

DAILY NEWS



THE DAILY NEWS GUIDE TO

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS & SERVICES

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT:

- Your basic rights
- Legal assistance
- Government resources
- Financial help
- Education
- Health care...and more!

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS & SERVICES

STATES OF FEAR

Trump's new policies have U.S. immigrant communities in flux

BY ALLAN WERNICK

Immigrants are frightened, and not just those without papers.

Permanent residents are wondering whether applying for U.S. citizenship is safe. Spouses of U.S. citizens worry about applying for green cards. Even some naturalized U.S. citizens are concerned about getting a U.S. passport.

And of course, undocumented immigrants are afraid that Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) will set up checkpoints and conduct raids.

The fear is understandable, but it shouldn't keep you from asserting your rights and applying for immigration benefits. The Federal government doesn't have the resources — of officers, jails, courts — to dramatically increase the arrest and deportation of undocumented immigrants.

For the vast majority of green card and citizenship applicants, little has changed since Donald Trump became President. While Trump made immigrant-bashing the centerpiece of his campaign, calling for deporting millions, banning Muslims from coming here and blaming immigrants for almost every social problem including crime and unemployment, he still is bound by the Constitution and our nation's laws.

Nevertheless, Trump is doing what he can to persecute and terrorize immigrants. Here are just a few examples:

- **Muslim bans:** On Jan. 27, Trump banned immigrants from seven majority-Muslim countries. Incredibly, he argued that our courts have no right to question his authority on immigration matters. Put another way, he could do whatever he wanted about immigration policy, no matter whether it made sense or was fair.

The U.S. Court of Appeals said no, a President must have good reasons for banning people from coming here. On March 6, Trump issued a new, more limited order. We'll know soon whether that ban passes

a Constitutional test. But Constitutional or not, Trump's bans have caused great fear in immigrant communities. Even non-Muslim immigrants think, "if they came for them, maybe next time they'll come for me."

- **ICE arrests:** During the first week of February, ICE arrested close to 700 individuals. Some

had criminal records, some had outstanding deportation orders, some just happened to be around when ICE showed up.

Similar mass arrests had occurred under President Obama, but ICE didn't try to deport undocumented immigrants who were not targets of the raids. Now, ICE is showing no mercy.

- **Woman under supervision deported:** On Feb. 8, Guadalupe Garcia de Rayos, 36, wife of a U.S. citizen, mother of a U.S. citizen, went to her regular, twice-yearly ICE interview in Phoenix, Ariz.

Eight years prior, she was arrested in a factory raid and convicted for using false work

papers. Garcia de Rayos was "under supervision," a program where immigration authorities used their discretion to let some worthy deportable individuals stay in the United States. If their crime wasn't too serious, if they stayed out of trouble, and if they checked in with ICE, they could stay here with their families.

Apparently those days of forgiveness, kindness and generosity, at least for ICE, are over. ICE will continue to do what it can, even with its limited resources, to terrorize our immigrant communities.

Expect Trump to continue to use policy and regulatory changes to make it harder for immigrants, visitors, students and temporary workers to get and stay in legal status.

Already, Trump has suspended the right for expedited review of petitions for H-1B temporary workers, a particular problem for colleges and universities who employ many of these workers.

Finally, we have the Muslim bans. Trump will continue to find ways to keep Muslims from entering the U.S. He has lots of ways of doing that beyond executive orders.

Consular officers, the Department of State employees who issue visas, are generally dedicated public servants. Still, in any organization, the leadership defines the tone and practice of lower-level employees. Expect applicants from majority-Muslim countries to have a harder time getting visas.

As for Trump's latest executive order, what some are calling "Muslim Ban 2.0," there is a good chance the Federal Courts will eventually uphold part or all of it. The ban applies only to nationals of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen — Iraq was taken off the list.

Unlike the prior ban, it provides for a waiver for people with ties to the United States and others in special situations. That may help the court rule in Trump's favor.

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Protestors attend a demonstration against Trump's immigration policies in New York's Washington Square Park on Feb. 11, 2017

GETTY

Plan & prepare is best defense

Despite the current environment of fear and uncertainty, this is not the time to panic — it's time to plan and prepare.

While the worst may never come, undocumented immigrants will sleep better by getting ready in case of an ICE arrest and detention.

For those with a path to legal status or U.S. citizenship, it's time to apply. For immigrants and their U.S. citizen friends, it's time to continue the fight for fair and just immigration laws.

Let's start with planning and preparation:

- Every undocumented immigrant should get counseled by an immigration law expert.

If you can afford an attorney, find a good one. If you can't afford an attorney, many not-for-profit organizations throughout the United States provide free and low-cost legal services.

- You may qualify for an immigration benefit, but not know it. For example, if

you are a crime victim cooperating with law enforcement, you may qualify for U status.

- If you are under 21 in New York (under 18 in many states) and your parents aren't here or can't care for you, you may qualify for a Special Immigrant Justice Status green card.

- If you have been here 10 years and have a parent, spouse or child who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, you may have a defense against deportation. Or, you may qualify for asylum.

- If you have a path to legal status, get on it. If you are married to a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, start the green card application process.

- If you have a parent who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, a U.S. citizen child under 21 or a U.S. citizen brother or sister, have your relative petition for you.

You might face legal obstacles, but starting now makes sense. Don't wait for possible changes in the law that could take your rights away.

Allan Wernick

FOLLOW ★ ★ YOUR DREAM ★

Evgeniya Kim

Yale School of Management, M.B.A. 2016

Soros Fellowship for New Americans, 2015

Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College, B.A. 2010

**IMMIGRANT
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IMMIGRANT RIGHTS & SERVICES

Immigration is new nat'l debate



A Muslim family takes a leisurely stroll on the Coney Island Boardwalk.

Continued from page 2

On the other hand, judges are people, too, and they may be as angry as others that Trump is hiding behind “national security” to ban entry to people simply because of their religion.

Regarding policy, there is one piece of good news: Trump has yet to end President Obama’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. That program granted certain immigrants brought here before the age of 16 the temporary right to live and work in the United States.

Trump said he would end the program on his inauguration day, but he has let the program continue. I expect the President to let DACA remain in place until the inevitable legislative debate begins.

Almost 800,000 students and workers have DACA. They are a well-liked and sympathetic group of immigrants. If you qualify for DACA but have yet to apply, apply as soon as possible. If your DACA is about to expire, apply to renew.

Now for the legislative battle. That is ultimately where we may see the greatest change in our immigration laws and policies.

Trump will introduce legislation that will provide increased funding for U.S. Customs and Border Protection and ICE, and of course, he’ll ask for money to strengthen border protection and try to get money to build his wall. He will propose

legislation that will increase penalties for breaking our immigration laws and expand the offenses that bar individuals from getting permanent residence and U.S. citizenship.

However, Trump needs at least 60 senators voting in favor of any legislation. The Republican party holds only 52 seats. If the Democrats stay united, they can demand Trump provide a path to legal status for undocumented immigrants in exchange for their votes.

