ijlef.org)), clergy breakfasts and other key educational partnerships.

IJLEF is a 501 (c)(3) approved federal non-profit community-based organization serving immigrants and their families since 1998. For more information please call 718-243-9431, send an email to [immjournal@aol.com](mailto:immjournal@aol.com) or visit [www.ijlef.org](http://www.ijlef.org).

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**Celebrating  
Immigrant Men  
& Women Keeping  
the American  
Dream Alive**

BY SETH HOY

Countless Americans celebrated America's 236th birthday on Wednesday, July 4, 2012, by joining friends and family for food and fireworks. Many just enjoyed the day, others recalled our Founding Fathers' declaration of independence, and others raised their right hands, swore an oath of allegiance, and became citizens of the United States of America. Across the country, men and women from every corner of the globe stood side by side and swore to "support and defend the Consti-

*continued on page 8*

## The Marriage Merge: Practical Tips ...see page 7

### Consumer Advisory: Don't Get Scammed

Recently, DHS announced that certain young people who entered the U.S. before age 16 will no longer be removed from the United States. Qualifying individuals will be granted "deferred action" and be eligible for a work permit.

You cannot apply for deferred action at this time. If you are currently in removal proceedings, you may be offered deferred action by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Otherwise,

**Deferred Action for DREAMers: Frequently Asked Questions ...see page 10**

you will have to wait until the government finalizes an application process.

If you believe you are eligible for deferred action but face imminent removal from the United States, contact the Immigrant's Journal Legal & Educational, Fund, Inc. now. They are offering FREE consultations in partnership with the Law Firm of Figeroux & Associates.

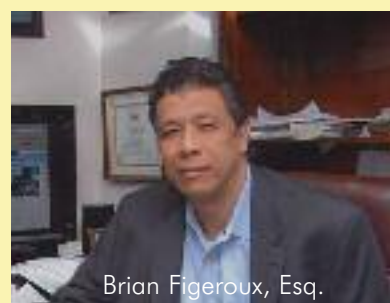
You should only trust information from a reliable source, such as an official government website or reputable legal or charitable organizations. Consult with a qualified immigration attorney before requesting deferred action.

Requests for deferred action will be

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# It's More Complicated than "Legal vs. Illegal"

BY PRERNA LAL,  
NEW AMERICA MEDIA

**E**ditor's Note: Is the term "illegal immigrant" a slur? Last year, New America Media asked the media serving U.S. immigrant communities what term they use to describe undocumented immigrants: How Do Ethnic Media Say 'Illegal Immigrant'? Now the question is sparking a debate in mainstream media.

Last week, Charles Garcia wrote a CNN opinion piece, "Why 'Illegal Immigrant' Is a Slur." Columnist Ruben Navarrette responded with a CNN opinion piece titled, "Illegal Immigrant' Is the Uncomfortable Truth."

In the following open letter to Ruben Navarrette, law school student and Dream Activist leader Prerna Lal, whose own immigration status is in limbo, argues that the term "illegal immigrant" doesn't accurately describe the fluidity of immigration status. The government allows people to move back and forth from one status to another, and live in a kind of legal limbo that is not reflected in the binary notion of "legal vs. illegal."

Dear, Mr. Movarrette, I enjoy your writing, probably more than most people. You hold President Obama accountable for his abhorrent immigration policies. You stick it to the Republicans for hating immigrants because their hate has to do with the color of our skin. And you generally make a lot of sense.

But you are wrong when you say that "illegal immigrant" is the correct lexicon to use for people without proper immigration status because the shoe fits. The uncomfortable truth is not that "illegal immigrant" fits, but that painting a wide range of complex immigration statuses with the broad brush of "illegal" is all too convenient, lazy and just plain wrong.

Honestly, I don't know anyone who enjoys breaking the law. Some people immigrate here legally because they have the privilege of doing so while many others have to use improper channels to come here so that they can provide safety and refuge for their loved ones, or pursue their dreams in the land of opportunity. Many people eventually adjust their status and become legal residents, disproving the notion that being without proper immigration status is a permanent immutable condition. On the other end of the spectrum, many people are here with legal status simply because they or their parents or grandparents were privileged enough to be born here. Still, immigration status is far more amorphous and complicated than simply labeling someone a "legal" or "illegal" immigrant.

Take, for example, my own immigration case. My parents gained legal residency through my U.S. citizen grandmother but I was aged-out of the process and put in removal proceedings. I have a

pending green card application and a pending cancellation of removal case in immigration court. While both applications are pending, I get to have work authorization, through which I have a driver's license, state identification and a host of other privileges. I'm also eligible for deferred action. It is, hence, legally incorrect to call me an illegal immigrant (or even an undocumented immigrant), though many have resorted to doing so while telling me to get out of their country. I'm in legal limbo but I'm certainly not in the country illegally at this point.

And indeed, it is hard to tell who is in the country with or without a proper immigration status unless you are a qualified immigration attorney or judge. I work at an immigration law firm. Last week, we had a family come in for consultation because they thought they qualified for deferred action. It turns out that they should have received their green cards in the mail a long time ago. As another example, someone who thought he was DREAM Act-eligible came in for a consult to determine his eligibility for the deferred action program. His dad had him naturalized when he was a minor and we had the pleasure of telling him that he was, in fact, a U.S. citizen. All too often, the government shifts people from one immigration status to another, blurring the line between who is in the country legally and who is here legally.

All this begs the question: If people are really bothered about the rule of law, should they not leave the labeling of people to the jurisprudence of immigration courts? After all, only an immigration judge can order the deportation of someone. The fact that people resort to marginalizing and castigating some immigrants as "illegal" only goes to show that they aren't interested in rule and order — they are interested in scapegoating difference.

There is a rich history of this scapegoating, harkening back to the Chinese Exclusion Act. The Chinese were deemed ineligible for citizenship. The Indians were told they were not white, and hence, not admissible. Americans of Mexican descent were deported during the Great Depression. Gays and lesbians were excluded from admission until 1990. There is little doubt that the latest fervor about illegal immigration has little to do with following the law and more to do with excluding Latinos such as Mr. Navarrette, or Asian-Pacific Islanders like myself.

