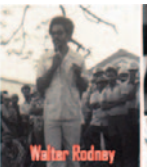
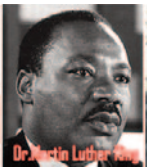


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Trump-McConnell Bill is Filled with Malevolent Poison Pills

BY AMERICA'S VOICE

With the longest government shutdown in history, President Trump continues to hold the American people, their government, and federal workers hostage for a border wall that experts agree harms border communities, the environment, wildlife, and is simply ineffective. On Saturday, President Trump unveiled a new proposal in a feigned effort to end the shutdown calling it, “straightforward, fair, reasonable and common sense with lots of compromise.” The Republican Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee filled in the details by releasing a pro-



Editorial credit: / Shutterstock.com

posed bill parroting Trump's feigned effort and calling it, “a serious compromise.” Don't be fooled. This bill is filled with a series of malevolent provisions and has very little to do with effective border security.

Very Limited Temporary Protection for a Fraction of Current Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Recipients

Despite claims that the bill would provide a three-year extension of status for current DACA and TPS holders whose programs were ended by the Trump adminis-

continued on page 3

Data Shows Granting Driver's Licenses to Undocumented New Yorkers Would Benefit Everyone

New York, NY: New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer, the Fiscal Policy Institute, New York Immigration Coalition, Make the Road New York, and MinKwon Center recently renewed their call to expand access to driver's licenses to all New Yorkers, without regard to immigration status — citing economic and safety benefits of the policy. The coalition gathered as Comptroller Stringer and the Fiscal Policy Institute reemphasized comprehensive data analyses highlighting the



Photo credit: shutterstock.com

significant social and economic benefits of extending driving privileges to undocumented immigrants. More specifically, the data shows that expanding driver's license eligibility would increase license

fees and vehicle ownership-related revenue, resulting in increased funding to the City and State — with more than \$5 million going towards mass transit annually. The data also shows the policy change would help support immigrant families by expanding job opportunities, while potentially lowering insurance premiums for all state drivers and improving public safety on roadways, with the fiscal costs of implementing the proposal more than offset by added revenues from driver's

continued on page 2

Legal Rights Available to Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence

Immigrants are particularly vulnerable because many may not speak English, are often separated from family and friends, and may not understand the laws of the United States. For these reasons, immigrants are often afraid to report acts of domestic violence to the police or to seek other forms of assistance. Such fear causes many immigrants to remain in abusive relationships.

This article will explain domestic violence and inform you of your legal rights in the United States. The International Marriage Broker Regulation Act (IMBRA) requires that the U.S. government provide

foreign fiancé(e)s and spouses immigrating to the United States information about their legal rights as well as criminal or domestic violence histories of their U.S. citizen fiancé(e)s and spouses.

Any victim of domestic violence — regardless of immigration or citizenship status — can seek help. An immigrant victim of domestic violence may also be eligible for immigration-related protections.

If you are experiencing domestic violence in your home, you are not alone. This article is intended to help you understand U.S. laws and know how to get help if you need it.



continued on page 2

The Trump Administration Loses Fight to Add Citizenship Question to 2020 Census

BY MELISSA CRUZ

A federal judge blocked the Trump administration's plan to add a question on U.S. citizenship to the 2020 Census on Tuesday, ruling that the controversial move “violated the public trust” and would be damaging to immigrants.

Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross announced the administration's intention to add the question — “Is this person a citizen of the United States?” to the Census back in March 2018.

Plans to move forward with the new question became quickly tied up in various legal battles, as many feared it would decrease participation in the Census among immigrants. Six former Census Bureau directors also came out in opposition of a citizenship question.

In his 277-page ruling, Judge Jesse Furman determined that the secretary had exceeded his authority and the addition had not undergone the rigorous testing required of all new Census questions. Furman also ruled that Ross had concealed “his real reason” for adding the question in the first place.

Ross reportedly drafted the question after consulting with former White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon, former Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and politician Kris Kobach, all known for their anti-immigrant views.

Including such a question would damage immigrant communities, both advocates and the judge argued. This would be particularly true among noncitizen households.

Manipulating the 2020 Census—which will be used to determine electoral college votes in U.S. elections, congressional seats, and federal funding for the next 10 years—would have a lasting impact on political representation.

The Court found that a decline in self-response rates among noncitizens households would “cause several jurisdictions to lose seats in the next congressional apportionment and that it will cause another set of jurisdictions to lose political representation in the next round of intrastate redistricting.”