Some Republican senators, like John McCain, Jeff Flake, Lindsay Graham and maybe even Marco Rubio, can be won over to oppose an enforcement-only bill. The Democrats have leverage here.

Trump will find broad opposition to restrictive immigration legislation. Some industries, such as agribusiness, construction and hospitality, are so dependent on undocumented immigrants that business will be a friend in any legislative debate. And, the 11 million undocumented immigrants here have lots of friends – their classmates, their co-workers, their neighbors.

Once the dust settles on the health care debate, expect Trump’s next legislative goal to be an immigration reform bill. If a bill passes Congress in the coming year, it will be more restrictive than the one passed in 2013. That bill had a clear path to a green card and U.S. citizenship for undocumented workers, and special protection for the immigrants brought here as

children.

But Trump’s election and Republican Congressional victories have strengthened restrictionists’ hand. Immigrants will be debating whether they are willing to settle for less.

One possibility is a law that grants permanent residence to undocumented immigrants without a special path to U.S. citizenship. Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan and even President Trump have expressed some support for a legalization program for undocumented immigrants.

For immigrants’ rights advocates, there are difficult questions to answer. Are immigrants willing to accept a legal status-only bill, or should a path to citizenship be the only acceptable outcome?

Are pro-immigrant forces prepared to accept tougher border enforcement in exchange for protection for undocumented workers?

Many are convinced that if immigration rights advocates coalesce around an outline for immigration reform that protects undocumented immigrants, we can make it happen. Really. You read it here first.

Allan Wernick is an attorney and director of the City University of New York’s Citizenship Now project. Send questions and comments to Allan Wernick, New York Daily News, 7th Fl., 4 New York Plaza, New York, N.Y., 10004 or email to questions@allanwernick.com. Follow him on Twitter @awernick

Salvadoran immigrants await deportation at an ICE facility in Texas.



Prep for the worst

Here are some survival tips for undocumented immigrants in danger of being deported:

- Make sure your family members have your Alien Number (A Number), if you have one.

- Keep important documents like birth certificates and immigration documents in a safe place where a friend or family member can find them if necessary.

- Begin collecting documentation that shows you’ve been in the U.S. for at least the last two years. Examples are bills, children’s school records, taxes and birth certificates of children born in the United States.

- Many think ICE will try to deport undocumented immigrants here less than two years without a hearing. The immigration statute allows for that for those who entered illegally.

- While many consider that law to be unconstitutional and expect the courts to find it so, too, for now it’s best to carry documentation that you have been here at least two years.

- Have money saved for bail and make sure a friend or relative can get access to it.

- Set up a bank account that you can access outside of the U.S. or that has a branch in your native

country.

- Memorize the phone number of a friend, family member or attorney that you can call if you’re arrested.

- If you care for children or other persons, have a plan for someone to care for them if you are detained.

- If you have children, you can appoint a standby guardian through the family court or give a friend or family member a power of attorney. To establish a stand-in guardian or power of attorney you must have a written document which names the person whom you want to care for your children in your absence and have two people witness your signature and sign the document.

And you permanent residents out there: Get your U.S. citizenship! That’s the best defense against changes in our immigration laws.

U.S. citizens cannot be deported for acts or changes in the law that occur after they naturalize. You need five years permanent residence (green card status) to naturalize; three years if you have been married to and living with the same U.S. citizen spouse for those three years.

Besides protection from changes in our immigration laws, getting U.S. citizenship may provide protection for your relatives.

Allan Wernick



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IMMIGRANT RIGHTS & SERVICES

Don't get ICE-d out – know your basic rights

No doubt about it: President Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric has brought out the worst from Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

ICE's main targets remain immigrants with criminal records and outstanding deportation orders. We have yet to see widespread roundups or raids.

Still, because ICE has broadened its enforcement priorities, undocumented immigrants who have done no more than come here seeking a better life for themselves and their families are finding themselves arrested and detained. Don't make it easy for ICE. Know your rights.

You have the right to remain silent.

ICE can use your statements against you in deportation proceedings. You have no obligation to speak to ICE agents about your immigration status or that of your friends and neighbors. To deport you, immigration authorities must prove that you are an "alien," that is, not a U.S. citizen. If ICE doesn't know your place of birth, it will be hard for them to deport you.

You have the right to be represented by an attorney or lawfully accredited representative.

Carry with you the phone number of an attorney or other representative. In New York State, call the NYS Office of New Americans hotline at 800-566-7636. Find help in other states at immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/

You have the right to deny ICE officers entry into your home without a court warrant.

To enter your home, ICE agents must either have permission from someone inside, or a warrant signed by a judge. Usually ICE only has an administrative warrant issued by the Department of Homeland Security. If ICE knocks, have them slide any warrant under the door. If it is not signed by a judge, don't let them in. Call for legal help.

Don't sign anything without getting legal advice.

ICE agents may ask you to sign a statement about your immigration status. Typically the statement will note your country of nationality, how you entered the U.S.

and whether you violated any immigration laws. ICE will use this information to try to deport you.

ICE may also ask you to sign away your right to a hearing before an immigration judge. The agent may ask you to agree to leave the U.S. voluntarily, saying that by signing you avoid having a deportation in your record. Don't sign!

If you have no criminal record and have never been in trouble before with immigration, an immigration judge can grant you the right to depart voluntarily without being deported. No need to decide to give up your right to a full hearing until you see a judge.

You have the right to a hearing before an immigration judge.

Unless a judge has already ordered you deported or you have been in the U.S. for less than two years, you have the right to a hearing before an immigration judge before ICE can deport you. Don't give up that right. You may have a defense to deportation.

Defenses include challenging the lawfulness of your arrest and applying for



asylum, and if you have been here 10 years and have a U.S. citizen or permanent resident parent, child or spouse, applying for a cancellation of removal green card.

If the judge rules against you, you have the right to appeal the decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals and to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

You have the right to bail pending a decision on your deportation case.

Unless you have been convicted of what the law calls an "aggravated felony," if you have the right to a hearing, you have the right to be free on bond pending a court decision.

Given that deportation cases can take many years, that's an important right.

Allan Wernick



IDC ANNOUNCES IMMIGRANT DEFENSE COALITION PARTNERS AND 1-800 EMERGENCY HOTLINE

"We are living in a difficult time for immigrants across this country. Many are fearful of the rhetoric and actions of President Donald Trump and have questions about their rights. Today's announcement of our new hotline gives people a place to go anonymously for answers. I encourage anyone with any question regarding immigration,

no matter how big or small, to call our hotline for help and to share it with those who may need it," *said IDC Leader Klein (D-Bronx/Westchester).*

IDC member offices will provide expanded immigrant services through partner organizations, such as assistance with visas, green cards,

deportation issues and questions regarding actions by the federal government. Members will also be distributing literature throughout their districts with the 1-800-213-6385 hotline as well as additional information and helpful numbers from partner organizations.

www.idc4ny.com

1 (800) 213-6385

Paid for by Senate Independence Campaign Committee

Today's Immigrants are no different than yesterday's immigrants.