But America is about due process. Our system of justice is based on the premise that people are innocent until they are proven guilty. And that is precisely how immigration courts operate. The Supreme Court affirmed in *Arizona v. U.S.* that being present in the country illegally was not a crime. In fact, the word "illegal" and even "illegal immigrant" does not encompass with specificity the many ways permission to enter



and remain in the United States may or may not be granted within the law. Neither "illegal" nor "illegal immigrant" are defined in the text of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

As such, I would like to take this opportunity to offer some legally permissible categories that are defined in the Immigration and Nationality Act, including:

**Overstay:** Someone who overstays her admission to the country. An overstay may or may not accrue unlawful presence, and may simply be out of status.

**Entry Without Inspection (EWI):** Someone who enters the country without inspection or proper admission. An EWI may still be eligible for admission without leaving the country.

**Immigrant:** A green-card holder whether through admission or adjustment of status.

**Non-immigrant:** Anyone who is in the U.S. temporarily with legal status but is not a green-card holder or U.S. citizen.

**Asylee:** Anyone granted asylum in the United States due to past persecution or well-founded fear of persecution in their home country.

And the list continues. By questioning the use of the i-word, I am not playing with words. I'm simply pointing out that by using these words, we are "playing with" people. Right-wing extremists and those in power have shaped our discourse, and in order to move past misguided perceptions, we need to reshape the dialogue on immigration and set some facts right. Any attempt to define millions of individuals using one term is going to be problematic. It would be more specific, and proper, to use the terms "overstay," "EWI," "out of status," and even "DREAMer" — a reference to the young people who would benefit if we enacted a federal DREAM Act — given the president's recent directive to halt the deportation of some

young people who were brought here not on their own volition. When we stop using the broad brush of illegal, and even undocumented, to define immigrants and non-immigrants, we open the door to actually seeing them as individuals with complex stories.

I know that may be dangerous for a status quo that is premised on dividing us based on arbitrary differences. It may even be uncomfortable because reporters and journalists would actually need to not only learn about immigration law but also learn about the lives of those whom they disparage willingly. But if you are committed to responsible and accurate journalism, and upholding the rule and integrity of law, it is not only legally correct, but the right thing to do.

Immigrants and non-immigrants who come to the United States are risk takers. They leave behind what they know, to travel hundreds and, sometimes, thousands of miles to come to another country. Sometimes they do it to escape war-rantless persecution in their home countries. Other times they do it because they are looking for a better future for their children. And in many cases, people come here with the best intentions to retain legal status, but through no mistake of their own, fall out of status. We need risk takers in our country. We want people who have made it through the worst conditions and who come here with drive and ambition, whether they do it through proper channels or improper channels. It's what makes America a great country. ●

Prerna Lal is a third year law student at The George Washington University Law School. She is a board director at Immigration Equality and works as a law clerk for a Washington, D.C. immigration firm, Benach Ragland LLP.

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The Immigrant's Journal Legal & Educational Fund, Inc. is an organization dedicated to the educational and economic empowerment of all immigrants and immigrant organizations here in the United States. We at the Journal recognize the enormous contribution of immigrants to this country economically, socially and politically. Since September 11, 2001, however, immigrants have increasingly been discriminated against and Congress has passed legislation curtailing the rights of immigrants here in the U.S., broadly claiming that immigrants are a threat to "National Security." We at the Journal believe that these charges are unfounded, unsubstantiated and exaggerated.

The Immigrant's Journal Volunteer Intern Program: was introduced to give our volunteers the opportunity to work in an immigrant friendly environment while developing the necessary skills for college or law school. They assist our staff in resolving immigration and other legal concerns through personal interviews, radio, email and telephone contact. They also assist the public with citizenship applications and in researching whether or not children of naturalized U.S. citizens have derived citizenship from their parents. Some of our volunteers assist our legal staff by engaging in legal research and writing letters on other legal issues. Volunteer interns are also assigned various other jobs in our Youth Programs.

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## U.S. Citizen Sues FBI for Labeling Him 'Deportable' Under S-Comm

A man in Chicago just became the first person to sue the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security for classifying him as "deportable" when they reviewed his fingerprints against federal databases under the Secure Communities program.

The problem is that the man in question, James Makowski, has been a U.S. citizen since he was a one year old, when he was adopted by Americans and naturalized. The fact that his information in the federal database had not been updated in all these years is another reason to question the use of this program. As we have seen, this program not only potentially criminalizes all Latinos and people from other non-majority ethnic groups, but also U.S. citizens. Makowski is not the first citizen to fall victim to Secure Communities (S-Comm), but he is the first one who filed a lawsuit.

The damage S-Comm has caused, however, goes way beyond a temporary mistake against a citizen. We have said it more than once: while the federal authorities claim that the program helps public safety by prioritizing the deportation of criminals, the program's negative balance grows with every analysis or serious observation of its results. The majority of those who have been deported until



now under S-Comm are not criminals convicted of serious crimes, and the program negatively affects the relationship between local law enforcement agencies and immigrant communities. Also, in some cases S-Comm has even been used as a simple program to identify undocumented immigrants, since some deportees were not stopped because they were suspected of a crime but just for paperwork verification during regular vehicle checkpoints. ●

## New Chicago Ordinance Inspired by Case of African Woman



Mayor Rahm Emanuel, on Tuesday, July 10, 2012, introduced the "Safe Families Ordinance" to prevent police from asking about the immigration status of those who have not committed a serious offense.

"The history of this city is written by immigrants and this ordinance is consistent with our values, our economy and personal interests," Emanuel said during a press conference in front of a school in the city's Mexican neighborhood, Little Village. Emanuel was joined by Congressman Luis Gutiérrez, (D-III).

The Illinois Coalition of Immigrant and Refugee Rights said the ordinance is the direct result of protests against the detention of an African immigrant

woman in February.

Rose Tchakounte, 54, a native of Cameroon who had a pending asylum claim, was detained for a minor traffic violation. When police discovered that she had a pending deportation order, they turned her over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Tchakounte was detained for two days and then released as a result of negotiations by the mayor, but her case inspired protests by immigrant rights groups who say the police had violated the spirit of a 2006 city ordinance and a 1985 executive order by the mayor that prohibit Chicago law enforcement agents from carrying out immigration duties. ●

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# Separated from a Detained or Deported Parent, Children Tell Stories of Anguish

BY FERNANDO MINOLA,  
NATIONAL IMMIGRATION FORUM

The simple phrase, "Deportation is bad," and a drawing of a sad little girl and her mother watching her father walk away is the view of deportation from the eyes of Milca, a 12-year-old girl whose own father was deported in 2007.

