



# Immigration

## Timeline of key recent federal actions on immigration

- 2012 ○ **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA):** President Obama signed an executive order suspending deportation of immigrants who arrived in the U.S. illegally as children.
- 2014 ○ **Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA):** President Obama expanded the pool of eligible recipients of DACA, providing deportation relief to certain parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents.
- June 2016 ○ **United States v. Texas:** After Texas and other states sued to block the implementation of DAPA, and an appeals court upheld the suit, the Supreme Court heard the challenge to Obama's executive action. The Court was split 4-4, so the appeals court's ruling remains.
- Jan. 2016 ○ **Trump issues three executive orders limiting immigration that spark protests across the nation:** In his three orders, he instructs DHS to begin the process of building a wall along the Mexico-U.S. border, expands the powers of immigration officers, denies federal funding to sanctuary cities, suspends immigration from seven Muslim majority countries and cuts the number of refugees allowed in the U.S.
- Feb. 5 ○ **US district judge from Washington puts a nation-wide hold on the travel ban and the Ninth U.S. Court of Appeals upholds the ruling**
- Feb. 9 ○ **Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) asks Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-TX) to examine Trump's executive orders:** Both senators are leaders on the Senate subcommittee on immigration, which Durbin says has a responsibility to address the legality, morality and efficacy of the orders
- Feb. 14 ○ **Acting director of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement canceled a meeting with the leader of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and other Democrats to discuss a recent wave of immigration raids**

## Potential actions in 115<sup>th</sup> Congress

- Sens. Joe Manchin (D-WV), Jon Tester (D-MT), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) and Joe Donnelly (D-IN) are up for reelection in 2018 in states that Trump won and may be pressured to vote with the GOP on border security measures
- Trump's EOs have sparked protests across the country, which many GOP lawmakers will experience at town halls they host during the upcoming February recess
- On February 7, 2017 GOP Senators Tom Cotton and David Perdue proposed a bill developed with the Trump administration to cut the number of immigrants granted US residency each year from 1 million to 500,000; however, it will likely face tough opposition in both chambers despite the GOP majority
- 24 GOP Congressmen and women have come out against Trump's travel ban, but it remains to be seen what the GOP and Trump will do on immigration moving forward

Sources: Seung Min Kim, "Durbin demands Senate hearings on Trump's immigration orders," Politico, February 9, 2017; Aaron Blacke, "Whip Count: Here's where Republicans stand on Trump's controversial travel ban," Washington Post, January 31, 2017; Ted Hesson and Heather Caygle, "ICE cancels meeting to discuss immigration raids with Congressional Hispanic Caucus leaders," Politico, February 14, 2017; "Two Republican senators propose bill to slash legal immigration," Reuters, February 7, 2017.