As a son of Albanian immigrant parents and an elected official, I stand by All Immigrant Communities. Immigrant Issues impact all races and faces.



Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj's family came to the US in June 1968, in search of a better life.



Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj

Remember, Immigrants Made America Great!

Please join the Immigration Forum hosted by Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj with Senator Jeff Klein and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto

The Event will include Panel Discussions on Immigration and Guidelines, Know Your Rights, Travel Ban, Dealing with Discrimination, Free or Low Cost Immigration services etc.

Thursday, April 6, 2017 ★ 5:30 – 8:30pm



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IMMIGRANT RIGHTS & SERVICES

BY MATTHEW BURNETT

A lot of people have immigration options, but it's hard to understand what they are and find out if you qualify.

In fact, research suggests that over 1.5 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. may be eligible for an existing immigration benefit – they just don't realize it. It doesn't help that the immigration law is so complex and that finding good legal help can be difficult.

But the more that people understand their immigration options, the better we can protect ourselves and our communities.

Knowledge is power. If you are undocumented, get expert advice – maybe you qualify for an immigration status but don't know it. A great starting point that won't cost you anything is www.immi.org, where you can take an online interview to understand your immigration options, learn about your rights, and connect to trusted nonprofit legal programs that can help you for free or at a low cost.

The site works on any device, is available in English and Spanish, and you can get started without having to talk to anyone.

If you want a face-to-face consultation with an immigration lawyer, but can't afford the legal fees, you can find a free or low-cost nonprofit legal service provider at www.immigration-lawhelp.org.

Don't have access to the internet? In New York City, you can call 311. In New York State, call the NYS Office of New Americans Hotline at 800-566-7636.

If you want to hire a private attorney, use the American Immigration Lawyers Association's Immigration Lawyer Search at www.aialawyer.com.

If you already have a green card and want to become a U.S. citizen, try Citizenshipworks, a free online naturalization application assistance program at

WEIGH YOUR OPTIONS



Legal help is available – and often free

www.citizenshipworks.org.

It will help you complete your application on your own and connect you with a nonprofit legal provider if you have a more complex case.

Here's some more good advice: Protect yourself against immigration scams. There are people who use internet, mail, phone and businesses to lie about opportunities. They trick immigrants into giving them money to fix an immigration problem or make an

application.

To avoid being scammed get information you can trust, be careful how you share your documents or personal information, and be a smart consumer of legal services.

Remember that only lawyers and BIA accredited representatives (or BIA reps, who can only work for non-profits) are qualified to give immigration legal advice.

Notaries and “immigration consultants” are not allowed

to give legal advice, and the wrong legal help can hurt an immigration case and cost a lot of money for bad service or no service at all.

Review and understand all forms before you sign, and always get a copy of any forms or papers.

Whatever you do, don't wait. It's more important now than ever that you understand your legal options, know your rights, and take steps to protect your future.

These include collecting your documents in a safe place, making a family plan if you are vulnerable to deportation, or applying for U.S. citizenship if you are eligible.

If you have friends, family or colleagues who are at risk, encourage them to act. Taking action now will help to prevent potential immigration problems in the future.

Matthew Burnett is director of the Immigration Advocates Network

How to sidestep immigration scams

Immigration service ripoffs increase with new immigration laws or policies.

Now is one of those times.

Unauthorized immigration providers and even some lawyers make promises they can't keep, overcharge for services and have immigrants apply for benefits for which they clearly don't qualify. Here are some tips for avoiding these scams.

- Ask for a written contract. For lawyers, that's called a retainer. If the provider or lawyer refuses, walk away.

- Don't pay for blank immigration forms. You can get these forms for free at uscis.gov/forms.

If you need help with getting online and printing, try getting help at your local library.

- Don't pay to get on a “wait list” for immigration reform – there is no wait list. Congress may someday provide undocumented immigrants a path to legal status.

But paying now to get ready makes no sense.

- A person who guarantees you'll get a green card, citizenship or other immigration status is a person to avoid. It is a violation of attorney ethics rules to guarantee success.

- If a person says he has special contacts with the immigration service to ensure that you will get a benefit, run. Over the years, a small number of immigration officers have provided special favors for individuals. Those officers went to jail.

- If an immigration service provider tells you to lie on a form, don't. It's your signature on the form and you're the one who will get in trouble if a lie is discovered. And don't sign a blank form.

- Don't give your original documents to providers. Immigration offices accept copies, and the copies need not have a special certification. If immigration wants to see

original documents, they'll ask you to bring them to an interview.

- If you get ripped off, fight back. Sometimes you can get your money back, sometimes the scammer will end up in jail. At the very least, you may stop the scammer from cheating your neighbors.

To report a scam in New York City, contact your local District Attorney's Immigration Fraud Unit. For Manhattan, (212) 335-3600; Bronx (844) 590-7226; Brooklyn (718) 250-3333, and Queens (718) 286-6690.

In New York City and throughout New York State, you can get help from the N.Y. State Attorney General's office at 866-390-2992

For information on issuing a complaint in other states, check the USCIS guide to reporting scams in your state at uscis.gov/avoid-scams/report-immigration-scams

Allan Wernick

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the ones when having our health makes everything possible.

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To learn more about applying for health insurance, including Child Health Plus and Medicaid through NY State of Health: The Official Health Plan Marketplace, visit www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov or call 1-855-355-5777.

COLLEGE AID 101

Immigrant status not always a bar to acceptance

Immigrants, including certain undocumented ones, have many opportunities to study in U.S. colleges and universities.

Most higher education institutions accept students regardless of their immigration status.

Financial assistance may be available, even for some undocumented students.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Permanent residents and certain others lawfully in the U.S.

The federal, state and New York City government provide financial aid — grants, loans and college work-study wages — to students who are U.S. citizens, permanent residents, asylees and refugees and several other categories.

For more information on federal financial aid, go to studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility/non-us-citizens

Similar rules apply to the NY Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). Learn more about TAP eligibility at: www2.cuny.edu/financial-aid/student-eligibility/non-citizen-eligibility

TAP applicants must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for every academic year to be considered for financial aid. Submitting the FAFSA generates an application for TAP awards. Apply online at fafsa.gov or call 1-800-4-FED-AID.



Undocumented Students

Most public and private colleges and universities admit undocumented students. Although undocumented students do not qualify for federal financial aid, in a few states (not yet in New York, though) they may qualify for state aid.

However, many public and private colleges offer merit scholarships, financed by private sources. Contact the financial aid office of an institution for more information.

DACA and TPS

Students with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protective Status (TPS) enrolling as first-time college students or

who are community college graduates may be eligible to apply for scholarships of up to \$25,000 for two- or four-year degrees.

For more information on scholarship eligibility, go to thedream.us

Students can get free DACA and TPS application assistance from CUNY Citizenship Now. Email citizenshipnowinfo@cuny.edu or call 212-652-2055.

NYC Council Merit Scholarship

High-achieving New York City high school graduates who apply for admission to CUNY are automatically considered for the New York City Council Merit Scholarship.

The awards, \$400 per semester or \$800 per academic year, are given to U.S. citizens and certain non-citizens, such as asylees and refugees, who are New York City residents attending CUNY.

