

1,000 undocumented individuals in Vermont, mostly living in the U.S. for over a decade, could be protected by the administration through lawful executive action

Contact the White House today and urge them to grant undocumented individuals in Vermont protection from deportation and access to work authorization

While President Biden has made progress in rebuilding the legal immigration system, there has been no large action taken to provide relief to long-term undocumented residents of the United States. President Biden still has tools to provide greater protection for this population. Doing so is a moral and political imperative and popular with American voters.

The Biden administration is running out of time to provide lawful status for an estimated 1,000 undocumented individuals living in Vermont who could be eligible for protections and have access to work permits. The majority (60%) of these undocumented individuals have lived in the U.S. a decade or longer. And some 1,000 U.S. citizen children and 1,000 U.S. citizen adults in Vermont live with these undocumented individuals.

Temporary Protected Status expansion, parole in place for spouses of U.S. citizens, and other immigration relief are all lawful executive actions the administration could start taking now to increase the number of individuals with protections. While the administration has successfully used some of these same tools to assist new arrivals, undocumented individuals already in the U.S. for several years have not received the same consideration. **We are asking you to ask the Biden administration to extend similar protections to undocumented individuals who have contributed to their communities for decades.** Such immigration relief is all within the legal authority of the President.

Temporary Protected Status expansion

Hundreds of undocumented individuals without protections from TPS-designated countries like El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Nepal, as well as potential TPS countries like Guatemala, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, and Mauritania, live in Vermont. However, these individuals are not registered for TPS, and registration windows for currently designated countries have closed. Renewing and expanding TPS designations could also move even more people to secure status than their current protections, including those who are applying for asylum.

Parole in Place for undocumented spouses of U.S. citizens

Hundreds of undocumented individuals are married to a U.S. citizen in Vermont. With ten year or longer [immigration bars](#) triggered when applying for permanent residency through their spouse, most remain living in the shadows to avoid family separation. The Biden administration could offer parole in place, on a case by case basis, protecting them from deportation, and giving them access to work authorization, and a potential pathway for in-country adjustment to lawful permanent residency. This would help keep hundreds of thousands of [American families](#) together nationwide, including tens of thousands of DACA recipients whose status is encountering extensive [court challenges](#).

Family caregiver relief and other administrative actions

Immigration law permits individuals in deportation proceedings to apply for [cancellation of removal](#). Eligibility for cancellation of removal includes living in the U.S. continuously for ten years or longer and having an immediate U.S. citizen family member who would experience extreme and unusual hardship if the undocumented individual facing deportation were to be removed. However, cancellation of removal can be initiated in the courts only *defensively*, meaning that the individual must already be in deportation proceedings. Establishing an affirmative process, similar to affirmative asylum, for people who have otherwise not encountered immigration enforcement, would allow hundreds of the 1,000 undocumented caregivers in Vermont without protections who have lived in the U.S. for ten years or longer and have a U.S. citizen minor child to qualify. Additionally, the administration can improve and streamline the waiver process for DACA recipients, Dreamers, and other undocumented individuals who qualify and apply for temporary worker visas like H1-B, all in the effort to provide more certainty and limit visa processing time outside of the United States.