

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP IS DETERMINED TO RESTORE THE SANCTITY OF OUR ASYLUM SYSTEM AND STOP THE OVERWHELMING SURGE OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

“The biggest loophole drawing illegal aliens to our borders is the use of fraudulent or meritless asylum claims to gain entry into our great country.” – President Donald J. Trump

ENDING ASYLUM ABUSE: President Donald J. Trump is taking action to stop aliens from using meritless asylum claims as a free pass to illegally enter our country.

- The Trump Administration is releasing a rule making aliens ineligible for asylum if they passed through another country on their way to our border without applying for protection.
- Aliens will be required to demonstrate they applied for protection in at least one country that they transited through but were denied.
- Aliens covered by this rule will receive a negative credible fear determination at the border by an asylum officer, as they have no possibility of being eligible for asylum.
 - There will be exceptions for certain aliens, like those who are victims of trafficking.
 - Aliens will continue to be eligible for Convention Against Torture and withholding of removal protections.
- Asylum officers will apply a higher standard in the screening process for aliens seeking certain other protections at the border.
- The Departments of Justice and Homeland Security are releasing this joint rule under their clear legal authority under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

RESTORING ORDER TO THE SYSTEM: For too long, our asylum system has been exploited by aliens as a means to illegally enter and remain in our country.

- Our asylum system has been used as a loophole by aliens to gain entry into the United States and remain here indefinitely – even though their claims are often meritless.
 - The median asylum grant rate across all immigration courts is around 11 percent.
- Once crossing the border and gaining release into the interior, aliens exploiting this loophole often fail to show up to court.
 - There have already been over 58,000 in absentia removal orders so far this fiscal year (FY) – up from just more than 25,000 in 2008.
- Our immigration courts are experiencing an unsustainable backlog as aliens flood to our border, with a current backlog of more than 900,000 cases.

STOPPING THE SURGE OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION: Loopholes in our immigration laws have created a dire crisis at our border and brought the system to a breaking point.

- Loopholes like the abuse of our asylum system act as a magnet that draws more and more aliens with meritless claims to flood across our border.
- Asylum applications have skyrocketed as aliens flood to the border, increasing from 42,836 in FY 2008 to 162,060 in FY 2018 – a 278 percent jump.
 - The abuse of the asylum system ultimately harms legitimate asylum seekers who face a massive backlog due to often meritless claims.
- Our resources at the border have been overwhelmed by the surge in illegal immigration.
 - Border Patrol has already apprehended 688,375 aliens at the southern border this FY – 73 percent more than were apprehended in all of FY 2018.