Scholarship Resource Guides

MALDEF, the nation's leading Latino legal civil-rights organization, offers a free resource guide that has an extensive list of scholarships that do not inquire about immigration status.

MALDEF's Law School Scholarship Program, whose awards are based on academic and extracurricular achievement, is open to students

enrolled full-time at an accredited U.S. law school. For information: maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/index.html

Another good site for scholarship listings is unitedwedream.org

In-State Tuition

At New York State's public universities, CUNY and SUNY, undocumented students can qualify for the same low in-state tuition paid by U.S. citizens and permanent residents. No proof of citizenship or other legal status is required.

To qualify, a student must have graduated from a New York State high school after attending it for at least two years, or have earned a New York State GED and applied to college within five years of receiving a diploma or GED.

To get in-state tuition, undocumented immigrants must file an affidavit stating that they have applied to legalize their status or that they will apply to do so as soon as they are eligible.

For information about CUNY, go to CUNY.edu or call 1-800-CUNY-YES. For SUNY, go to SUNY.edu.

Many other states offer in-state tuition for undocumented students.

To learn more, go to findaid.org/otheraid/stateresidency.phtml

CUNY Citizenship Now

Liberty Fund granting \$1M



Nearly two dozen New York City organizations are the beneficiaries of a million-dollar grant for programs to help people threatened by the Trump administration's new immigration policies.

New York Community Trust, a Manhattan-based philanthropy, is dividing the new \$1 million Liberty Fund among 21 city-wide groups to provide such services as legal assistance, know-your-rights workshops, and anti-discrimination citizen action training.

"I think we have seen a change in the way nonprofits have to respond to the new challenges coming out of Washington," said Lorie Slutsky, president of

New York Community Trust.

"The Liberty Fund, for us, was an attempt not to be anti-Trump or pro-Trump, but to provide help for institutions and organizations that are struggling, and to say, 'We're here and we're going to give you money to help you stay focused.'"

Among the community groups that will receive grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000 over the next year are:

African Communities Together/ACT:

To build the capacity of New York's African immigrant communities, the majority of whom are Muslim refugees, to defend against and respond to immigration enforcement measures and hate crimes. africans.us

Brooklyn Movement Center:

To work with Repair the World, the Society for Ethical Culture and the Congregation Beth Elohim to provide know-your-rights workshops and anti-oppression/racial justice training to students and adults in schools, organizations, and places of worship. brooklynmovementcenter.org

Chhaya Community Development Corporation:

To prevent, document and address discrimination against South Asian immigrant populations of Queens, and expand its immigration legal clinics. chhayacdc.org

Churches United for Fair Housing/CUFFH:

To work with member churches to combat discrimination, provide immigration services, and become sanctuary spaces for at-risk immigrants in Brooklyn. cuffh.org

Health needn't be an issue

BY JULIE DINNERSTEIN
Almost half of New Yorkers get health insurance through work. The rest of us need to weed our way through a tangle of public and private options, or go without and keep our fingers crossed that we don't get sick.

The situation is all the more complicated for immigrant New Yorkers.

Here are six important rules to help immigrant New Yorkers sort through the health care maze.

1. Do not rely on information from your friends across the Hudson River in New Jersey, across the country in California or anywhere else in the U.S.

States have a fair amount of leeway in the running of health insurance programs. What is true for your cousin in Kansas will not necessarily be true for you (unless, of course, you also live in Kansas).

2. Just because you are not eligible for a Social Security number does not mean that you are not eligible for health insurance.

(That said, for some New York programs, immigrants must provide a letter showing that the immigrant has applied for and been denied a Social Security number.)

3. Many low-income immigrant New Yorkers who are not eligible for federal Medicaid are eligible for the state version.

These immigrants, known by the unwieldy term "permanently residing under color of law" (PRUCOL), come in many shapes and sizes. Examples include:

- Non-pregnant adults with green cards granted in the last five years;
- Immigrants with pending green card applications;
- New York residents with non-immigrant visas;
- Immigrants with deferred action, including deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA); and
- Immigrants whose deportation has officially been put on hold.

4. Regardless of immigration status, all low-income New Yorkers have access to the following programs:

- New York Medicaid for pregnant

women and girls;

- AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), which includes treatment and medication for New Yorkers who are HIV+/living with AIDS;
- Child Health Plus for New Yorkers under 19; and
- Hospital Financial Assistance Law (HFAL) benefits, free or low cost medical care for uninsured or under-insured New Yorkers.

5. Low-income undocumented immigrants in New York City, Westchester County and Nassau County are eligible for Health and Hospital Corporation (HHC) Options.

With HHC Options, a New Yorker receives a health insurance card at a New York City public hospital where they can

get regular health care and medications with little or no co-pay.

6. In addition to all of the New York programs just mentioned, there are some federal programs that low-income immigrant New Yorkers may also be eligible for.

- Federally-funded Medicaid is available to those with green cards for at least five years, as well as green card holders who have had green cards for less than five years who are either under 21 or pregnant, or both. Some immigrants in less common immigration statuses are also eligible.

- All green card holders as well as many other categories of lawful immigrants who purchase health insurance through the New York State Marketplace are eligible for tax credits through the

Affordable Care Act (known as ACA or Obamacare).

- Federally-funded community health care clinics are available to everyone regardless of immigration status.

- Federally-funded emergency Medicaid is available to undocumented immigrants.

For more information, read the New York City Human Resources Administration's Guide to Health Insurance and Health Care Services for Immigrants in New York City, available at www1.nyc.gov/assets/ochia/downloads/pdf/guide-to-health-insurance-for-immigrants.pdf

For a very detailed review or immigration statuses and health insurance eligibility, see the Empire Justice website at empirejustice.org/assets/pdf/publications/reports/health-coverage-crosswalk.pdf.

to help NYC community groups

DRUM (Desis Rising Up & Moving):

To establish a Hate Free Zone in several Queens neighborhoods, and provide know-your-rights, self-defense, and bystander intervention training. drumnyc.org

Immigrant Defense Project/IDP:

To build the capacity of legal service providers and community-based organizations to defend and protect immigrants, including monitoring and advocating against ICE raids in homes and workplaces.

immigrantdefenseproject.org

Justice Committee:

To build the capacity of affected New Yorkers to recognize, monitor, document and de-escalate hate and community violence, abusive policing, and ICE enforcement. justicecommittee.org

Make the Road New York:

To train 5,000 people on how to respond if immigration officers come to their home or workplace; how to get documents in order; and how parents can arrange for

care of their children if they are deported.

maketheroadny.org

Masa-MexEd:

To scale up its existing campaign to build knowledge of immigrant rights and provide access to legal services for vulnerable Latino immigrant families in the Bronx.

masany.org

New York City New Sanctuary Coalition:

To recruit and train 12 sanctuary congregations in immigrant-heavy neighborhoods to protect and defend immigrants by offering a safe temporary space for individuals whose deportation would remove them before their legal defense can be heard or decided, or who are likely to be killed or injured if they are sent back to the country from which they fled. newsanctuarynyc.org