Between 1997 and 2007, more than 100,000 children in the U.S., most of whom are American citizens, were separated from a deported parent. On June 28, the Interfaith Immigration Coalition and the American Friends Service Committee presented a briefing, co-sponsored by Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Reps. Mike Honda (D-CA) and Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), at which children shared how being separated from a parent who had been detained or deported, affected their lives.

Four children spoke of a sense of incredible loss and lack of understanding of why their hard working, loving parents and guardians were treated like criminals and taken away from them. Bassidi watched his father being arrested

and taken away at 3 a.m., while Fortune took on the responsibility of caring for his younger brother as well as himself. Dozens of other children stood alongside the speakers, offering support.

The profound psychological and emotional impact on these children was clear: Parental detention and deportation leave long-lasting scars in their lives as well as in the lives of their parents.

For me, the gathering was a chance to see the other side of such separation. A few months ago I had the opportunity to visit a man detained at the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Ga. He was brought to the U.S. as a toddler, abandoned by his mother and raised by another family member.

For most of my one-hour visit, separated by a thick pane of glass, I listened through an old, crackling phone as he spoke with great love and affection about his wife and two young daughters (all U.S. citizens). He told me how he worries about his youngest daughter, who has a health condition.

With the small amount of money he earns from cleaning tables in the center,

he tries to buy a calling card each week so he can speak with his family. He told me how the ten minutes a week he has to speak with them are never long enough, and about the incredible sadness he feels when his daughters tell him how much they miss him and ask when he is coming home.

"My love for my family is what keeps me strong here," he said. "I just want to go home so I can tuck my daughters into bed, read them a story, and tell them how much I love them."

And then, a comment that still gives me chills: "My parents abandoned me when I was young, so I always told myself that when I have children, I will be a good father to them and always be there for them. Now I can't even do that."

This man wanted nothing more than to be with his family so he could provide them with love and support, but instead, he was stuck in a detention center a thousand miles away from them, wondering if and when he would ever see them again. I had only just met this man, but our hour together seemed much too short. I cannot even imagine the sadness

and pain children and spouses must feel when they spend, at most, only one hour a week with loved ones, unable even to embrace them through that thick pane of glass after being separated for so long.

For a nation that prides itself on the importance of family values, our immigration system is greatly lacking. The love, guidance and encouragement a parent or guardian provides, play a large role in the developing talents, skills and potential of a child. When children are separated from a parent or guardian, they lose a vital component of their support system, which can affect them for the rest of their lives.

Each day our broken immigration system goes unfixed, lives are shattered and families are torn apart. The children who suffer the effects of detention and deportation are part of the future of this country, and it is imperative for Congress to create a solution. Until they do, the lives of thousands of families — including children on whom our nation's future success depends — are hanging in the balance.

Minola Fernando is a communications intern at the National Immigration Forum. ●

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# August Visa Bulletin

1. This bulletin summarizes the availability of immigrant numbers during August. Consular officers are required to report to the Department of State documentarily qualified applicants for numerically limited visas; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Department of Homeland Security reports applicants for adjustment of status. Allocations were made, to the extent possible, in chronological order of reported priority dates, for demand received by July 9th. If not all demand could be satisfied, the category or foreign state in which demand was excessive was deemed oversubscribed. The cut-off date for an oversubscribed category is the priority date of the first applicant who could not be reached within the numerical limits. Only applicants who have a priority date earlier than the cut-off date may be allotted a number. If it becomes necessary during the monthly allocation process to retrogress a cut-off date, supplemental requests for numbers will be honored only if the priority date falls within the new cut-off date announced in this bulletin.

2. Section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) sets an annual minimum family-sponsored preference limit of 226,000. The worldwide level for annual employment-based preference immigrants is at least 140,000. Section 202 prescribes that the per-country limit for preference immigrants is set at 7% of the total annual family-sponsored and employment-based preference limits, i.e., 25,620. The dependent area limit is set at 2%, or 7,320.

3. INA Section 203(e) provides that family-sponsored and employment-based preference visas be issued to eligible immigrants in the order in which a petition in behalf of each has been filed. Section 203(d) provides that spouses and children of preference immigrants are entitled to the same status, and the same order of consideration, if accompanying or following to join the principal. The visa prorating provisions of Section 202(e) apply to allocations for a foreign state or dependent area when visa demand exceeds the per-country limit.

These provisions apply at present to the following oversubscribed chargeability areas: CHINA-mainland born, INDIA, MEXICO, and PHILIPPINES.

4. Section 203(a) of the INA prescribes preference classes for allotment of Family-sponsored immigrant visas as follows:

### FAMILY-SPONSORED PREFERENCES

**First:** (F1) Unmarried Sons and Daughters of U.S. Citizens: 23,400 plus any numbers not required for fourth preference.

**Second:** Spouses and Children, and Unmarried Sons and Daughters of Permanent Residents: 114,200, plus the number (if any) by which the worldwide family preference level exceeds 226,000, plus any unused first preference numbers:

A. (F2A) Spouses and Children of Permanent Residents: 77% of the overall second preference limitation, of which 75% are exempt from the per-country limit;

B. (F2B) Unmarried Sons and Daughters (21 years of age or older) of Permanent Residents: 23% of the overall second preference limitation.

**Third:** (F3) Married Sons and Daughters of U.S. Citizens: 23,400, plus any numbers not required by first and second preferences.

**Fourth:** (F4) Brothers and Sisters of Adult U.S. Citizens: 65,000, plus any numbers not required by first three preferences.

On the chart below, the listing of a date for any class indicates that the class is oversubscribed (see paragraph 1); "C" means current, i.e., numbers are available for all qualified applicants; and "U" means unavailable, i.e., no numbers are available. (NOTE: Numbers are available only for applicants whose priority date is earlier than the cut-off date listed below.) ●

Family-Sponsored	All Charge-ability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA- mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
F1	01AUG05	01AUG05	01AUG05	08JUN93	01MAR94
F2A	15MAR10	15MAR10	15MAR10	01MAR10	15MAR10
F2B	22JUN04	22JUN04	22JUN04	22AUG92	01JAN02
F3	01MAY02	01MAY02	01MAY02	22JAN93	22JUL92
F4	15FEB01	08JAN01	15FEB01	15JUN96	01FEB89

Source: U.S. Dept. of State

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# The Marriage Merge: Practical Tips for Combining Your Lives

Your wedding is sure to be the happiest day of your life, but marriage stretches well beyond those 24 hours. Merging your lives as husband and wife starts even before you say your "I do's" and will require some effort and patience — which will be good practice for your future life together.

