

PASMUN 2026



Committee: U.S. Senate

Topic: Immigration Reform in the U.S

Letter of Introduction

Chair:

Dear delegates,

My name is Dylan Ng, and I will be one of your Chairs for this year's US Senate PASMUN. I am currently in 10th Grade, and this will be my 13th MUN conference and my second time being part of the chair team. I am very excited and honored to be your Chair, and I am looking forward to meeting all of you in November! Over the years, MUN has become something I really enjoy, especially because of the debates, discussions, and different perspectives that come up during committee meetings. Being able to come back as a Chair for my second time is something I am really grateful for, and I hope to make this committee a fun, engaging, and memorable experience for everyone. I can't wait to see the ideas, arguments, and debates you all bring to the committee, and I wish you all the best of luck with your preparation. See you all in November!

Sincerely,

Dylan Ng

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Co-chair:

Dear Delegates,

My name is Diego Diaz, and I will be one of your three chairs for this year's US Senate at PASMUN. I am currently in 10th grade, and I am very excited and honoured to be your chair. I am looking forward to many things, especially meeting all of you in November. I really enjoy MUN

because of the discussions and the different perspectives it brings. I hope to make this committee a fun, engaging, and memorable experience for everyone. I am really excited to hear your ideas and arguments. Finally, I wish you all the best of luck with your preparation. See you all in November!

Sincerely,

Diego Diaz

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Co-Co-chair:

Dear delegates, my name is Ernesto Sanabria, and I will be one of your Co-chairs for this year's US Senate PASMUN. I am in 10th Grade, and I have been participating in MUN for around two years now. This will be my 6th MUN, and it will also be my first time being a part of the chair team. I am very honoured to be your co-chair, and I am looking forward to meeting you all soon! I can't wait to see all of the discussions that will be brought to the table, and I am sure that we will have a great time and an enjoyable committee this year! Two years ago, I fell in love with MUN and debating, and I am thrilled to finally become a member of the chair team! I wish you all the best of luck, and I will see you all in November!

Sincerely,

Ernesto Sanabria

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Committee Background

The United States Senate was founded on March 4th, 1789, and it is one of the two houses of Congress, being the legislative branch of the U.S. federal government. Additionally, the Senate is considered the upper chamber of the U.S. Congress, consisting of 100 Senators, with 2 representing each of the 50 states. It was created with the purpose of balancing power between all of the states equally. As a legislative body, the Senate makes decisions such as approving presidential appointments/treaties, voting on bills, passing federal laws, and conducting oversight of the federal government. To pass a federal law, a majority of the senators must vote in favor of it. Currently, the U.S. Senate faces debates over border security, current methods to handle undocumented immigrants (such as I.C.E), alongside proposals to reform the country's current immigration system.

Topic Introduction

Immigration remains one of the most substantial and debated issues that the United States faces today. It has led to ongoing discussions in Congress over how the immigration system should be reformed. Immigration reform refers to the changes made to the laws and policies that regulate immigration in the United States. The U.S. immigration system consists of several different processes, including border enforcement, legal immigration, undocumented immigration, temporary visas, asylum/refugee programs, and naturalization. Each of these processes serves a key purpose in determining how individuals can enter, remain, and possibly acquire citizenship in the United States. However, the current system faces several difficulties because Congress must consider several priorities at once. These include national security, economic needs,

humanitarian protection, visa policies, family reunification, and enforcement of immigration laws. These priorities can sometimes conflict with one another, making it harder to create reforms that address every concern simultaneously. For example, increasing border enforcement may improve national security, but it could make it more challenging for people seeking asylum to receive protection in the United States. Balancing these priorities is crucial to appropriately reform the immigration system while ensuring it remains fair and effective. Ultimately, it is the Senate's responsibility to consider these priorities and work towards finding ways to improve the immigration system.

Vocabulary

- **Asylum:** Protection granted by the United States to eligible people who are unable or unwilling to return to their home country and seek admission as they fear persecution in their home country.
- **Border Enforcement:** Actions made by the government to stop unauthorized entry, smuggling, and threats near national borders.
- **DACA:** DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, is a U.S. immigration policy that allows certain people who came as children to the United States with temporary protection from deportation and authorization to work.
- **Department of Homeland Security (DHS):** A federal department in the United States that is responsible for managing border security, immigration enforcement, and disaster response.

- **Deportation/Removal:** The formal process of requiring a non-citizen to leave the United States because they are not legally allowed to remain in the country.
- **Employment-Based Immigration:** Immigration that is based on a person's employment, skills, or job offer in the United States. Certain employment categories allow eligible individuals to acquire permanent residence.
- **Family-Based Immigration:** Immigration based on family relationships with U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents.
- **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE):** A federal agency within the DHS responsible for enforcing immigration laws in the U.S.
- **Immigration Reform:** Changes to existing immigration laws and policies intended to address problems or improve how the immigration system operates.
- **Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR):** A non-permanent citizen who has been legally authorized to work and remain in the United States. They are also known as green card holders.
- **Naturalization:** The legal process by which an eligible non-U.S. citizen becomes a U.S. citizen by meeting requirements established by federal law.
- **Refugee:** A person who is outside their country of nationality and is unable or unwilling to return because of persecution or a fear of persecution based on certain protected characteristics.
- **Temporary Protected Status (TPS):** A temporary immigration protection for eligible nationals of specific countries experiencing harsh conditions such as armed conflict or natural disasters which make it unsafe to return.

