

EVANGELICAL IMMIGRATION table.

April 7, 2025

Dear President Trump and Secretary Noem,

Two months into your Administration, you, President Trump, have demonstrated your deep commitment to ensuring our nation's borders are strong and secure. We are grateful for the urgent attention you have given this pressing matter. We also affirm the sentiment you expressed that immigrants "with love for the country" should be able "to come in legally." That should be the standard for our nation's immigration policy. We would draw your attention, though, to one recent move we believe undermines this priority.

In recent weeks, Secretary Noem has announced the termination of previously-announced extensions of Temporary Protected Status and termination of parole for individuals who are currently lawfully residing and authorized to work in the United States. Reports suggest this could even be expanded to new groups, such as certain Ukrainians with U.S. sponsors or even Afghans brought to the U.S. after the Taliban takeover.

Given the stark humanitarian crises occurring in each of these countries, we would ask these protections not be removed. Appropriately, individuals with parole or Temporary Protected Status already can face deportation if they commit certain criminal offenses, but the individuals who are currently protected have undergone criminal background checks and are abiding by existing immigration laws. They are authorized to work lawfully, and in doing so they are providing for themselves, their families and in some cases for loved ones in their conflict-afflicted countries of origin, while also meeting labor needs in key sectors of our economy.

Many of these individuals are also active members of evangelical churches, which is one reason that these concerns are so personal to many evangelical Christians throughout the country. Evangelical churches, following biblical commands to show hospitality to strangers and to make disciples of all nations, have offered physical and spiritual support to many immigrants who have been legally paroled into the U.S. in recent years that have come from active war zones and countries engaged in military conflict. Some individuals at risk of losing legal protections could face deportation to contexts where they could be persecuted on account of their faith in Jesus. In these countries, deportation would mean returning individuals to contexts to which the U.S. State Department rightly warns American citizens not to travel because of the high risk of violence and/or persecution.



President Trump has affirmed his commitment to legal immigration, and the vast majority of evangelical Christians agree with him: 82 percent of American evangelicals who voted for President Trump in 2024 believe that legal immigration has been helpful to the U.S, according to a recent poll conducted by [Lifeway Research](#). While we do want to see our borders secured and violent criminals removed from the United States, we do not want to see law-abiding individuals who are currently in the country lawfully become unlawfully present or be deported.

We acknowledge that, in some cases, these individuals with temporary legal protections have been in the United States for a while, with “temporary” protections needing to be repeatedly renewed by the executive branch. We ask that the Trump Administration work alongside Congress to provide legislative remedies to these situations. For Afghans, for example, the Afghan Adjustment Act, which enjoyed broad bipartisan support in past Congresses and had the support of veterans groups such as the [American Legion](#) and the [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#), should be reintroduced and passed. There are several other bipartisan congressional proposals to offer legal protections for vulnerable individuals from other countries and ensure our nation is secure. We urge the Trump Administration to work alongside Congress in prioritizing our national security and offering clear pathways to current lawfully-present populations to prevent at-risk individuals from having to return to environments where they will face persecution, humanitarian challenges, and even death.

As you consider this timely request, please know that we are committed to praying for you and all of our governmental leaders, asking that God would grant you wisdom and discernment as you handle issues of vital national importance.

Sincerely,

Evangelical Immigration Table Organizations:

Asian American Christian Collaborative

Bethany Christian Services

Council for Christian Colleges and Universities

Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

National Association of Evangelicals

National Latino Evangelical Coalition

World Relief