The technical side of getting married can be a little confusing, so seeking advice from friends and family is a good idea. However, there will be some questions that might need professional advice, so don't be afraid to consult the pros when necessary. As you start your journey through life together, keep these key tasks in mind to make sure you're well prepared.

■ **Discuss Your Finances.** Having an open and honest discussion with your fiancé about finances is very important, and it should include the bad with the good. Because you're getting married, you'll be with each other through thick and thin, so having a forthright conversation about money ahead of time is a good idea. If you have debt, discuss how much and how you'll pay it off, but you'll also need to talk about things like creating joint accounts, as well as how and

whether you want to divide or share money. Understanding your credit portfolio and status as well as protecting against identity theft should also be part of the discussion — and credit monitoring products enable married couples to see alerts for each spouse's accounts when changes occur to their credit files, helping to keep track of potential impacts to their credit histories while detecting potential identity fraud.

■ **Prep for Taxes.** Married couples can file taxes jointly or separately, and you'll need to consider which approach is the best option for you. Seek the advice of a tax preparer or financial adviser who can help you understand the advantages and disadvantages and the adjustments you'll need to make for your W-2 form. Keep in mind that if you get married before December 31 of the year for which you're filing taxes, you qualify as having been married for the entire year.

■ **Talk about Bills.** As much as you can count on taxes, you can also count on bills. Whether they're monthly, quarterly or annually issued, you need to figure out who will take care of which bills and where the money will come from. Setting up autopay can lessen the bill-

paying chore list. You should also make sure that both spouses' names are on the appropriate accounts. Even if you use autopay, it's important to check in on your accounts to make sure that nothing is going wrong.

■ **Make Decisions about Moving.** If you're living separately prior to getting married, you'll need to decide which home you'll live in. For some couples, this might mean selling a house, while for others it might mean leaving rentals behind and looking for a home to buy. When you're discussing homes and moving, talk about how your feelings regarding moving away from your current home city, in case you're ever offered a job transfer opportunity.

■ **Get Insurance in Order.** Meet with your insurance agen(s) to go over your current plans and add your spouse to them. There may be advantages to using one insurer for all of your policies, so if you are currently with different insurers,



speaking to each other to see where you'll get the best deal. You should also explore your options for health care — one spouse's employer might offer a better plan than the other.

Taking care of these practical financial tasks might seem less than exciting compared to the thrill of your wedding day, but getting them done right is important. Since finances are a notorious source of stress, having a clear understanding with your spouse will ensure that you have a good foundation for your marriage. ●(ARA)

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## Celebrating Immigrant Men and Women Keeping the American Dream Alive

continued from page 1

tution and laws of the United States of America," and reminding each and every one of us of the power and promise of the American Dream.

At the White House, President Barack Obama joined dozens of inspiring immigrant men and women currently serving in the U.S. military as they became citizens of a country they've already staked their lives to protect. Here are just a few of those brave men and women:

Terence Njikang Ekabe, born in Cameroon, enlisted in the Air Force in June 2011 as a 4N0/med technician. Airman Ekabe also helped raise money for veterans' families, airmen in need, and the Air Force Assistance Fund. His charitable giving extends beyond the United States to his home country where he raised \$3,000 worth of toys, clothing, and others items for the village children of Cameroon during Christmas.

Silvano Carcamo, born in Honduras, moved to Springfield, OH, in 1996. Specialist Carcamo enlisted in the Army in October 2009 and became a medic. His first duty station was Bravo Troop, 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division where he served as a line medic. During his deployment from March 2011 to March 2012, he earned several awards, among them an Army

Achievement Medal, Combat Medic Badge, and a Navy Achievement Medal.

Faye Ubad Ngirchomlei, born in Palau, enlisted in the Army in 2008. In April 2009, Nigirchomlei was assigned to 511th Military Police Company at Fort Drum, NY, as Automated Logistic Specialist. She was deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, where she was responsible for ensuring the maintenance section supported outlying platoons, with supplies and other support services.

Throughout U.S. history, immigrants have voluntarily served in all branches of the U.S. military. At last count, foreign-born service members accounted for approximately 8% of the 1.4 million military personnel on active duty. Experts acknowledge that without the contributions of immigrants, the military could not meet its recruiting goals and could not fill the need for foreign-language translators, interpreters, and cultural experts.

As we celebrated the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, let us also remember



those who have struggled to secure that freedom, and the many immigrants who have and continue to fight to keep the American Dream alive.

As President Barack Obama remarked during the ceremony:

*"Immigration makes America stronger. Immigration makes us more prosperous. And immigration positions America to lead in the 21st century."* ●

### ...Don't Get Scammed

continued from page 1

reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and not every young immigrant will qualify. Individuals who are found to be ineligible due to criminal history or because they represent a danger to the community may be subject to removal or other immigration enforcement action. DHS considers many misdemeanor offenses to be "significant misdemeanors," including those for which the individual received no jail time. If you have ever been arrested by the police, talk to a qualified immigration attorney before applying for deferred action.

Don't get scammed! The government will inform the public how to apply, within 60 days or by August 13, 2012. Until then, you CANNOT apply for deferred action. You should NOT "turn yourself in" to start the process. However, you CAN begin gathering the documents that you will need to apply for deferred action:

1. Documents, such as a birth certificate or passport, showing age on June 15, 2012;
2. Financial records, medical records, school records, employment records, and military records that demonstrate an individual came to the U.S. before the age of 16, AND resided in the U.S. for at least five years preceding June 15, 2012 AND was physically present in the U.S. as of June 15, 2012;
3. School records, including diplomas, GED certificates, report cards, school transcripts and other evidence of enrollment, or documentation as an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces or Coast Guard. ●



President Barack Obama with community leaders: left, Gerry Hopkins and far right, Brian Figerox, at an exclusive meeting where the Mighty Sparrow (second left) presented a CD with a song "Barack the Magnificent" written especially for the President.

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# The Battle Against Secure Communities

In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision in *Arizona v. United States*, dozens of localities across the country are standing up against damaging immigration programs that connect local authorities with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Specifically, an increasing number of cities and states are pushing back against the Secure Communities program, and promoting programs that restore trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities.

In New York, where the Secure Communities program took effect on May 15th, immigrant leaders, advocates, and elected officials joined together to denounce its damaging effects. Together, they pledged to continue to work to end the program, and to send a message to elected officials across the country in November about the community's opposition to immigration policies that hurt our families.