New York Immigration Coalition/NYIC:

To protect the rights of vulnerable immigrant communities through methods including direct-response actions. thenyic.org

Peter Cicchino Youth Project at Urban Justice Center:

To help undocumented homeless youth from being incarcerated and safely file for immigration relief.

pcyp.urbanjustice.org

Restaurant Opportunities Center/ROC-NY:

To protect and support restaurant workers and employers against attacks on immigrants, people of color, Muslims, LGBTQ people, and other vulnerable populations in the restaurant industry. rocunited.org

Sikh Coalition:

To educate the city's Sikh community about their rights and resources available to them to address civil rights violations. sikhcoalition.org

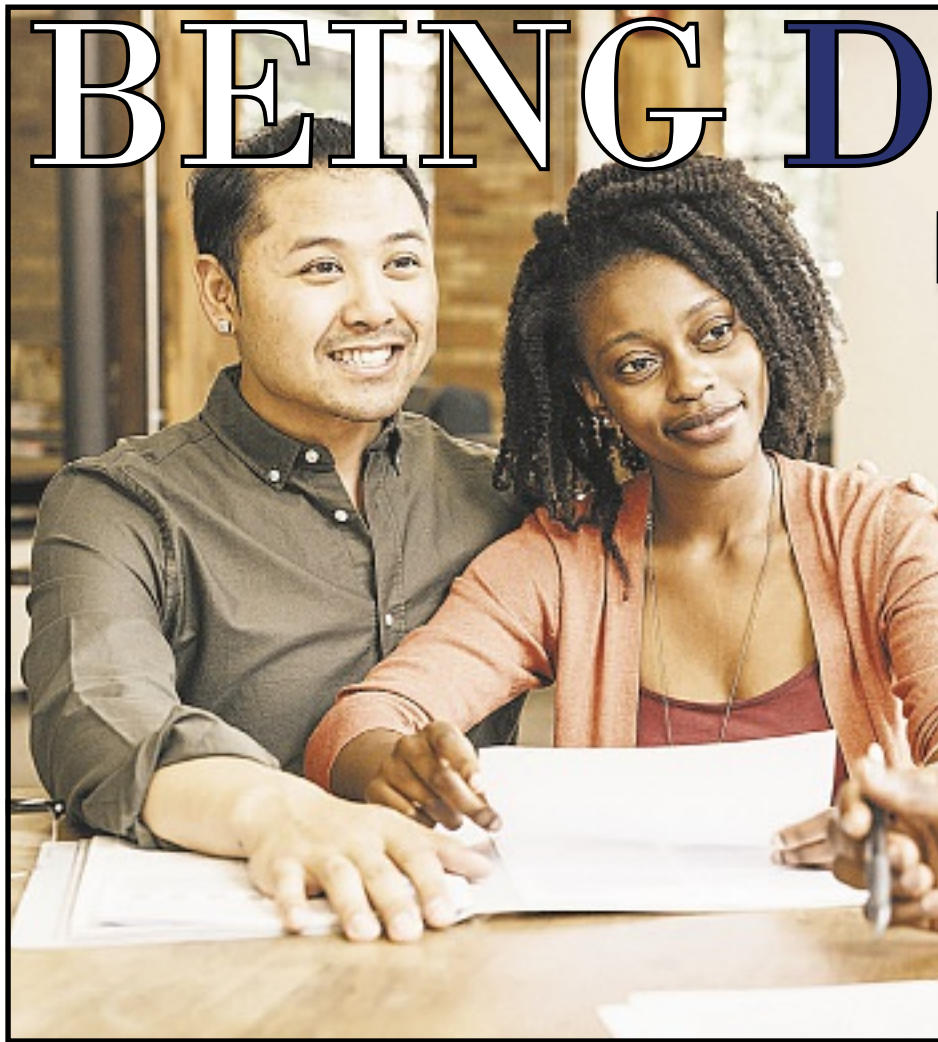
Staten Island Community Job Center-La Colmena:

To organize Latino immigrant day laborers in Staten Island to address anti-immigrant harassment and violence, provide information on deportation and family separation, and how to identify and avoid immigration fraud and scams. lacolmenanyc.org

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS & SERVICES

BEING DOLLAR

Keep your money safe



GETTY

BY QUALITAS OF LIFE FOUNDATION

Undocumented immigrants are not only financially active in this country, they also help to make up the rich fabric of our society.

Many pay taxes while also sending remittances back to their home countries and supporting their families here.

Undocumented immigrants can also be business owners and job providers. Many work two or three jobs.

But many undocumented immigrants don't have accounts in banks or credit unions due in large part to misinformation, including the belief they don't have enough savings to meet the minimum balance required, or that they are not eligible because they lack formal employment and legal immigration status.

In the U.S., undocumented

immigrants do have financial rights and can have access to the formal financial system. Lacking legal immigration status does not come in the way of you opening a bank account, obtaining credit or even starting a business.

Currently, undocumented immigrants can open a bank or credit union account using a variety of different forms of identification, and can also become business owners.

In fact, anyone who has an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, or ITIN, can file taxes using this identification instead of a Social Security number (SSN).

It's also possible to open an account using a variety of different IDs, such as consular identification card, unexpired passport or the easily attainable IDNYC card.

But given the current political climate, undocumented immigrants are asking themselves

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WISE regardless of status

important questions: Will I lose my money if I get deported? Should I close my account? Could I have access from my home country? If I own a business, what should I do with my assets?

No matter which institution you choose, all of your money will be insured by federal regulations.

Money that is kept in banks and credit unions is safe and will remain yours regardless of any immigration process you go through. Closing your account and carrying cash is risky.

There are many ways to access your accounts remotely. However, it is necessary to plan ahead and learn how you can access your money from other countries. Talk to your bank or reach out to community organizations for help.

It is important to note that just as your money will continue to be your money if you are deported, your debt will also remain your responsibility as well.

It is also important to continue saving money since facing any immigration proceeding will likely be expensive.

Take action and start preparing an emergency action plan so you can be ready in the unfortunate event that you might have to go through an unexpected immigration proceeding. There is no better time than now.

Qualitas of Life Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide basic financial education to Hispanic individuals and their families living in New York. For more information, go to qualitasoflife.org

Bank on making a decent living

Your immigration status shouldn't stand in the way of making a living, starting a business or even getting a mortgage.

Getting an ITIN

Dozens of banks will open bank accounts for undocumented immigrants with an ITIN. Included in that group are Capital One, Chase, Citibank, Emigrant Savings Bank and Wachovia.

Anyone required by law to file a tax return can get an ITIN. Simply file your tax return and include Internal Revenue Service form W-7.

The IRS requires you to file a return if you earned \$400 or more as an independent contractor (such as "day laborer" doing yard work or part-time housekeeper), you are self-employed, or your employer doesn't report your income to the IRS.

While having an ITIN does not allow you to work in the U.S., some employers accept an ITIN from workers who do not have Social Security cards.

