

Update on immigration

An overview of the House immigration bills under consideration and the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy

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Paul Ryan announces the House will consider two immigration bills, halting a bipartisan discharge petition

Discharge petition process

1 To be subject to a discharge petition, a bill must be introduced and referred to a standing committee for 30 days

2 A member of the House can file a motion to have the bill discharged, or released, from consideration by the committee

3 A majority of the House (218 members, not delegates) must sign the petition

4 Once a discharge petition has 218 members, the House considers the motion to discharge the legislation and votes after 20 minutes of debate

Bipartisan coalition seeks action on immigration



A coalition of bipartisan House representatives, led by Jeff Denham (R-CA) and other moderate Republicans, started H. Res. 774, a discharge petition to force the House to vote on the bipartisan immigration plan and three other bills, over the objections of party leaders



Democrats have joined in support of the petition, as legislators from both parties are frustrated by Congress' failure to resolve the legal status of Dreamers



At 216 petition signatures, the moderate group was two supporters short of the 218 needed to force a vote; instead, the group abandoned the petition and accepted a proposal by Speaker Paul Ryan to have the House debate two bills, both of which have only GOP support

House to vote on two immigration bills regarding legal protections for DACA recipients



Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018

Released by House Republicans

Six-year renewable legal status to Dreamers

- Requires that DACA recipients meet certain criteria, including having been in the US since 2007 and under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012

Further citizenship criteria and regulations

- Establishes merit-based visa program that would give Dreamers and others an avenue to citizenship
- Sets path for Dreamers to obtain green cards, based on qualifications like education, military service and employment

Increased border security and restricted avenues for legal immigration

- Fulfills Trump's \$25 billion request for border security and finances more wall construction on the southern border
- Makes DACA visas conditional, dependent on border security maintenance
- Eliminates diversity visa lottery and some family-based immigration categories



H.R.4760: Securing America's Future Act of 2018

Proposed by Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA)

Three-year renewable legal status for Dreamers

- Requires that DACA recipients have valid work authorization at the date of the bill's enactment and increases visas for skilled workers by over 50,000

Greater punishment for immigration violations

- Criminalizes visa overstays, making unlawful presence in the US a federal misdemeanor
- Restricts sanctuary policies that limit officers' inquiring about the citizenship status of individuals

Increased border security and wall construction

- Requires the hiring of 5,000 border patrol agents and the construction of a US-Mexico border wall
- Eliminates some family-based immigration categories and the diversity visa lottery

Sources: Congress.gov; Caitlin Owens, "The House GOP faces two immigration votes this week," Axios, June 17, 2018; Dara Lind, "The House is set to debate 2 sweeping immigration bills that don't address family separation," Vox, June 18, 2018.

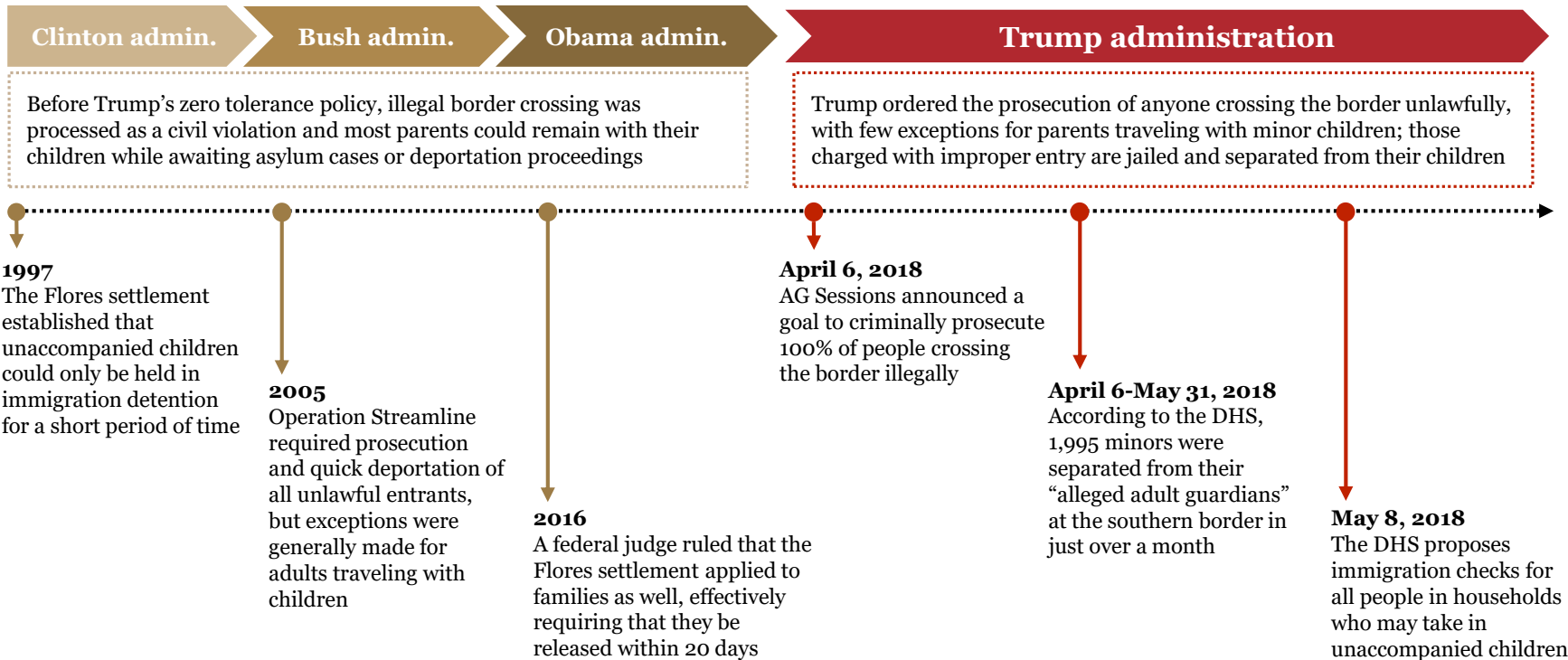
Overview of Trump’s “zero tolerance” immigration policy



- Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the “zero tolerance policy,” directing US Attorneys along the border to prosecute all DHS referrals of violation



- Under the policy, any border crossing outside of a legal “port of entry” is considered a misdemeanor, even on the first infraction, and will be prosecuted
- While parents await prosecution, their children are held under the custody of HHS



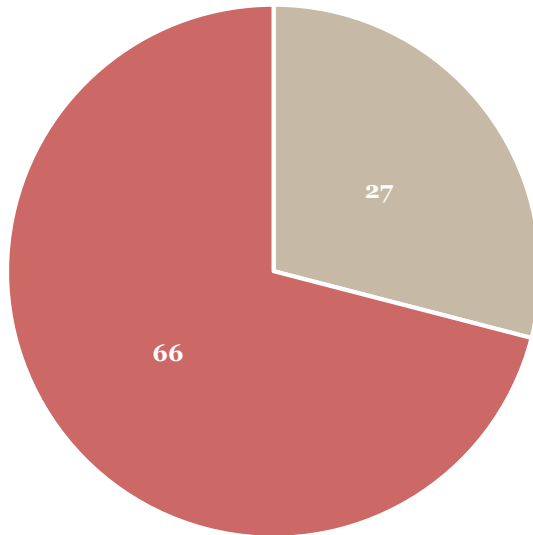
Sources: Suzanne Gambos and Daniella Silva, “Anguish at Southwest border as more immigrant children are separated from parents,” NBC News. May 22, 2018; FederalRegister.org; Brian Naylor, “DHS: Nearly 2,000 Children Separated From Adults At Border in 6 Weeks,” NPR, June 16, 2018.

Poll: 66 percent of Americans disapprove of the separation of families at the border

Public opinion of systematic family separation and Trump’s other immigration policies, June 2018

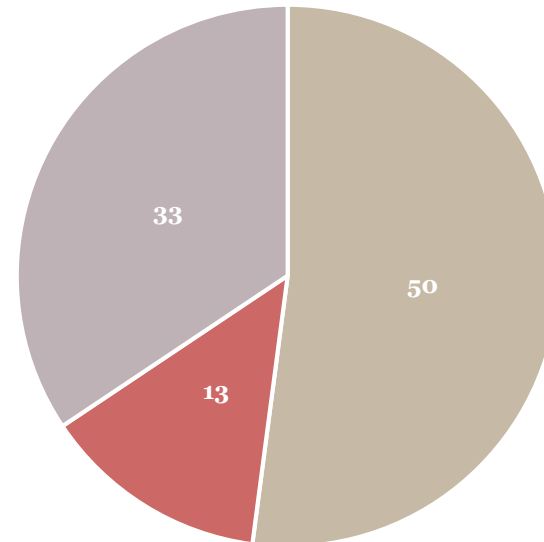
% of Americans who _____ of the policy of separating children and parents when families illegally cross the border

■ Approve ■ Disapprove



% of Americans who say Trump’s immigration policies are _____

■ Too aggressive ■ Not aggressive enough ■ Appropriate



In defense of its “zero tolerance” policy” the administration claims that there is no Trump policy requiring that every family entering the US without papers has to be separated; however, the decision to criminally prosecute all adults illegally crossing into the US inevitably results in the separations

- The two-thirds of Americans who oppose the separation of families at the border include 6 in 10 men and 7 in 10 women
- 55 percent of Republicans approve of the policy
- 6 in 10 independents oppose the policy
- 9 in 10 Democrats oppose it

Sources: Quinnipiac Poll, 2018.