State Senator Gustavo Rivera said, "When Governor Cuomo suspended 'Secure Communities' in New York, police and local leaders hoped that our communities' safety could begin to be restored. If individuals are afraid to approach law enforcement, our communities become less safe and we all suffer. This dangerous program once again threatens to violate the rights of all immigrants and threatens the ability of law enforcement to keep us safe. 'Secure Communities' has no place in New York State and should be seen as a threat to the safety of all New Yorkers."

"The federal Secure Communities policy represents a threat to human rights and public safety," said City Council Member

Melissa Mark-Viverito. "Every locality needs to stand up against this policy, which encourages the deportation of immigrants who may have committed only minor offenses, or who may have been illegally stopped and frisked. This policy will turn our local police stations into federal detention centers and will instill fear of local law enforcement in immigrant communities. While police are kept busy chasing phantom threats, serious crime may go unreported."

Cesar Palomeque, leader of Make the Road New York and a registered voter said, "Governor Cuomo did the right thing when he suspended SCOMM last year, and we continue to think that this program should not be in operation in New York State. This program can lead to racial profiling from our communities. After the Supreme Court's decision it is even more important for immigrant voters like me to go to the polls in November to show our opposition, and to vote for policies that restore the trust between immigrants and local authorities."

"California's TRUST Act shows what communities can achieve when we work together," said Héctor Figueroa, secretary-treasurer of 32BJ SEIU. Here in New York, we will continue to demand the end of Secure Communities, a misconceived, costly and defective program that simply doesn't work for most states and cities. But we also know that voters need to send a message about these policies. Voters need to turn out in the federal elections in November — to push back on the national GOP, a party that has been taken hostage by extremists who promote racial profiling practices that law

enforcement authorities say should have no place in our legal system.

"Given the sheer number of arrests in the Bronx and the immigrant makeup of the community, our clients and their families are especially hard-hit by Secure Communities. Until the program is suspended, The Bronx Defenders remains committed to fiercely fighting for all of our clients' rights, including their ability to remain in the country with their families," said Robin Steinberg, Executive Director of The Bronx Defenders.

"Secure Communities damages the trust that my community has in law enforcement, and threatens families across New York City. I pray that together we might find a solution that ends this program and respects the dignity that each person has," said Rev. Ramon Almonte of the Central Baptist Church and Make the Road New York.

"The mass deportation program known as 'Secure Communities' prevents our country from living up to its values of fairness and second chances by funneling immigrants into a deportation system we all know to be fundamentally unjust," said Michelle Fei, Executive Director of the Immigrant Defense Project. "Obama must terminate this program immediately."

"Pending further challenges, the Supreme Court has, for the time being, let stand the Arizona provision that basically institutionalizes the practice of racial and ethnic profiling. And the Department of Homeland Security's S-Comm enforcement program further facilitates such profiling," said Jacki Esposito, director of Immigration Advocacy at the New York Immigration

Coalition. "It's time for DHS to end this program, which undermines police-community relations, instills fear in immigrant communities, and compromises public safety. And in the meantime, we're looking to our local and state officials — who here in New York have opposed S-Comm — to develop policies and practices that limit its harmful impact."

"S-Comm is a deeply flawed program that undermines the values that are the well-spring of America's greatness," said Diane Steinman, director of the NYS Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform. "S-Comm violates the moral obligation to treat the immigrant as we would those born among us. It shatters the lives of immigrants and families through deportations that do not increase public safety and security. It results in racially discriminatory policing. And the fear of law enforcement it causes in immigrant communities makes all of us less safe rather than more. There is only one solution: The Obama Administration must put an end to S-Comm."

"Faith leaders and congregations in NYC are totally opposed to S-Comm which has proven to tear apart our families. Our scriptures urge us to love, trust and take care of each other and this program destroys these values. It is morally and spiritually wrong and we ask for its termination so that our communities can feel safe once again," said Father Fabian Arias chair of the New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC. ●

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- ▶ U.S. Citizenship

- ▶ Family-sponsored Permanent Residence
- ▶ Green Cards/Labor Certification (RIR)
- ▶ Immigration Visa Petitions: Employment Based
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# Deferred Action for DREAMers: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**W**hat is deferred action? Deferred action is a discretionary determination to defer removal action of an individual as an act of prosecutorial discretion. Deferred action does not confer lawful status upon an individual. In addition, although an alien granted deferred action will not be considered to be accruing unlawful presence in the United States during the period deferred action is in effect, deferred action does not absolve individuals of any previous or subsequent periods of unlawful presence. Under existing regulations, an individual who has been granted deferred action is eligible to receive employment authorization for the period of deferred action, provided he or she can demonstrate “an economic necessity for employment.” Deferred action can be terminated at any time at the agency’s discretion or renewed by the agency.

**Who is eligible to receive Deferred Action under the Department’s New Directive?** Pursuant to the Secretary’s June 15, 2012 memorandum, in order to be eligible for deferred action, individuals must:

1. Have come to the United States under the age of sixteen;
2. Have continuously resided in the United States for at least five years preceding the date of this memorandum and are present in the United States on the date of this memorandum;
3. Currently be in school, have graduated from high school, have obtained a general education development certificate, or are honorably discharged veterans of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States;
4. Have not been convicted of a felony offense, a significant misdemeanor offense, multiple misdemeanor offenses, or otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety;
5. Not be above the age of thirty. Individuals must also complete a background check and, for those individuals who make a request to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and are not subject to a final order of removal, must be 15 years old or older.

**How will the new directive be implemented?** Individuals who are not in removal proceedings or who are subject to a final order of removal will need to submit a request for a review of their case and supporting evidence to USCIS. Individuals may request deferred action if they meet the eligibility criteria. In the coming weeks, USCIS will outline and announce the procedures by which individuals can engage in this process. This process is not yet in effect and requests should not be submitted at this time.

For individuals who are in removal proceedings before the Executive Office for Immigration Review, ICE will, in the coming weeks, announce the process by which qualified individuals may request a review of their case. For individuals who are in removal proceedings and have already been identified as meeting the eligibility criteria as part of ICE’s case-by-case review, ICE will immediately begin to

offer deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal.

**Are individuals who receive deferred action pursuant to the new directive eligible for employment authorization?** Yes. Pursuant to existing regulations, individuals who receive deferred action may apply for and may obtain employment authorization from USCIS provided they can demonstrate an economic necessity for their employment.

**Does the process result in permanent lawful status for beneficiaries?** No. The grant of deferred action under this new directive does not provide an individual with permanent lawful status or a pathway to obtaining permanent lawful status. Only Congress, acting through its legislative authority, can confer the right to permanent lawful status.