The employer is breaking the law that prohibits employment of undocumented workers — but at least the employer can comply with the laws that require deducting taxes and paying into a worker's Social Security and Medicare accounts.

For more ITIN information, go to : irs.gov

Starting a business

You can start a small business no matter your immigration status.

If you have an EAD — Employment Authorization Document, a work permit that authorizes an alien to work in the U.S. for a period of time, usually one year — you can get a Social Security number. That will be useful for your business dealings.

Undocumented immigrants who do not have a Social Security number can use an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) instead.

Anyone, even undocumented immigrants, can lease or buy property, and get most city and state licenses necessary to do business.

Some licenses, such as a liquor license, require the applicant to be a permanent resident.

You can also incorporate your business. You may want to consult a lawyer for help with incorporation and other business matters.

Getting a mortgage

For married couples, a bank or other lending institution will consider both spouses' income in deciding whether you qualify for a mortgage. Immigration status should not be a problem.

Individuals without a Social Security number can get an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) to use when applying for the loan.

If both spouses are undocumented, they could still get a mortgage, but they may have to pay a higher interest rate. Being a U.S. citizen will help keep the rate down.

Allan Wernick

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IMMIGRANT RIGHTS & SERVICES

Truth vs. alternative facts

When it comes to immigration issues, separating myth from reality has become a lot more difficult thanks to a new administration that professes alternative facts as absolute truth.

Here are several fictions related to immigrants, and the actual facts behind them.

Myth: Most undocumented immigrants got here by sneaking across the Mexican border.

Fact: Most undocumented immigrants came here legally at air and land ports.

A recent study by the Center for Migration Studies (go to bit.ly/2m7Xhoh) found that since 2007 most undocumented immigrants came here legally on what we call nonimmigrant visas (visitors, students, temporary workers) and overstayed. Whatever the ratio of overstays to border crossers, one thing is clear: building a great wall on our southern border will not end undocumented immigration.

Myth: Immigrants take jobs away from immigrant workers.

Fact: Immigrants, legal and undocumented, create jobs and boost our economy.

The impact of immigrant labor on the U.S. job market is hotly debated. You can find studies to support either side in the debate.

Of course, if an immigrant is working in a job you want, it's easy to blame immigration for your plight.

Still, most economists agree that immigration provides an overall benefit to the economy, increasing national wealth and employment.

A good summary of the research is Immigration Myths and Facts, published by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (uscham.com/2IJ9Gm). As for whether low-skilled immigrants steal jobs from U.S. workers? They don't.

A good read on this issue is an article by The Atlantic's David Frum, at theatln.tc/1TiVSlA

Myth: Immigrants don't pay taxes

Fact: Immigrants pay billions in taxes. A bonus is that they contribute billions to the Social Security Retirement System.

If Congress acts on the myth, watch out for your schools, your roads, and your retirement benefits.

According to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, in 2014 undocumented immigrants paid approximately \$11.7 billion in state and local taxes. That includes more than \$7 billion in sales and excise taxes, \$3.6 billion in property taxes, and \$1.1 billion in personal income taxes.

As for paying into the retirement system, in 2013 the Social Security Administration estimated that "earnings by undocumented immigrants result in a net positive effect on Social Security financial status generally, and that this effect contributed roughly \$12 billion to the cash flow of the program for 2010."

Undocumented immigrants aren't eligible for Social Security benefits, so the money they contribute goes to those who do collect on retirement. Take note, Baby Boomers!

Myth: Undocumented immigrants could come legally if they went home and waited in line.

Fact: There is no line.

To get a green card, you need USCIS to approve a petition for

you in one of about a dozen categories. But if you don't have a qualifying relative or a needed or extraordinary talent or skill, you are out of luck.

There is a green card lottery every year, but many countries, such as Mexico, are excluded.

Myth: Immigrants bring crime.

Fact: Immigrants help reduce crime.

Immigrants commit crimes. No question about it. U.S. citizens commit crimes, too. Whites, African-Americans, Latinos, Asians, young people, old people — some of them commit crimes. The relevant question is whether immigration increases crime in the U.S.

Like with the job-displacement issue, you can find a study proving your side is right. However, the most respected studies show that immigration is linked to decreases in violent crime.

One such study is by Robert Adelman, a professor at the University at Buffalo, SUNY. He reviewed crime statistics in metropolitan areas covering 40 years, from 1970 to 2010, and found immigration linked to decreases in violent crimes and property crimes.

In their 2007 paper on the subject, Professors Kristin F. Butcher and Anne Morrison Piehl put it best: "(The) process of migration selects individuals who either have lower criminal propensities or are more responsive to deterrent effects than the average native." Read the paper at nber.org/papers/w13229.pdf.

Allan Wernick



The pathway to citizenship

BY ERIC L. ADAMS

The pathway to citizenship is a sacred and storied one in our nation, a pathway of hope and opportunity that has fueled the growth of America and its population.

More than one out of every 10 Americans is foreign-born, and countless more are here because of the path that their parents or grandparents carved for them. This pathway is undoubtedly one pockmarked with potholes, which decades of federal gridlock and hyperpartisan rhetoric have failed to fix.

However, the slash-and-burn approach that President Trump has taken to reforming

our immigration system has thrown a well-tread path toward citizenship into a wilderness of confusion and fear.

The trials and tribulations of the White House's travel ban on several Muslim-majority nations have caused chaos at our airports and threatened legal green card holders. The raids by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials in predominantly Caribbean and Latino neighborhoods have produced widespread panic that is already eroding local law enforcement agencies' critical relationship with communities they serve.

All the while, individuals and families in the naturalization process, a population already challenged by socioeconomic inequities, are scared and in need of a helping hand.

Few corners of this country can appreciate the value of immigrants more than Brooklyn, a borough where 47% of its residents speak a language other than English at home. There are more than 200,000 people living in communities from Gravesend to Greenpoint who are eligible to be naturalized, with the greatest concentrations residing in neighborhoods such as Bensonhurst, Bushwick, East Flatbush, and Sunset Park.

These faces reflect the proud history of diversity in our city, state, and country. That diversity has fueled our economy, shaped our spirit, and enriched

our way of life.

In the midst of national unrest, Brooklyn stands resolute in assisting families along the pathway to citizenship, while advancing facts and knowledge to uncertain Brooklynites about their rights under the law.

With these goals in mind, I could not be prouder to host my "Embrace Your Hyphen" Citizenship Drive on Saturday, March 25 at Brooklyn Borough Hall — the People's House. From 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., lawyers will be on hand, volunteering their service, to provide free assistance for those completing their applications to become United States citizens.

It is my hope that you or someone you know will benefit from this great opportunity, or at least help to share this information with those you may know living in impacted communities; anyone interested can register by calling 718-802-3809 or visiting

brooklyn-usa.org/citizenship.

I've branded this citizenship drive as part of my "Embrace Your Hyphen" movement because of how important I believe it is to uplift both our national identity, as Americans, and our cultural identity, as descendants of the lands of our foremothers and forefathers.

