

# EVANGELICAL IMMIGRATION table.

December 1, 2022

Dear Members of Congress,

We are writing to urge you to prioritize several key immigration policy concerns in the “lame duck” session before the 118th Congress begins in January.

Specifically, we urge Members of Congress to forge consensus across partisan divisions to pass legislation that would:

- Allow individuals who currently benefit from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy and other “Dreamers” who were brought to the United States as children to apply for Lawful Permanent Resident status and eventual citizenship, mindful that the DACA policy is currently in legal jeopardy and likely to be terminated in the coming months or years, which could lead to large-scale disruptions for DACA recipients, their U.S.-born children, their communities and their employers
- Increase resources for asylum adjudication and border security, addressing the chaotic situation at the U.S.-Mexico border in ways that respect due process for those who profess a credible fear of persecution but also prevent unvetted individuals from entering the United States undetected
- Reform immigration laws to ensure a reliable, lawfully-present workforce for our country’s agriculture sector, particularly at a time when the most vulnerable Americans are struggling as a result of soaring food prices fueled, at least in part, by labor shortages
- Ensure that Afghans who have fled the persecution and been resettled into communities throughout the United States are granted Lawful Permanent Resident status after passing additional security checks, removing the fear and uncertainty that our Afghan allies face as their parole expiration deadlines loom

Each of these concerns is rooted in the biblical principles that guide us as evangelical Christians. The Scriptures make clear that each human being is made in God’s image and should be treated with dignity. God has established government and ordained it to maintain order and protect those who are vulnerable from to harm. And God has also established the family, so we should seek to ensure the unity of the immediate family whenever possible.



Evangelical Christians are remarkably unified in their support for these priorities. A [recent study by Lifeway Research](#) found that 80 percent of all evangelicals “support Republicans and Democrats working together on a combination of immigration reforms that strengthens border security, creates a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children, and provides a reliable number of screened, legal farmworkers.” 70 percent of evangelicals affirm that the U.S. has a moral responsibility to accept those who have fled persecution. And 71 percent of evangelicals say it is important that Congress passes significant immigration legislation this year.

We are thankful that bipartisan bills addressing each of these issues have already been introduced in the current Congress, and some of them have already passed the U.S. House of Representatives. But the time to pass them into law is short – because it will likely become even more difficult to forge the bipartisan consensus to actually pass legislation in the new Congress.

We know that the work of forging consensus and legislating is difficult, and we are praying that God would guide you and give you wisdom as you govern.

Sincerely,

**Evangelical Immigration Table Organizations:**

*Bethany Christian Services*

*Council for Christian Colleges and Universities*

*Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention*

*Faith and Community Empowerment*

*National Association of Evangelicals*

*National Latino Evangelical Coalition*

*The Wesleyan Church*

*World Relief*