**Why will deferred actions only be granted for two years?** Grants of deferred action will be issued in increments of two years. At the expiration of the two year period, the grant of deferred action can be renewed, pending a review of the individual case.

**If an individual’s period of deferred action is extended, will individuals need to re-apply for an extension of their employment authorization?** Yes. If an individual applies for and receives an extension of the period for which he or she was granted deferred action, he or she must also request an extension of his or her employment authorization.

**Does this policy apply to those who are subject to a final order of removal?** Yes. An individual subject to a final order of removal who can demonstrate that he or she meets the eligibility criteria can request a review of his or her case and receive deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal. All cases will be considered on an individualized basis. This process is not yet in effect and requests should not be submitted at this time. In the coming weeks, USCIS will outline and announce the procedures by which individuals can engage in this process.

**If an individual who is about to be removed by ICE believes he or she satisfies the eligibility criteria for the new process, what steps should he or she take to ensure his or her case is reviewed before removal?** Individuals who believe they can demonstrate that they satisfy the eligibility criteria and are about to be removed should immediately contact either the Law Enforcement Support Center’s hotline at 1-855-448-6903 (staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week) or the ICE Office of the Public Advocate through the Office’s hotline at 1-888-351-4024 (staffed 9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday) or by e-mail at [EROPublicAdvocate@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:EROPublicAdvocate@ice.dhs.gov).

**If an individual who satisfies the eligibility criteria is encountered by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) or ICE,**

**will he or she be placed into removal proceedings?** This policy is intended to allow ICE and CBP to focus on priority cases. Pursuant to the direction of the Secretary of Homeland Security, for individuals who satisfy the eligibility criteria, CBP or ICE should exercise their discretion to prevent them from being apprehended, placed into removal proceedings, or removed. If individuals, including individuals in detention, believe they were placed into removal proceedings in violation of this policy, they should contact either the Law Enforcement Support Center’s hotline at 1-855-448-6903 (staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week) or the ICE Office of the Public Advocate through the Office’s hotline at 1-888-351-4024 (staffed 9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday) or by email at [EROPublicAdvocate@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:EROPublicAdvocate@ice.dhs.gov).

**If an individual accepted an offer of administrative closure under the case-by-case review process or if his or her case was terminated as part of the case-by-case review process, can he or she receive deferred action under the new process?** Yes. Individuals who can demonstrate that they meet the eligibility criteria will be eligible for deferred action even if they had accepted an offer of administrative closure or termination under the case-by-case review process. For individuals who are in removal proceedings and have already been identified as meeting the eligibility criteria as part of ICE’s case-by-case review, ICE will immediately begin to offer deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal.

**If an individual declined an offer of administrative closure under the case-by-case review process, can he or she receive deferred action under the new process?** Yes. Individuals who can demonstrate that they meet the eligibility criteria will be eligible for deferred action even if they declined an offer of administrative closure under the case-by-case review process.

**If an individual’s case was reviewed as part of the case-by-case review process but he or she was not offered administrative closure, can he or she receive deferred action under the new process?** Yes. Individuals who can demonstrate that they meet the eligibility criteria will be eligible for deferred action even if they were not offered administrative closure following review of their case as part of the case-by-case review process.

**Will DHS personnel responsible for reviewing requests for an exercise of prosecutorial discretion under this process receive special training?** Yes. ICE and USCIS personnel responsible for considering requests for an exercise of prosecutorial discretion under the Secretary’s directive will receive special training.

**Will individuals be subject to background checks before they can receive an exercise of prosecutorial discretion?**

Yes. All individuals will undergo biographic and biometric background checks prior to receiving an exercise of prosecutorial discretion. Individuals who have been convicted of any felony, a significant misdemeanor offense, three or more misdemeanors not occurring on the same date and not arising out of the same act, omission, or scheme of misconduct, or otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety are not eligible to be considered for deferred action under the new process.

**What do background checks involve?** Background checks involve checking biographic and biometric information provided by the individuals against a variety of databases maintained by DHS and other federal government agencies.

**What documentation will be sufficient to demonstrate that an individual came to the United States before the age of 16?** Documentation sufficient for an individual to demonstrate that he or she came to the United States before the age of 16 includes, but is not limited to: financial records, medical records, school records, employment records, and military records.

**What documentation will be sufficient to demonstrate that an individual has resided in the United States for a least five years preceding June 15, 2012?** Documentation sufficient for an individual to demonstrate that he or she has resided in the United States for at five years immediately preceding June 15, 2012 includes, but is not limited to: financial records, medical records, school records, employment records, and military records.

**What documentation will be sufficient to demonstrate that an individual was physically present in the United States as of June 15, 2012?** Documentation includes, but is not limited to: financial records, medical records, school records, employment records, and military records.

**What documentation will be sufficient to demonstrate that an individual is currently in school, has graduated from high school, or has obtained a general education development certificate (GED)?** Documentation sufficient for an individual to demonstrate that he or she is currently in school, has graduated from high school, or has obtained a GED certificate includes, but is not limited to: diplomas, GED certificates, report cards, and school transcripts.

**What steps will USCIS and ICE take to prevent fraud in the new processes?** An individual who knowingly makes a misrepresentation to USCIS or ICE, or knowingly fails to disclose facts to USCIS or ICE, in an effort to receive deferred action or work authorization in this new process will be treated as an immigration enforcement priority to the fullest extent permitted by law, subjecting the individual to criminal prosecution and/or removal from the United States.

**Are individuals with a conviction for a felony offense, a significant misdemeanor offense, or multiple misdemeanors eligible for an exercise of prosecutorial discretion under this new**

*continued on the next page*



## Deferred Action for DREAMers: FAQs

*continued from the previous page*

**process?** No. Individuals who have been convicted of a felony offense, a significant misdemeanor offense, or three or more other misdemeanor offenses not occurring on the same date and not arising out of the same act, omission, or scheme of misconduct, are not eligible to be considered for deferred action under the new process.

**What offenses qualify as a felony?** A felony is a federal, state, or local criminal offense punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

**What offenses qualify as a "significant misdemeanor"?** A significant misdemeanor is a federal, state, or local criminal offense punishable by no more than one year of imprisonment or even no imprisonment that involves: violence, threats, or assault, including domestic violence; sexual abuse or exploitation; burglary, larceny, or fraud; driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; obstruction of justice or bribery; unlawful flight from arrest, prosecution, or the scene of an accident; unlawful possession or use of a firearm; drug distribution or trafficking; or unlawful possession of drugs.