We are stronger when we embrace the ties between us, as well as the differences within ourselves. We are wiser when we draw from the lessons of our varied backgrounds and share the richness of our traditions.

Political and social forces here and abroad use divisive hate speech and policies to disadvantage individuals based on where they come from or what they look like. Brooklyn rejects that tortured view that could tear our world apart, in favor of one that supports a safer and more welcoming tomorrow for every citizen of humanity.

We will do our part to preserve and protect the pathway that, when properly fixed, will lead to a bright future for generations of Americans.

Eric L. Adams is the Brooklyn Borough President. Prior to his career in government, he served for 22 years as an officer and captain in the New York Police Department.



Undermining American exceptionalism

BY ROBERT MENEDEZ

After only one month of the Trump presidency, immigrant communities have come under assault as the administration translates nationalist campaign rhetoric into actual policy.

President Trump's unconstitutional Muslim ban and mass deportation agenda are instilling fear and chaos in communities that are likely to keep children out of school, families from going to church, and immigrants from reporting crimes.

The administration's inherently flawed and inward-looking approach to immigration means we no longer prioritize deporting serious criminals or violent gang members that threaten our nation's security and public safety.

Instead, Trump's policies make every undocumented immigrant fair game and at risk for deportation. They will push families into hiding, erode police-community relations, and ultimately make us all less safe.

I believe most Americans agree that treating an immigrant mother the same as a violent criminal is irresponsible and a waste of resources.

And yet, Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers last month were following their new marching orders when they arrested and deported Guadalupe Garcia de Rayos as she was doing a periodic check-in with her local ICE office in

Arizona.

As victims of Trump's mass deportation plan, this family has been torn apart. Garcia de Rayos' young U.S. citizen children are now forced to grow up without their mother despite her living here for two decades while posing no threat to anyone.

Her deportable criteria? Using false documents to get a job to provide for her children, while paying taxes. The well-being of an estimated 4.1 million U.S. citizen children across the country is now in jeopardy simply because they live in a household where one parent is undocumented.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is deputizing local and state law enforcement to act as federal deportation agents to carry out these misguided policies and round up immigrants.

Resurrecting failed programs like Secure Communities will only serve to open the doors to racial profiling, and silence some of the most vulnerable among us.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) safeguards immigrant victims of domestic violence against deportation if they meet a set of strict requirements. These protections only work when there is a separation

between ICE and local police in order for cops to build trust and encourage victims to report crime.

But trust crumbles when a domestic abuse victim, like the case in Texas, is picked up at a courthouse after her abuser tipped off ICE. We should all be outraged. It is reprehensible to empower abusers to continue their cycle of violence by allowing them to prey on their victim's fear and immigration status.

Past Presidents — Republicans and Democrats alike — have recognized that only certain undocumented immigrants should be a priority for deportation by considering humanitarian factors when exercising prosecutorial discretion.

But the Trump deportation agenda makes no sense from a fiscal, practical or humane perspective; it is disturbing to see DHS chart out an execution strategy that will surely lead to the unlawful and erroneous detention of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents. These policies will demonize the immigrant community at a high human and economic cost.

New Jersey has the fifth-largest immigrant population, according to a report from the New American Economy, with 1.9 million residents — or 22% of the state's population. In 2014,

these immigrants paid \$19.6 billion in taxes and wielded a spending power of \$54.6 billion. Undocumented immigrants in New Jersey paid \$1.2 billion in taxes, leaving them with a spending power of \$8.5 billion. These undocumented immigrants also contributed \$179.4 million to Medicare and \$695.3 million to Social Security in 2014.

As the son of Cuban immigrants who, like today's wave of immigrants, came to this country for a better life, I have always believed that our nation's ability to embrace diversity was not only a character strength, but something that made us more competitive in the global marketplace.

Americans from across the entire political spectrum must come together and take a realistic look at what we can do to uphold our founding principle of welcoming "huddled masses yearning to breathe free." Those of us who believe deeply in the American Dream and the need for immigration reform cannot be complacent.

We must let our voices be heard, speak truth to power and use this moment to mobilize and stand in solidarity with those being unjustly targeted.

We must reject mass deportations and invest in our nation's multiculturalism, embrace hard-working immigrants, and rise up to protect our democracy.

Robert Menendez is the U.S. Senator (D.) for New Jersey



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IMMIGRANT RIGHTS & SERVICES

Immigrants are America's bedrock

BY BILL PASCRELL, JR.

In the opening weeks of President Trump's administration, we as a nation have seen a stunning paradigm shift in how our nation treats immigrants and matters of immigration.

For decades, the United States held the global distinction of being an immigrant's lodestar in the dark night. Now, our nation is scapegoating groups, banning people because of where they are from and what religion they practice. This is quite a shift.

No longer, it seems, do our leaders remember that immigrants are the bedrock of America's bootstrap ethos and the very foundation on which our democracy rests.

Rather, the recent executive orders from President Trump's administration specifically target immigrants based on religious beliefs and ethnicity. The tactics employed, the rhetoric and procedure emanating from this new White House are alarming, irresponsible, and completely devoid of merit.

These executive orders peddle a false narrative that people from Muslim-majority nations are predisposed to commit acts of terror, a narrative fully refuted by the Department of Homeland Security.

There have been zero fatal terror attacks on U.S. soil since 1975 by immigrants from the Muslim-majority countries the current ban focuses on. The

Trump Administration's immigration policies are not based on the desire to keep our citizens safe, but rather to address fears of their own creation. I believe facts are still the best basis for policy.

These policies have global implications, but more political calculus has gone into the rollouts than statistical analysis. These policies pander to an extreme wing of the Republican Party fixated on an invasion of immigrants that, frankly, does not exist. These duplicitous actions have grave consequences, including creating a new recruiting tool to encourage more people to join the cause of terrorism.

Many of the refugees are fleeing war-torn streets with nothing but the clothes on their back. Last year I met Rama Al-Teibawi, a three-year-old Syrian refugee who settled in Paterson, N.J. I cannot turn my back on children like Rama and their families as they search for a new home safe from the tyrannies abroad. America's doors have always been open

to hopeful travelers ready to work for a better life.

The safety of our country and the effectiveness of our vetting processes are completely valid and necessary concerns. However, refugees are already subject to the highest level of security checks and most rigorous screening processes of any traveler to the United States.



Concerns in regards to the national security of all Americans are valid. But they should not manifest themselves in intentionally predatory executive orders against groups of people that practice a certain religion.

The White

House is stoking the coals of fear mongering and creating an unsafe environment for immigrants and refugees, both domestically and internationally. With the rollout of the first executive order, it was clear the left hand didn't know what the right hand was doing — and it put people's livelihoods at risk.

When the first order was challenged in

the courts, no evidence of security concerns could be produced and, thankfully, justice prevailed.

The second order, which will likely also undergo a court examination, again targets Muslims and refugees. The order wasn't issued immediately, but rather held to allow for friendly press coverage of the President's address to Congress. If this ban was really needed to prevent potential terrorists from entering the United States, the Administration should have provided details of the threats and done everything they could to implement the order as fast as possible. They did not do that.

