



POLICY & ADVOCACY WORKGROUP UPDATES

MAY/JUNE 2023

ILLINOIS/CHICAGO RESPONSE TO MIGRANT ARRIVALS

As of June 6, 2023, Chicago has received **10,593 new arrivals**; half arrived via Texas buses, and half arrived by other modes of travel. There are approximately 4,366 individuals in the shelter system, and about 500 individuals are in police stations waiting shelter placement. The Johnson administration is committed to fully decompressing police stations. With continued funding by the state (approved in the FY 24 budget), Chicago and other municipalities will continue to support resettlement efforts and case management related to housing, healthcare, legal support, etc. Both the city and the state continue to advocate for additional federal funding and the expediting of work authorization.

To learn more about the [Welcome to IL coalition](#), or to join, please email Nina (email below). See [NPNA Messaging](#) and [toolkit](#) resources to help welcome migrants and asylum seekers.

ILLINOIS UPDATES

On May 24th, **HB 3882** passed the Senate and is will now be sent to Gov. Pritzker to sign into law. This bill will allow people in IL to obtain a driver's licenses and state IDs that does not flag their immigration status. thanks to Rep. Hernandez and Sen. Villivalam for their leadership to get this passed.

HB2866 Temp Worker Fairness and Safety Act (TWFSa) passed out of both chambers of the IL General Assembly. Rep. Gonzalez and Sen. Peters sponsored this bill and it represents a critical win for labor organizations and advocacy groups. See this [Chicago Workers Collaborative news release](#) for more information.

IL Action Alert: The state is seeking to pause enrollment into the Health Benefit for Immigrant Adult (HBIA) program starting July 1, 2023. This health insurance program is for individuals between the ages of 42-64 years old who are ineligible for Medicare or Medicaid due to their immigration status ([see this fact sheet](#)). Encourage eligible individuals to apply for HBIA before July 1 and [submit a public comment today](#) to oppose the plan to pause enrollment!

FEDERAL UPDATES

Asylum Seeker Work Authorization (S.255 & H.R. 1325): Senator Collins (R – Maine) introduced this bill that would shorten the current waiting period for Employment Authorization Document (EAD) for asylum seekers from 180 to 30 days. The bill would also codify a 2-year renewal schedule for EADs. Representative Pingree (D – Maine) introduced a similar bill that does not require asylum seekers to enter the U.S. through official ports of entry ([National Immigration Forum summary](#)).

Fairness to Freedom (H.R. 2697): In mid-April, Senator Gillibrand (D – NY) and Representative Torres (D – CA) introduced this bill to provide the right to legal counsel in removal proceedings, at the government's expense, to those who cannot afford representation.

The American Dream and Promise Act of 2023: [This bill](#) was reintroduced by Representative Garcia (D- TX) and remains unchanged from its previous version. See our CIMH website archives for more information on the original bill's protections for DACA, TPS and DED holders and pathways toward citizenship.

Federal Action Alert: Contact Senator Durbin and Senator Duckworth to ask them to support this important legislation and reach out to your House Representative ([U.S. Congress contact information](#)).

SB 1600: Senator Durbin (D – IL), Padilla (D – CA), Cortez Masto (D – NV), Lujan (D – NM), and 8 others introduced this bill on May 15 to increase funding for Customs and Border Patrol. See this [United We Dream press release](#).

Secure the Border Act (H.R. 2): This bill was introduced on May 2 by Rep. Díaz-Balart (R-Florida) and it passed the House vote on May 12th. This extreme piece of legislation that seeks to restart border wall construction and defund NGOs that provide services to migrants. It also would limit asylum seeking procedures in the U.S., roll back safeguards for migrant children, narrow the executive branch's parole powers, criminalize overstaying a legal visa, mandate employers to electronically verify the immigration status of their workers ([National Immigration Forum summary](#)).

The Border Security and Enforcement Act (H.R. 2640): On Apr 19th, the House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees approved a bill introduced by Rep. McClintock (NY-R) that would reinstate MPP, border wall, and require employers to e-verify workers ([National Immigration Forum summary](#)).

Sinema-Tillis Bill (S. 1473): Senators Sinema (I-AZ) and Tillis (R-NC) introduced this legislation that would grant a temporary two-year extension to expel migrants at the border and would implement more stringent legal standards to avoid expulsion. [The Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights](#) submitted a letter with 160+ organizations in opposition to this legislation.

Federal Action Alert: Sign this [Coalition for Human Needs petition](#) urging legislators to reject harmful border policies and see [NIJC's donation](#) page. [PHR](#) also has a sign-on petition to urge the Biden Administration to protect asylum.

Asylum Policy Updates: Title 42 Expulsions Ended May 11th

In early May, Biden sent 1,500 troops to the U.S./Mexico border in anticipation of Title 42 ending (see [CNN article](#)). Several proposals to “manage regional migration” have been proposed, which the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) describes as two broad strategies to build lawful pathways and impose consequences ([MPI report](#)). On April 27 the State Department and DHS announced that [refugee processing centers](#) will be opened in Latin America. These proposals involve coordination between the governments of US, Mexico, Canada, Spain, Colombia, and Guatemala. For more information, see this [DHS Fact Sheet](#).

The American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU of Northern California, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, and National Immigrant Justice Center [filed a legal challenge](#) to the Biden administration's new asylum ban.

We recommended reading recent MPI reports on the [regional processing centers](#) and [post-Title 42 policies](#). The [American Immigration Council](#) outlined recommendations for humanitarian driven policies to address the 1.3 million pending asylum applications (approximately 750,000 in immigration court and 600,000 at USCIS).

Public Charge

In mid May, the Senate voted to revoke the Biden public charge regulation that took effect in December 2022 (see [here](#) and [here](#)). The House will likely consider the same vote in the coming weeks. The CIMH participated as an organizational signatory on the [PIF sign-on letter](#).

DACA

Judge Hanen began his review of the Texas-led request to terminate DACA over a 2-year period. This request was in response to the Biden Administration's DACA regulation. [Oral arguments began on June 1st](#). For now, DACA renewals will continue.

Add your name to the [United We Dream public comment](#) in support of the proposed rule to expand the ACA coverage to DACA recipients.

Dedicated Docket

In October 2022, CIMH was one of 106 signatories in a letter to DOJ/DHS and the Biden Administration calling for the termination of the Dedicated Dockets. On May 30, CIMH responded to a request to sign a [follow up letter](#) responding to EOIR's response.

Other Policy Resources

This MPI Report provides information on [Central American immigrants](#) in the United States. MPI also published a report on the [75 year history of Palestinian displacement](#).

[Refugees International](#) launched a new website that provides a wealth of helpful information: regional analyses, summaries of current global policy issues, and expert commentary and advocacy recommendations. The [Refugee Storytellers Collective](#) is another great resource.

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WANT MORE INFORMATION? SEE OUR [ARCHIVED WORKGROUP UPDATES](#) ON THE CIMH WEBSITE.

MONTHLY WORKGROUP MEETINGS WILL BE ON HIATUS THIS SUMMER.

JOIN US WHEN WE RECONVENE IN SEPTEMBER ON THE 2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 10-11 A.M. CST.