

Trump's Joint Congressional Address had a heavy focus on immigration reform and border control

Trump's priorities for immigration reform



"Rule of law at the borders"

Trump mentioned the border wall, but did not go into detail about its financing. He also did not elaborate on how Congress will contribute to border security; instead, he will likely rely on existing laws that empower border security officials to stem the flow of illegal immigrants.



VOICE office

Trump highlighted the new "Office for Victims of Crimes Committed by Removable Aliens." He acknowledged his invited guests who were family members of victims of crimes committed by illegal aliens.



Bipartisan immigration bill

Trump made clear he is eager to work on a bill that would stop short of granting a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, but would allow undocumented immigrants who aren't serious or violent criminals to work and pay taxes in the U.S. without fear of deportation.



A merit-based system

Trump stood by his campaign promises on immigration including extreme vetting and reducing the number of immigrants the U.S. accepts. He backed the use of a merit-based system that would make it harder for low-skilled workers to enter the country. He cited systems in Canada and Australia as examples of successful merit-based immigration policies.

Sources: Jake Tapper, Wolf Blitzer, "Trump envisions bill allowing many immigrants to stay in the US," CNN, March 1, 2017; Jonathan Swan, "What Trump means when he offers an immigration deal," Axios, March 1, 2017.