

Immigration Sentinel

June 2026

Fisher Broyles

Adjustment of Status Confusion

On 5/21/2026, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) issued a policy memo asserting that adjustment of status under Immigration & Nationality Act §245 is a matter of discretion and administrative grace not designed to supersede the regular consular processing of immigrant visas. The memo instructs adjudicators to assess each case under a totality of the circumstances framework, weigh all favorable and adverse factors, and approve only where the applicant's equities justify a favorable exercise of discretion. In a press release, USCIS spokesperson Zach Kahler stated, "From now on, an alien who is in the U.S. temporarily and wants a Green Card must return to their home country to apply, except in extraordinary circumstances."

Following outcries from business groups, immigrants, and immigration lawyers, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) later issued a statement portraying the green card guidance in far less sweeping ways, arguing the memo issued last week restated "longstanding law and policy." DHS stated the "policy will not prevent any aliens from obtaining a green card who legitimately and properly qualify" and that the guidance "will result in some aliens who do not merit the discretionary benefit ultimately applying with the Department of State overseas rather than USCIS in the United States." In its statement to CBS News on May 30, DHS went on to say, "This policy will have no noticeable impact on highly qualified applicants and skilled professionals who have followed the law," adding that "these aliens benefit the national interest and provide economic benefits to the United States and will continue to merit the favorable exercise of discretion."



June Visa Bulletin

The U.S. Department of State (DOS) published the June 2026 Visa Bulletin. There was modest advancement in most family-based preference categories, while there was little to no progress in employment-based categories. Like the prior month, USCIS determined that applicants in all family-sponsored preference categories must use the Dates for Filing chart, and applicants in all employment-based preference categories must use the Final Action Dates chart. The bulletin continues to include a warning that retrogression in future months may be necessary on account of President Trump's proclamations pausing the issuance of immigrant visas to countries deemed high risk.

Visa Bond Pilot Program

DOS updated its list of countries subject to the visa bond pilot program, which list now totals 50 countries. DOS also has announced it will waive bond requirements for certain nationals of countries competing in the FIFA World Cup, including athletes, team members, and ticket-holders who meet specific requirements. DOS has shared information specific to foreign nationals traveling to the U.S. for the World Cup. For nationals subject to the bond pilot program, U.S. consular officers may require a bond be posted as a condition of issuance of a B-1 (visitor for business) or B-2 (visitor for pleasure) visa. The exact amount of the bond is based upon the applicant's circumstances as determined by the consular officer in an amount of no less than \$5,000 and up to \$15,000. All visa holders who are required to post a visa bond must enter and exit the U.S. through a designated airport. DOS updates this list of airports on a rolling basis so affected travelers are advised to review the current list before planning any travel to the U.S.

U.S. Passport Revocations

DOS announced that it is coordinating with Health and Human Services (HHS) to revoke the passports of Americans with significant child support debt. U.S. law allows DOS to revoke passports for individuals who owe \$2,500 or more in child support.

Refugee Admissions Increased for Afrikaners

President Trump issued an Emergency Presidential Determination, published in the Federal Register, increasing the FY2026 refugee admissions ceiling from 7,500 to 17,500. The additional admissions are designated only for Afrikaners from South Africa.

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Ebola Outbreak Impacts Visa Services

U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued a Title 42 order in response to the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda, suspending entry, with limited exceptions, for non-U.S. passport holders who were present in the DRC, Uganda, or South Sudan within 21 days prior to 5/18/2026. The order will remain in effect through 6/17/2026. The order was accompanied by a DOS announcement temporarily pausing visa services at U.S. embassies in Juba, Kinshasa, and Kampala. U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) also announced all flights carrying passengers recently present in the DRC, Uganda, or South Sudan will be redirected to arrive at Washington-Dulles International Airport (IAD) until further notice.

TPS El Salvador Employment Authorization End Dates

USCIS provided updated guidance to the public that Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) issued to Temporary Protected Status (TPS) beneficiaries from El Salvador with an expiration date of 5/9/2025 are automatically extended through 7/22/2026. Covered EADs include those noted as Category A12 or C19 with a "Card Expires" date of 3/9/2025. For other El Salvador nationals with "Card Expires" dates of 3/9/2018, 9/9/2019, 1/2/2020, 1/4/2021, 10/4/2021, 12/31/2022, or 6/30/2024, their EADs are only automatically extended until 3/9/2026, and must have timely filed an I-765 application before the re-registration period ended on 3/18/2025 to have an automatic extension through 7/22/2026. El Salvador nationals granted TPS who received EAD cards with category A12 or C19 issued through 9/9/2026 can use their EADs through 9/9/2026.

Deferred Action To Be Granted Sparingly

USCIS issued a policy alert updating guidance in the agency's Policy Manual to reaffirm deferred action as an "extraordinary use of prosecutorial discretion." Deferred action is a discretionary tool DHS can use to defer removal and/or deportation if a case involves potential extreme hardships or other humanitarian factors. Through this policy alert, USCIS has announced it will grant deferred action only sparingly on a case-by-case basis.

TPS Yemen and Somalia Work Authorization Ending

SAVE and E-Verify provided updates regarding the extension of EADs for TPS-holders from Yemen and Somalia in response to court orders postponing the countries' TPS terminations. Expiration dates for such EADs should be listed in E-Verify and SAVE as 7/1/26. The updates supersede prior guidance.

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Foreign Doctors Exempt from Travel Ban

The New York Times reported on USCIS's policy update to permit foreign doctors from travel-ban countries to receive immigration benefits. A hold on processing remains for most applications for immigration benefits filed by citizens of certain countries on the Trump administration's travel ban list; however, with this new development, physicians are no longer subject to the processing hold.

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