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**SPRING INSTITUTE FOR INTERCULTURAL LEARNING CONDEMNS NEW
TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S ANTI-IMMIGRANT EXECUTIVE ACTIONS**

**INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITY VOWS TO CONTINUE EMBRACING NEWCOMER
CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY**

Denver, CO—On Monday the White House [announced](#) numerous executive actions aimed at severely limiting immigration, including by redefining birthright citizenship, restricting asylum claims, and indefinitely suspending the refugee resettlement program.

These actions follow an egregious trend initiated under the first Trump administration representing a departure from the longstanding, bipartisan United States policy of welcoming immigrants and particularly [refugees](#). During his first term, Trump repeatedly lowered the annual Presidential Determination—or cap—set for the number of refugee admissions to the U.S. so that when he left office in 2021 it was set at an all-time low of just 15,000. This contrasted starkly with the policies of nearly four decades of Republican and Democratic leadership and proved to be disproportionate with the continuously growing international humanitarian need. The Biden-Harris Administration took some steps to re-establish resettlement, but Trump's new actions are clearly intended to rescind any repair and further dismantle welcoming policies.

Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning and allies condemn the Trump administration's approach as xenophobic, draconian, and harmful to all who are committed to a thriving intercultural community that fully includes and embraces the important contributions of peaceful, talented, and ambitious immigrants and refugees from throughout the world.

“It is painful to see the United States, despite playing a leading role in drafting the [Refugee Convention](#) and becoming a state party to the [UNHCR](#) Protocol nearly 60 years ago, taking misguided steps to dismantle the refugee resettlement program and deny the fundamental right of individuals to claim asylum,” said Paula Schriefer, President and CEO of Spring Institute. “Closing our borders to all who deserve a safe haven and who want to contribute to our social and economic fabric is not the answer to decades of failed immigration policy reform.”

Actions restricting immigration have been disingenuously characterized by the Trump administration as promoting public safety, yet [extensive research shows](#) that immigrants, regardless of documentation status, are less likely than U.S.-born individuals to commit crimes and immigration is associated with increased public safety. Furthermore, immigrants are a vital part of Colorado's economy, contributing millions to state and local taxes, generating economic growth, and strengthening public

services. Refugees play an especially crucial role in our shared prosperity by generating \$1.68 in economic activity for every \$1 provided to them in assistance, according to a [report by the Colorado Department of Human Services](#).

The vitality of the U.S. refugee admissions infrastructure—namely the designated [resettlement agencies](#) and the many organizations that assist with integration efforts across the country—also has global implications, bolstering U.S. diplomatic standing and functioning as a pressure valve for other countries that serve as the main entry points for millions fleeing global violence and persecution. Restoring—rather than decimating—local resettlement numbers and making smart investments in integration supports will provide new Americans with the opportunity to restart their lives while sharing their diverse talents and cultural offerings in Colorado.

Additionally, heightened scrutiny and deterrence of refugees is not only inhumane and economically detrimental, it is patently unnecessary. At the onset of the first Trump Administration, refugees admitted to the U.S. were already the most heavily vetted individuals to arrive on U.S. soil. The vetting process took, on average, well over a year and included in-person interviews, biometric screening, and background checks by multiple agencies. Applications for the U.S. refugee program have historically been limited to only those who fall into three principal categories and selection is effectively prioritized based on urgency of need. Those seeking to reunite with relatives already settled in the U.S. have been considered the lowest priority, meaning that tens of thousands of children, parents, and siblings have been delayed or prevented from seeing their loved ones again in the resettlement process even before Trump's recent actions.

A bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill was put forward by the 118th Congress in 2024, but it was [defeated as a result of political pressure](#) from then-candidate Donald Trump.

"The policy steps outlined in that bill would have addressed many of the security concerns raised by the new presidential administration without the need for executive actions and attempts to rewrite the U.S. Constitution regarding birthright citizenship," Schriefer continued. "We call on all Americans and fellow Coloradans to let the Trump administration know that we support thoughtful immigration reform that respects international and domestic law and maintains the longstanding U.S. commitment to providing refuge to those who need it while embracing newcomers who are rebuilding lives for their families through contributions to our society and economy."

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Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning is a nonprofit organization with a mission to build a thriving intercultural community through learning, language access, and advocacy. To find out more, visit our website at www.springinstitute.org and follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).