



# IMMIGRATION

*I celebrate that America has always been a melting pot.* No matter the era, our nation has always been best defined by those who are willing to risk everything to come in search of the American Dream.

Sadly, President Trump would prefer a nation with no immigrants. I know that is a strong assertion, but I believe his statements and actions indicate that that is what he actually believes. This is a man who said that there were “very fine” white nationalists. I challenge every Republican

to watch a Trump rally, with chants of “Send her back,” referring to an elected member of Congress, a U.S. citizen, and ask if that is really is the party of Lincoln and Reagan.

When I am President, I will streamline our system so that more people can quickly and easily enter our country and begin contributing to our communities and economy. I will greatly expand the work visa program, stop mass deportations, and simplify the immigration adjudication process.



## MORE WORK VISAS

### An Imperative for the American Economy

*For decades, the Republican Party had been the party that fought for immigrants and freer movement — and with good reason.* Immigration is essential to the American economy. Immigrants add billions of dollars in value to our economy. Forty percent of all Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children! It’s time that we unshackle ourselves from the whims of big government protectionism in favor of true competition.

President George W. Bush said, “Many undocumented workers walked mile after mile, through heat of day and cold of the night. Some have risked their lives in dangerous desert border crossings....Workers who seek only to earn a living end up in the shadows of American life.”

Any State governor will tell you that the agricultural and construction industries in the United States need

a migrant workforce – the work simply cannot be done without one. We need more work visas, not fewer. I would greatly increase the number of H-1B visas issued, and expand opportunities for guest workers. A similar plan has been successful in Canada – migrants come, work for four months, and then go home to their families. But because we do not have enough H-1B visas, these workers must remain in the United States, and then they overstay their visas.

Just as President Reagan elaborated, “Rather than talking about putting up a fence, why don’t we work out some recognition of our mutual problems, make it possible for them to come here legally...and open the border both ways.” The United States should be a nation that tears down walls and builds bridges, not the other way around.



## STOP MASS DEPORTATIONS

***No one should feel like less of a human being because of where they happened to be born.*** The unique and wonderful idea which is so foundational to the United States is that anyone at any time can choose to be an American. Trump’s mass deportation policy taps into the very worst political traditions of the United States and other countries. Millions live in the shadows of our country, worried that someday, they may be snatched away before they can even say goodbye to their families. The amount of fear engendered in Europe with the knock at the door from the police during the Second World War, Ann Frank hiding in the attic, hoping no noise will alert the Nazis below, they’re directly analogous to the fear

undocumented immigrants have when they hear about the latest ICE roundup.

Locking children in cages along our border is simply wrong. Whether at the border or throughout the country, we must prioritize keeping families together rather than tearing them apart. I support the DACA and the DREAM Act protections to assure that children are kept safe in our country. No child should be punished on account of acts in which they had no choice. We should also end requirements that applicants for citizenship must remain in their home countries while being processed.



## INTERPRETERS IN MILITARY CONFLICTS: A Solemn, Sadly Unmet Obligation

***Speaking of requirements that applicants stay at home: the way our system has treated those who have risked their lives for us in the War on Terrorism is a travesty.***

At this moment, thousands of interpreters who served alongside the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan are having their visa applications held up – frequently for

reasons of “security” despite having been cleared for years to work alongside U.S. personnel on U.S. bases in sensitive U.S. military operations. This is a stain on our national honor that will have real consequences when we need people to trust us in future conflicts,

whenever they may, sadly, occur. I would ask the State Department to fix this broken system. Frequently, the people involved are, to borrow a phrase from one of our allies, “Americans by spilled blood.” They’ve earned the right to be one of us many times over.



## SIMPLIFY THE IMMIGRATION PROCESS

***I plan to follow President Reagan’s example. During his term in office, he promptly and succinctly created a pathway to citizenship for millions living in our country.***

As President, I plan to do that again and in far more expansive fashion. President Reagan signed that legislation because he saw our country the same way that so many immigrants did when they crossed through Ellis Island and spotted Lady Liberty: as a Shining City on a Hill and a beacon of hope and opportunity. The naturalization process as it currently exists has become entirely unnavigable for millions of immigrants, and this needs to be a priority.

That’s in spite of the fact that immigrants are significantly less likely to commit crimes or receive government

benefits than their native-born counterparts. In short, immigrants help our country in innumerable ways.

Immigrants are our neighbors, co-workers, and family. Each individual born outside the United States has something to contribute to improve our culture and way of life, even if not at first blush seemingly as noteworthy as Albert Einstein, Levi Strauss, or Arnold Schwarzenegger. Our strength comes from our diversity, and the richness we derive from these varied experiences is truly priceless.

Learn more about Bill Weld and his 2020 run for President of the United States of America by visiting [WELD2020.ORG](https://WELD2020.ORG)