**How many non-significant misdemeanors constitute "multiple misdemeanors" making an individual ineligible for an exercise of prosecutorial discretion under this new process?** An indi-

vidual who is not convicted of a significant misdemeanor but is convicted of three or more other misdemeanors not occurring on the same day and not arising out of the same act, omission, or scheme of misconduct, is not eligible to be considered for deferred action under this new process.

**How will ICE and USCIS handle cases involving individuals who do not satisfy the eligibility criteria under this new process but may be eligible for an exercise of prosecutorial discretion under the June 2011 Prosecutorial Discretion Memoranda?** If an individual has a final order of removal and USCIS determines that he or she does not satisfy the eligibility criteria, then it will reject the individual's request for deferred action. That individual may then request an exercise of prosecutorial discretion under the ICE June 2011 Prosecutorial Discretion Memoranda through any of the established channels at ICE, including through a request to the ICE Office of the Public Advocate or to the local Field Office Director. USCIS will not consider requests for review under the ICE June 2011 Prosecutorial Discretion Memoranda.

If an individual is currently in removal proceedings and ICE determines that he or she does not satisfy the eligibility criteria for deferred action under this process, it will then consider whether the individual is otherwise eligible for an exercise of prosecutorial discretion under its current practices for assessing eligibility under the June 2011 Prosecutorial Discretion Memoranda.

**Can individuals appeal a denial by ICE or USCIS of their request for an exercise of prosecutorial discretion under the new process?** No. Individuals may not appeal a denial by ICE or USCIS of their request for an exercise of prosecutorial discretion. However, ICE and USCIS will develop protocols for supervisory review as part of their implementation of the new process. Although there is no right for appeal, individuals in removal proceedings who believe their cases were not correctly handled, may contact the ICE Office of the Public Advocate either by phone at 1-888-351-4024 or by e-mail at [EROPublicAdvocate@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:EROPublicAdvocate@ice.dhs.gov).

**If an individual's request to USCIS for deferred action is denied, will he or she be placed in removal proceedings?** For individuals whose requests for deferred action are denied by USCIS, USCIS will apply its existing Notice to Appear guidance governing USCIS's referral of cases to ICE and issuance of notices to appear. Under this guidance, individuals whose requests are denied under this process will be referred to ICE if they have a criminal conviction or if there is a finding of fraud in their request.

**Should individuals who are not in removal proceedings but believe themselves to be eligible for an exercise of deferred action under this process seek to place themselves into removal proceedings through encounters with ICE or CBP?** No. Individuals who are not in removal proceedings but believe that they satisfy the eligibility criteria should submit

their request for review of their case to USCIS under the procedures that USCIS will implement.

**Does deferred action provide individuals with a path to citizenship or permanent legal status?** No. A grant of deferred action is a form of prosecutorial discretion that does not confer a path to citizenship or lawful permanent resident status. Only Congress, acting through its legislative authority, can confer these rights.

**Does this Administration remain committed to comprehensive immigration reform?** Yes. The Administration has consistently pressed for passage of comprehensive immigration reform, including the DREAM Act, because the President believes these steps are critical to building a 21st-century immigration system that meets our nation's economic and security needs.

**Is passage of the DREAM Act still necessary in light of the new process?** Yes. As the President has stated, individuals who would qualify for the DREAM Act deserve certainty about their status, and this new process does not provide that certainty. Only Congress, acting through its legislative authority, can confer the certainty that comes with a pathway to permanent lawful status.

**How can I get more information on the new process?** Visit [www.cawnyc.com](http://www.cawnyc.com) OR [www.ijlef.org](http://www.ijlef.org) OR [www.figerox.com](http://www.figerox.com) ●

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# Jon Secada Shares Family's Message: Don't Stay Silent with a Silent Disease

In the United States, chronic hepatitis C is the most common blood-borne viral disease. In spite of this, many people may not be aware that they have it; an estimated 70 to 80 percent of people newly infected with chronic hep C do not have symptoms. Of the approximately 3.2 million Americans living with the disease, an estimated 1 million are Hispanic.

Three-time Grammy winner Jon Secada knows the importance of taking action when it comes to health. In 2011, the popular Cuban-American artist and songwriter lost his father due to complications associated with a chronic hep C infection that went untreated. Like other Hispanic-Americans, Jon's family had always been close, but they didn't speak openly about their personal health, something Secada would now change if he could. "Chronic hepatitis C is often called a silent disease because, like my father, people can live with the virus for years without showing any symptoms," says Secada.

"I don't know how my father contracted chronic hepatitis C, and I'm not sure if he knew either," Secada says. "The truth is, it doesn't matter. If I had really understood how serious chronic hep C could be, I would have urged him to talk to his doctor and to seek help. That's why

*I'm now encouraging others to learn more about the disease; nobody should feel alone if they think they may have the disease."*

When Secada's father was diagnosed many years ago, there was little information about chronic hep C, and options were limited. Today, Secada is aiming to change that. He is now part of the bilingual educational campaign, Tune In to Hep C, - Hepatitis C-Toca El Tema in Spanish - which was founded by Merck in collaboration with the American Liver Foundation. Through English - and Spanish-language websites, the campaign provides information about the disease and what to consider if you or someone you love has been diagnosed. The websites also feature bilingual interactive patient resource guides for those who know they have the disease or suspect they might.

Secada joins fellow Grammy winners Gregg Allman and Natalie Cole on the Tune In to Hep C campaign in hopes that sharing his family's personal experience will motivate other Hispanic-Americans with chronic hep C to take action by seeking out information and speaking to their doctors about their options.

Secada is also using his passion for music to honor his late father and to tell



others about his family's experience. In March 2012, he wrote an official song for the Tune In to Hep C campaign. The song, released in both English and Spanish is called, "Your Voice Inside," or "Tu Voz Te Dirá." In the song, Jon's message is clear: Don't wait to take action and talk to your doctor. Doing nothing is not an option.

*"Before my father died, I talked with him about joining this public awareness campaign, and he wanted me to share our family's story to help others. I want others to understand that you can't be silent with a silent disease. You have to power*

*to do something about it,"* says Secada.

For more information about chronic hep C and the Tune In to Hep C campaign, visit [www.TuneIntoHepC.com](http://www.TuneIntoHepC.com). Resources in the Spanish-language can also be accessed through the website.