Losing that political power would essentially strip already underrepresented communities of key representation and resources. As it stands, Judge Furman's ruling is a welcome victory for maintaining the integrity and accuracy of the Census. ●

Immigrant Victims/ *from page 1*

What are the legal rights for victims of domestic violence in the United States?

All people in the United States, regardless of immigration or citizenship status, are guaranteed basic protections under both civil and criminal law. Laws governing families provide you with:

- The right to obtain a protection order for you and your child(ren).
- The right to legal separation or divorce without the consent of your spouse.
- The right to share certain marital property. In cases of divorce, the court will divide any property or financial assets you and your spouse have together.
- The right to ask for custody of your child(ren) and financial support. Parents of children under the age of 21 often are required to pay child support for any child not living with them.

What to do?

Consult a family lawyer who works with immigrants to discuss how any of these family law options may affect or assist you.

Under U.S. law, any crime victim, regardless of immigration or citizenship status, can call the police for help or obtain a protection order.

Call the police at 911 if you or your child(ren) are in danger. The police may arrest your fiancé(e), spouse, partner, or another person if they believe that person has committed a crime. You should tell the police about any abuse that has happened, even in the past, and show any injuries. Anyone, regardless of immigration or citizenship status, may report a crime.

Likewise, if you are a victim of domestic violence you can apply to a court for a protection order. A court-issued protection order or restraining order may tell your abuser not to call, contact or hurt you, your child(ren) or other family members. If your abuser violates the protection order, you can call the police. Applications for protection orders are available at most courthouses, police stations, women's shelters and legal service offices.

If your abuser accuses you of a crime, you have basic rights, regardless of your immigration or citizenship status, including: the right to talk to a lawyer; the right to not answer questions without a lawyer present; the right to speak in your defense. It is important to talk with both an immigration lawyer and a criminal lawyer.

If I am a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or other crime, what immigration options are available to me?

There are three ways immigrants who become victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and some other specific crimes may apply for legal immigration status for themselves and their child(ren). A victim's application is confidential and no one, including an abuser, crime perpetrator or family member, will be told that you applied.

Benefits

- Self-petitions for legal status under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
- Cancellation of removal under VAWA
- U-nonimmigrant status (crime victims)●

Source: uscis.gov

Driver's Licenses/

continued from page 1



license fees.

According to Comptroller Stringer's office, there are approximately 525,000 undocumented adult New Yorkers living across the five boroughs. These undocumented residents already contribute to the tax base in the City and State, but because they are denied access to driver's licenses, they are more restricted in their job prospects, face longer commutes, and live in fear of deportation.

"For many of us, a driver's license is nothing more than a piece of plastic tucked in between our credit cards, but for undocumented immigrants it means better job opportunities, a safe way to get your child to school, and to the hospital in an emergency – all without fear of deportation during a routine traffic stop," said Comptroller Stringer. "The time is now for Albany to expand access to all New Yorkers because granting licenses isn't just a statement of our moral values, it also makes sense from both a financial and public safety perspective."

Currently, 12 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico grant drivers licenses to undocumented immigrants. The Comptroller's Office estimates that implementing the policy in New York City would result in 150,000 undocumented immigrants in New York City receiving licenses, providing the following benefits:

•Increased Economic Mobility for Families

Expanding driver's license access will provide these New Yorkers with greater access to higher paying jobs and strengthen families by making it easier for parents to drive their children to and from school.

•Increased Revenues Would Offset Program Costs

New York State would gain up to \$9.6 million in driver's license fees, while the MTA would see an increase of \$1.3 million in revenue from these fees.

•Higher Auto Industry Sales

Sales in the auto industry would increase by 2.7 percent, generating tens of millions of dollars for the state in registration and title fees, as well as vehicle and gasoline sales taxes.

•Lower Auto Insurance Premiums

According to a recent study, preventing immigrants from obtaining driver's licenses increases annual insurance expenditures for licensed drivers by \$17.22 per person. Changing New York State policy would deliver savings to

New York City's 3.6 million licensed drivers in future years.

•Improvements in Public Safety

When all drivers learn the rules of the road and purchase insurance policies, the broader public benefits.

According to the Fiscal Policy Institute (FPI), revenues from expanding access to driver's licenses, which would increase the number of people buying cars and paying licensing fees, would more than cover expenses to the Department of Motor Vehicles. The report details how greater access to driver's licenses would create additional revenues for public transportation authorities and especially benefit state and county governments.