The second order is nothing more than a sequel to the first order, and I hope the courts see it for what it is: naked discrimination. Standing up for what is fair and right is going to take every inch of our democratic system — courts, legislators, and especially the people of this nation.

I will continue to monitor the executive branch's policies on immigration, and will fight back against any religious discrimination. These actions are a stain to the moral fabric of our nation.

U.S. Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr. of New Jersey's Ninth District, is a member of the Ways and Means Committee and Budget Committee, and is the ranking Democrat on the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee.



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- AH, Westchester, NY

Ms. Henner is currently admitted to practice law in New York. She received her B.A. from State University of New York at Albany (1991) and her J.D. from New York Law School (1994).

New Jersey must remain open to all

BY PHIL MURPHY

New Jersey proudly stands among the most diverse states in the nation. This is who we are, and we wear our diversity as a badge of honor. It continues our legacy as one of our nation's traditional melting pots, where people from all across the world have come for new opportunities and new beginnings.

Unfortunately, we have a President who peddles fear and tries to turn our diversity into a threat. We also have a governor who has chosen to lead by division — and who decided to jump head-first into the pool with Donald Trump and use our rich, vibrant and diverse communities as targets for his own political purposes.

So, let's get to the first principles: No matter who you are or what you worship, New Jersey must be open to you.

Certainly, Congress needs to pass comprehensive immigration reform with fair and humanely enforced laws which bring families together instead of breaking them into pieces.

But in the absence of federal action, we must take steps in New Jersey to ease the burden on those who already are active and contributing members of communities across the state.

I have said publicly many times since November that New Jersey should refuse to enforce any edict from the Trump administration that is un-American on its

face or unconstitutional in its construction. We cannot be a passive bystander where matters of core human and civil rights are concerned.

This includes efforts to overturn protections for DREAMers — those young people who came to this country as small children, were educated in our public schools, and are just as American as anyone else save for citizenship — or taking state and local law enforcement away from protecting our communities from crime to participate in mass deportations.

For DREAMers, especially, the potential for abuse is great. These students willingly gave up their information and went public with their undocumented status; to turn that information against them would be a gross injustice.

New Jersey also needs a specified office to provide legal assistance to immigrant residents, DREAMers or otherwise, who cannot afford a lawyer and whose rights are endangered.



We also must have an attorney general who not only believes these same tenets, but who will use every legal avenue to protect our state and people. The continued silence of Gov. Christie's attorney general as his colleagues across the country won a string of victories against the President's anti-Muslim executive order is an embarrassment.

Certain residents cannot remain as second-class members of our society.

All residents — regardless of citizenship or status — should have the ability to open bank accounts, enroll in schools and rent apartments, and, critically, to obtain a driver's license so they can travel safely to and from work.

The debate over licenses is riddled with myths and unfounded, dire warnings. But let's look at the facts: 12 states and the District of Columbia — "blue" states like Connecticut and "red" states like Utah — provide drivers' licenses to their undocumented residents.

The only thing these states have seen is a dramatic increase in the number of licensed and insured drivers who are

therefore better able to contribute to the economy and assist law enforcement.

Undocumented students also would benefit from the removal of barriers to college financial aid and professional licenses. Education has always been the great equalizer in our society. There is no greater waste than when we educate a child from pre-K through 12th grade, only to tell them after graduation that they've reached the end of the road.

Our state is a collection of communities with a proud history of welcoming immigrants from across the world, from the Irish, Polish, Germans, Italians and Jews of the 19th and early 20th centuries, to the Latinos, Asians, Africans, those of Middle Eastern heritage, and so many others, of the past 50 years. We may be a small state, but we have a huge heart.

Now, that legacy is under attack. Small-minded thinking and fear-mongering ignores both our history and the tremendous contributions immigrants have made and continue to make. As a state, we must preserve the core value of equal rights we have professed for generations.

It is a fight we did not ask for, but it is one we must accept.

Phil Murphy served as United States Ambassador to Germany under President Obama and is a Democratic candidate for governor of New Jersey. He lives in Middletown, N.J.



The Haitian Americans United for Progress, Inc. (HAUP) is a non-profit community based organization serving the public since 1975.

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TRAVEL BAN 2.0

Here's what you need to know about President Trump's revamped travel ban that was announced March 6:



Q. What countries are included in the new travel ban?
A. President Trump's executive order banning travel applies only to nationals of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

Q. I've read it's been called a Muslim ban — does it apply to all Muslims from all other countries?
A. No. People refer to the President's executive order as a "Muslim ban" because many believe that it's based on prejudice against Muslims. The ban applies only to nationals of the six countries, no matter their religion. While the order allows for adding countries to the ban, I don't think that's likely.

Q. How long will the ban last?
A. The ban is for 90 days beginning March 16. It could be shorter. It could be extended. Or a court challenge could end it, as was the case with the prior ban.

Q. If a U.S. consul issued me a student, visitor or immigrant visa before the cut-off time, will I have a problem entering the United States?
A. No. The ban is in essence a visa-issuance ban more than an entry ban. If you get or have a valid visa issued by March 16, CBP should admit you. That said, travelers from Muslim-majority countries can expect extra careful examination upon entry.
Allan Wernick is an attorney and director of the City University of New York's Citizenship Now project.

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IMMIGRANT RIGHTS & SERVICES

New York's immigrant resources

New York City supports all its residents — and that includes its undocumented immigrants.

Most city services, including the school and health care systems, are available to everyone.

Here's a handy guide to resources and services, courtesy of the City of New York.

IDNYC

IDNYC is the city's identification card for all New Yorkers. IDNYC does not collect immigration status information, and applicants' information is kept confidential. The city will protect IDNYC information to the full extent of the law.

Education

Children age 4 or turning 4 are eligible for pre-K. All residents have the right to attend public school from age 5 until graduation or until the end of the school year when they turn 21. Classes are available for English learners.

Health care

Low-cost emergency and non-emergency health care is available to all at public hospitals and clinics and at other affordable clinics.

Child care

Low-income families with children age 6 weeks through 12 years old can get free or low-cost child care.

Emergency food and shelter

Locations across the city provide free

food to people in need; the Homebase program can help residents avoid entering the shelter system.

Public safety

The city does not conduct immigration enforcement. The New York Police Department does not ask about the immigration status of crime victims, witnesses, or other people who ask for help.

Anyone who has been the victim of a hate crime, or is not sure, should contact the NYPD. To contact the NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force directly, call (646) 610-5267.

Immigration legal help

Free, safe immigration legal help is available through Action-NYC, 800-354-0365.

Beware of unlicensed immigration service providers who take advantage of their customers. Get help only from a trusted, licensed attorney or accredited representative. For info, call the New Americans Hotline at 800-566-7636.

Protection from discrimination

New Yorkers also have the right to be free from unlawful discrimination, retaliation, and harassment in the workplace, housing, and public places. To file a complaint or learn more, call 311 or call the NYC Commission on Human Rights at (718) 722-3131.

Call 311 for more information about these resources, or call the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs at 212-788-7654. Translation is available.



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