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# Our Economy Depends on a New Immigration Consensus

BY JEB BUSH JR.

For the sake of our economy here in Florida and nationwide, we must forge a new consensus on immigrants and America.

This will require Republicans and Democrats alike to stop the grandstanding and gather around a table to develop rational immigration policy that serves the interests of every American and their families.

In that spirit, I am proud to be part of the National Immigration Forum, which recently co-hosted the "Southeast Summit: Forging a New Consensus on Immigrants and America" in Atlanta.

There and in the days since, business, law enforcement, faith and political leaders from across the Southeast have exchanged ideas and are seeking this common ground.

The summit comes not a moment too soon. The failure of the federal government to take the lead, mixed with a heaping helping of heated immigration rhetoric, has led states to enact their own laws that target immigrants.

We need look no farther than Alabama and Georgia to see the costs. Farmers cut back on planting after crops rotted in their fields last year. According to a University of Georgia study, that state's immigration law already has cost the state nearly \$391 million.



Both states considered using prison labor to fill the gap on the farm when immigrants, many of them legal, fled cultures of fear and threats of family separation.

A similar law would cause problems well beyond agriculture in Florida.

Imagine a Sunshine State handicapped by a sudden drop in tourism and investment revenue because we pulled the welcome mat out from under visitors to our state.

The loss in direct spending, tax revenues, economic output and earnings would cost us hundreds of millions of dollars.

If that sounds far-fetched, remember that Florida almost did follow that path, just a year ago. (Senate Bill 2040 and House Bill 7098 would have empowered police to corroborate the immigration status of arrestees, and compelled employers to verify job seekers immigration status through E-verify.) Fortunately, state legislators recognized the precipice on which they stood,

and anti-immigrant bills did not become law.

The Supreme Court weighed on state laws such as these. The court's ruling on Arizona's immigration law dims the future of similar laws in other states. That's good news. Such laws do not move our country forward into the highly competitive global economy of the 21st century.

Our diverse state is far better off for having recognized that. Immigrants are vital to our economy — they make up about a quarter of our state's workforce and pay billions in Florida taxes. They open new businesses, pick our crops and help welcome the legions of visitors who come from elsewhere to soak up everything we have to offer.

Now it is time for our national political leaders to follow suit. They must set aside political stalemates and accept their responsibility to move forward with responsible

reform — reform that ensures our security and respects the rule of law, but also acknowledges the importance of immigrants to our economy and our communities.

Representing a broad political spectrum, the diverse participants in the Southeast Summit have delivered this message loud and clear.

We will continue to reinforce to our state representatives that overreaching immigration laws hurt state economies and communities, and that hard-working immigrants — our neighbors — provide essential labor, open new businesses, and strengthen the economy in Florida and throughout the Southeast.

From its founding, the United States has been a welcoming land of opportunity. We should honor that by coming together in a new regional and national consensus on the value of immigrants and immigration to America — after all, this is the American secret sauce.

Immigration reform that meets our economic needs, keeps families together and upholds the rule of law is not only possible; it is essential. ●

Jeb Bush Jr. is the chief operating officer at Jeb Bush & Associates and sits on the board of the National Immigration Forum. This Op-Ed was originally printed in the Orlando Sentinel.

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# Frederick Douglass: I Would Unite with Anybody to Do Right and with Nobody to Do Wrong

Frederick Douglass (born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, c. February 1818– February 20, 1895) was an American social reformer, orator, writer and statesman. After escaping from slavery, he became a leader of the abolitionist movement, gaining note for his dazzling orator and incisive antislavery writing. He stood as a living counter-example to slaveholders' arguments that slaves did not have the intellectual capacity to function as independent American citizens. Many Northerners also found it hard to believe that such a great orator had been a slave.

Douglass wrote several autobiographies, eloquently describing his experiences in slavery in his 1845 autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, which became influential in its support for abolition. He wrote two more autobiographies, with his last, *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*, published in 1881 and covering events through and after the Civil War. After the Civil War, Douglass remained active in the United States' struggle to reach its potential as a "land of the free." He actively supported women's suffrage.

Without his approval he became the first African American nominated for vice president of the United States as the running mate of Victoria Woodhull on the impracticable and small Equal Rights Party ticket. Douglass held multiple public offices.

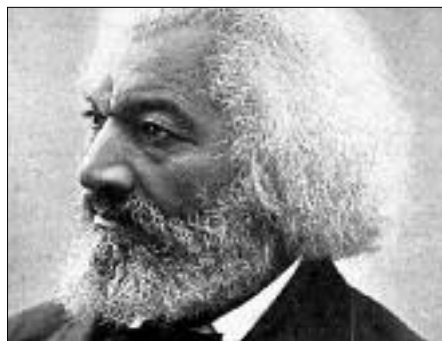
## Legacy and honors

In 1921, members of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity (the first African-American intercollegiate fraternity) designated Frederick Douglass as an honorary member. And so, Douglass is the only man to receive an honorary membership posthumously.

The Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge, sometimes referred to as the South Capitol Street Bridge, just south of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC, was built in 1950 and named in his honor.

In 1962, his home in Anacostia (Washington, DC) became part of the National Park System, and in 1988 was designated the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site.

In 1965, the U.S. Postal Service honored Douglass with a stamp in the Prominent Americans series.



In 1999, Yale University established the Frederick Douglass Book Prize for works in the history of slavery and abolition, in his honor. The annual \$25,000 prize is administered by the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History and the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale.

In 2002, scholar Molefi Kete Asante named Douglass to his list of 100 Greatest African Americans.

In 2003, Douglass Place, the rental housing units that Douglass built in Baltimore in 1892 for blacks, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Douglass is honored with a feast day

on the liturgical calendar of the Episcopal Church (USA) on February 20.

In 2007, the former Troup–Howell bridge which carried Interstate 490 over the Genesee River was redesigned and renamed the Frederick Douglass–Susan B. Anthony Memorial Bridge.

In 2010, a statue (by Gabriel Koren) and memorial (designed by Algernon Miller) of Douglass were unveiled at Frederick Douglass Circle at the northwest corner of Central Park in New York City.

On June 12, 2011, Talbot County, Maryland, honored Douglass by installing a seven-foot bronze statue of him on the lawn of the county courthouse in Easton, Maryland.

Many public schools have been named in his honor.

Douglass was a firm believer in the equality of all people, whether black, female, Native American, or recent immigrant, famously quoted as saying, "I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong." ●

For more information visit [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

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