"Having a driver's license is a big deal for undocumented immigrants in parts of New York City that are far from the subway, and for those who may need to drive for work," said David Dyssegaard Kallick, Deputy Director of the Fiscal Policy Institute. "But it's even more important for immigrants on Long Island, Westchester, and upstate New York, where having a license is something close to a necessity. Licenses will transform people's lives in the farm country, will help people in the suburbs get to work and pick up their kids from school, and will all around the state mean a better job match between employers and employees, which is good for everyone."

FPI's report also finds that from Long Island to the Lower Hudson Valley to Western New York – all areas where owning cars is more necessary to accessing jobs and participating in the economy – the benefits of expanding driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants would help improve economic conditions for undocumented immigrants, be a net positive for the local economy, and would even add some to local budgets and the upstate regional transit authorities. Collectively, undocumented residents already pay about \$1.1 billion in state and local taxes annually.●

To see the Comptroller's data on this policy, visit www.ijlef.org.

To see the Fiscal Policy Institute's report, visit www.ijlef.org

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Poison Pills/continued from page 1

tration, the proposed bill creates a completely new application process with new standards and requirements that would exclude many currently protected DACA and TPS holders. In addition, a new application and process would take months or longer to implement and even longer for processing of submitted applications. On top of that, applicants would be charged double or more than the fees they pay now. Furthermore, the bill would only allow a fraction of current TPS holders to apply: TPS holders from Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Haiti, but not those with Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) from Liberia or those with TPS from Guinea, Sierra Leone, Nepal, Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia and Syria. Permanent Drastic Limitations on TPS, limiting Protection to Those With Lawful Status

The purpose of TPS is to protect individuals from being sent back to disaster regions where they may be harmed or killed. DHS may grant TPS to foreign nationals in the U.S. during time of disaster in their home country regardless of immigration status. This bill would permanently gut this provision, providing protection only for those with lawful status and exposing the rest to the very harm TPS is supposed to protect them from.

Bans Asylum for the Most Vulnerable at the Border — Children — and Sends Them Back to Harm Without

Don't be fooled. This bill is filled with a series of malevolent provisions and has very little to do with effective border security.

Meaningful Safeguards

President Trump spoke of the dangers children from Central America, particularly young girls, face on the perilous journey north to the U.S. Yet, the bill proposes to eliminate applications for asylum at the border by children from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador with no exception. If those children are encountered at the border, under the bill, they would be sent back to their home countries without meaningful processes to protect them from the harm they may be fleeing.

Sham CAM Program — a Feigned Attempt to Replace the Current Asylum System for Central American Children

Within six months of Trump's presidency, his administration ended the Central American Minors (CAM) program that enabled young people with strong claims for refugee status to apply in their home countries rather than take the dangerous journey to the border in search of protection. Furthermore, efforts by the Obama administration in 2016 to work with the UNHCR (the UN High Commission for Refugees) to set up refugee reception and processing centers in the region have dried up under Trump, with just 525 refugees resettled in the U.S. from all of

Latin America in fiscal year 2018.

Instead of reviving and expanding the CAM program and growing refugee admissions from Central America under current statutory authorities available to the administration, the Trump-McConnell bill proposes a new capped asylum program that would likely take 240 days to implement, while children fleeing violence from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador would have no way to apply for asylum. Furthermore, the new program contains bureaucratic hurdles — an application that could only be considered after the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) goes through its own process and refers the case to DHS. Finally, the bill proposes a filing fee.

Permanent Changes to Asylum

On top of ending critical protections for children from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, the bill makes permanent and nefarious changes to asylum law, such as a permanent bar to the U.S. if asylum is terminated, a new crime punishable by up to five years for making a false statement on an application, and a bar to asylum after one year in the U.S.

Billions More for the Ineffective and Harmful Wall, Detention, Border Patrol and ICE Agents — All Without

Accountability and Protections

For the malevolent poison pill provisions described above which Trump and Republicans in Congress claim is a "serious compromise," their bill proposes \$5.7 billion for the ineffective and harmful wall, a 20% increase in detention beds, and thousands more Border Patrol and ICE agents. All this despite a series of deaths in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) custody, a serious lack of accountability structures, the cruel and inhumane family separation policy, and an unchecked ICE operating without common sense priorities to detain and deport thousands more by using funds earmarked for FEMA, national security and public safety.

Ur Jaddou, Director of DHS Watch and former USCIS Chief Counsel, said: "The Trump-McConnell bill is nothing but a cynical and feigned attempt by Trump and Republicans to convince the American people that they are worried about the shutdown and the government workers forced to work without pay. They may claim it is a serious compromise, but nothing could be further from the truth. Instead, it is a bill filled with malevolent provisions intended to kill any real attempt at a compromise. We deserve better." ●

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