

Christian immigration advocacy groups praise Biden's plans as 'glimpse of hope'

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A woman holds a sign during a rally calling for the passage of a clean Dream Act outside the U.S. Capitol in Washington, U.S., September 26, 2017. | REUTERS/K

Several faith-based immigration advocacy and humanitarian organizations have voiced support for the immigration proposal President Joe Biden signed.

However, some conservatives have voiced opposition to the legislative proposal, saying that it opens the door to “mass amnesty.”

The first day in the White House was a busy one for the Democrat as he signed more than a dozen executive orders to rescind many of the Trump reform legislative proposal, known as the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021, to the Democrat-controlled Congress.

News of the proposal came as faith leaders, including Hispanic evangelical leader the Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, urged in the days before the inau

The text of the bill has not yet been released. But according to [reports](#) ⁽¹⁴⁾, Biden’s proposal would provide an eight-year path to citizenship for m were children when they were brought to the U.S. illegally and are now 39 years old or younger.

The bill would also reportedly provide immediate green cards for recipients of [Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals](#) ⁽¹⁵⁾ and Temporary Protected Sta eliminate the word “alien” from immigration laws and replace it with the term “noncitizen.”

Among the executive orders Biden signed, one calls on the federal government to preserve the DACA program, an Obama-era initiative that def halt the program in 2017 in an attempt to push Congress to come up with a legislative fix, but the U.S. Supreme Court [prevented](#) ⁽¹⁶⁾ the administ

Biden also halted other controversial Trump administration immigration policies, including the repeal of [travel bans](#) ⁽¹⁷⁾ preventing entry to immigr: [ended the national](#) ⁽¹⁸⁾ emergency declared by Trump to fund the construction of the border wall.

World Relief, an evangelical refugee resettlement agency and humanitarian arm of the National Association of Evangelicals, applauded the Biden administration's proposed earned legalization process for undocumented immigrants. The organization announced in a statement Wednesday that it's encouraged by the

“These day-one actions are worth celebrating, and we hope they will be a down payment on further necessary immigration and refugee policy changes.”

Reports have suggested that Biden's legislative proposal could provide a pathway to citizenship for as many as 11 million immigrants in the U.S. and more than 14 million undocumented people in the U.S.

“While we urge President Biden to do what he can administratively, ultimately Congress must cooperate on a bipartisan basis if we are to see this along with our many partner churches and supporters, is eager to help garner bipartisan support in the coming months for a bill that would provide

World Relief also called on Biden to raise the annual U.S. refugee resettlement ceiling that was drastically reduced during the Trump years. In November fiscal year. Under Trump, the ceiling was set at 15,000 for the fiscal year 2021.

Immigration advocates on both sides of the political aisle have for years called on Congress to enact sweeping immigration reform.

Despite the optimism for Biden's immigration bill among immigration advocates, the legislation reportedly could face a tough battle in a divided Congress, with many immigrants lacking legal status.

Among opponents is Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, who formerly chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee. He believes Biden's immigration proposal is “more radical” than past failed congressional efforts for immigration reform.

“I've previously supported immigration proposals that would provide certainty for DACA-eligible individuals and lead to greater border security and no strings attached is a nonstarter. As we've seen before, that approach only encourages further violations of our immigration laws.”

Tom Lin, president of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, said the campus ministry with chapters at education institutions nationwide is pleased to

“Many of the young people we serve are international and immigrant students, and their navigation of a tedious immigration system can be very mistreat the foreigner’ (Lev. 19:33) and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Lev. 19:34, Matt. 22:39). Public safety and a fair immigration system are

The Rev. John L. McCullough, president and CEO of Church World Service, another refugee resettlement agency, said in a statement that Wednesday

“It is now the duty of Congress to pass this bill and deliver it to President Biden's desk for his signature,” McCullough said.

Melissa Stek, who works as a justice mobilization specialist with the Christian Reformed Church in North America, praised the move to restore the

“We praise God for this proposal that will provide a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients and Dreamers, finally providing them some long-compassionate and hopeful legislation.”

Stephen Reeves, the associate coordinator for advocacy with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, said in a statement that Dreamers now see a

“[W]e rejoice with them,” he said. “We have been a part of their sorrow, their struggles, and their suffering. We are committed to working to end

Others who've called for the protection of Dreamers in the past include Russell Moore, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Leadership Conference.

In addition to Grassley, other conservatives in the Senate have spoken out against Biden's proposals. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas argued that the proposal

