

## **President Trump Suspends Immigration for 60 Days**

President Trump announced on Tuesday that he would be temporarily stopping immigration into the United States for a 60-day period as his administration grapples with the effects of the coronavirus. The move bars green card recipients from moving to the United States, but will still allow temporary workers on non-immigrant visas to enter. During a news briefing, the president said he was issuing this order to protect out-of-work Americans who have lost their jobs due to shutdowns forced by COVID-19. He said that unemployed Americans should be first in line to regain jobs when the economy reopens, and that it "would be wrong" to replace them with immigrant labor from abroad. After the 60-day period ends, President Trump said the order would be modified "based on economic conditions" that he would personally and unilaterally assess.

Trump reportedly wanted to enact a stricter ban on immigration that would have temporarily suspended guest worker programs, but was moved off the idea after strong criticism from business groups. Critics have accused the president and his top immigration adviser, Stephen Miller, of using the coronavirus pandemic to push hardline immigration policies that both men have long desired. Restricting immigration was a key tenet of the president's 2016 campaign, and he appears to be repeating this strategy as the 2020 election draws closer. In 2018, the Supreme Court ruled the president had broad authority to restrict entry into the country in a response to President Trump's controversial entry ban. That decision has seemingly given the president legal permission to enact the current executive order suspending immigration.