

Opinion: A compassionate and sensible step on immigration

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It's not amnesty, back-door or otherwise. It's just a little more sanity in our broken immigration system.

The Obama administration has announced that it will suspend deportation proceedings against thousands of illegal immigrants who aren't a danger to public safety, including those who came to America as young children and have graduated from high school and gone on to college or into the military.

Other "low-priority" cases likely to benefit under the new policy are veterans and spouses of veterans, caregivers for a seriously ill relative or for a person with a mental or physical disability and those with family members who are citizens.

It only makes sense to target limited manpower and resources to deporting those who are violent criminals and drug smugglers, or who pose a national security threat.

This is not a blanket policy; immigration officials will review, case by case, nearly 300,000 people now in the deportation pipeline to distinguish those who may qualify for relief from those who should be expelled as soon as possible. It also doesn't automatically grant citizenship, though many could eventually apply for legal status.

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