

ALEX PADILLA

U.S. SENATOR *for* CALIFORNIA

Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929

In a time of rising attacks on immigrants in the United States, **U.S. Senator Alex Padilla is leading the charge for a better path forward** to pass commonsense immigration reforms. The **“Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929 Act”** reflects the shared belief that if you’ve lived here for years, paid taxes for years, and contributed to your community for years, you deserve a fair shot at the American Dream. By protecting long-term undocumented residents, the bill would keep communities together and unlock America’s economic potential.

Public opinion is turning against the cruelty and dysfunction of President Trump’s immigration enforcement agenda. Roughly 11 million undocumented immigrants live in the United States today, yet most have no way to earn permanent legal status. The overwhelming majority of these undocumented immigrants have established roots in the U.S. They work in essential jobs and pay taxes. Their continued exclusion doesn’t just harm families — it hurts our economy by depriving critical industries of experienced workers.

This proposal builds on a history of bipartisan reform. The last time Congress meaningfully updated the immigration Registry was in **1986**, when **President Ronald Reagan signed into law the *Immigration Reform and Control Act***, which allowed nearly **3 million** undocumented immigrants to apply for legal status. It was based on a simple principle: if you’ve built a life here, you deserve a chance to stay.

And yet today, the current Registry cutoff date is **January 1, 1972 — more than 50 years ago.**

What the bill would do:

- **Update the outdated “Registry” cutoff date** so that long-term residents may qualify for lawful permanent resident status if they have lived in the U.S. continuously for at least seven years prior to filing an application under the Registry.
- **Preempt the need for further congressional action** by making the Registry eligibility cutoff rolling, instead of tying it to a specific date, as it is now.
- **Provide a much-needed pathway to a green card for Dreamers, TPS holders and other forcibly displaced individuals, and highly skilled members of our workforce**, such as H-1B visa holders, who have been waiting years for a visa number to become available.

Just **305 people** adjusted their status under the current Registry provision between 2015 and 2019, rendering the 1972 entry cutoff all but meaningless. Senator Padilla’s bill would finally restore the Registry as a real, functional path to legalization — just like President Reagan envisioned nearly four decades ago. It’s a pragmatic fix that recognizes the reality of our economy, our communities, and our shared future.