- **Undocumented Immigrant:** A person who is living in the United States without the immigration status or authorization required by Federal law.
- **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS):** A federal agency within DHS that handles immigration and naturalization applications, such as lawful permanent residence, work authorization, and citizenship.
- **Visa:** A document or authorization that allows a foreign national to seek entry to the United States for a specific purpose under specified conditions. A visa does not guarantee admission.

History of the Topic

Immigration has always been a significant aspect of the United States since the nation was established, as people from all parts of the world have gone to the U.S. in search of safety, work, and better opportunities. In the 1800s, there were few federal rules regulating immigration, but as the number of arrivals increased, the government began to introduce restrictions. A significant early example of this was the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which prevented a large number of Chinese workers from coming to the United States. The Immigration Act of 1924 then established strict limits according to a person's country of origin. A major shift took place in 1965 when the Immigration and Nationality Act abolished the previous national-origin quota system and placed greater emphasis on family reunification and employment skills. This change affected immigration in the U.S. and resulted in more people coming from Latin America, Asia, Africa, and other regions of the world. As undocumented immigration became a more serious problem, Congress passed the Immigration Reform and Control Act in 1986, which strengthened

enforcement against employers who deliberately hired undocumented workers but also permitted certain undocumented immigrants who fulfilled particular requirements to obtain legal resident status. In the 1990s and 2000s, the government improved border security while at the same time Congress kept discussing what should be done about the undocumented immigrants who were already living in the country. In 2012, the Obama administration introduced DACA, which provided certain individuals who had been brought to the U.S. as children with protection against deportation and the right to work, even though it did not grant them citizenship. Since then, immigration reform has stayed a major political issue. At this point, the debate centres on border security, undocumented immigration, asylum, legal immigration, and whether or not some immigrants should have a route to legal status or citizenship. The history of immigration reform as a whole shows that the United States has been working for many years to achieve a balance between controlling its borders, abiding by immigration laws, assisting people who come to the country for safety or opportunities, and acknowledging the important role that immigrants play in American society.

Current Situation

Immigration reform is still one of the major political issues in the United States today. The nation is facing disagreements concerning border security, deportations, asylum, legal immigration, and the fate of undocumented immigrants who have been in the country for a long time. During the present Trump administration, immigration enforcement has become a top priority, with greater efforts to deport people and modifications made to programs that offer protection to some immigrants. Recent immigration policies have also had an impact on those with Temporary

Protected Status (TPS), asylum seekers, and individuals with DACA, causing a great deal of uncertainty for many immigrant families. At the same time, Congress is still looking at various immigration proposals rather than passing a single comprehensive immigration reform law. For instance, senators have introduced the America's CHILDREN Act of 2025, which would grant lawful permanent resident status to some college graduates who entered the United States as children, demonstrating that certain lawmakers are still attempting to establish legal protections for particular groups. Other proposals have been aimed at altering temporary work visa programs and at reducing fraud or abuse within those programs. In general, the situation at the moment is highly divided, with some lawmakers placing a greater emphasis on stronger enforcement and border security while others want more legal routes and protections for immigrants. This is why it is difficult to pass immigration reform since the Senate needs enough support from different political parties to reach an agreement. For MUN, the most important point to grasp is that the current debate is not solely about the border; it also involves asylum, legal immigration, deportation, DACA, temporary protections, workers, and the future of millions of people who currently live in the United States.

Block Positions

The Republican position is that Republicans, as a rule, back stronger border security and a more rigorous enforcement of immigration laws. They usually say that the United States needs greater control of its borders, quicker deportation of those who are in the country illegally, and more stringent conditions for asylum. Many Republicans also favour increasing the funds allocated to border enforcement and oppose policies which they think encourage illegal immigration. At the

same time, some Republicans do support legal immigration and have programs which let certain immigrants stay in the United States if they fulfill particular requirements.

Democratic stance: The Democrats usually back better legal protections for immigrants and more legal ways of entering and staying in the United States. They frequently advocate for protecting Dreamers, improving the asylum system, maintaining family unity, and setting up a route to legal status for some undocumented immigrants who have lived in the country for a long time. They also support border security, although they generally believe that enforcement should be coupled with humanitarian protections and a more accessible legal immigration system.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

- How will the United States improve border security while protecting the rights of immigrants and asylum seekers?
- How should the government handle undocumented immigrants who are already living in the United States?
- What changes should be made to the asylum and refugee system to make it fair and efficient?
- How should the United States improve legal immigration, including family-based and employment-based immigration?
- What should happen to DACA recipients and other immigrants who were brought to the United States as children?
- How can the government make deportation and immigration enforcement effective while protecting due process and human rights?

- How should programs such as TPS be handled during immigration reform?
- What specific laws or policies should Congress change, create or remove to improve the US immigration system?

Conclusion and Possible Resources

Immigration is a complex issue that requires the US Senate to balance border security, economic need, and humanitarian concerns. A successful resolution should create a fair and effective immigration system while also protecting national security and the rights of the people. Senators should work toward a compromise that addresses both enforcement and legal protections.

- U.S. Senate- Information about current senators, bills, and legislation.
- U.S. Congress- Information about federal laws and proposed legislation.
- Department of Homeland Security- Information about immigration enforcement and border security.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services- Information about visas, citizenship, asylum, DACA, and immigration benefits.
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)- Information about immigration enforcement and deportation.

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