



American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

We Need to Defend Liberty

President Trump's latest proposed changes to the nation's immigration law, embodied in the Raise Act, would have several startling implications. We at ADC are committed to fighting this act, but first, we want to tell you why we're against it.

1. The number of refugees accepted into the country would be drastically cut.

Before leaving office, President Obama pledged to accept 110,000 refugees a year. The act calls for that number to be cut by over fifty percent--50,000 refugees a year.

2. The diversity immigrant visa program would be cut.

This program is essentially a green card lottery that was enacted by Congress over twenty years ago; it allows individuals without familial links in the United States or employment prospects to immigrate to the country. Fifty thousand individuals are accepted each year. Under the act, this program would be completely cut off.

Senator Tom Cotton (R-Ark), one of the senators behind the act, stated that this aspect of an earlier version of this bill would [prevent](#) people from bringing their "village" or "tribe."

3. The number of green cards issued would be severely cut.

Currently, over one million people receive green cards. Under the reformed law, this number could be cut to 500,000.

4. Employment-based GreenCards will be based on a point system.

Employment-based GreenCards will be granted based off of factors such as education level, English-speaking ability, age, and achievements. This unfair standard disqualifies many immigrants, including those that simply do not have access to higher education.

5. Welfare for new immigrants would be cut.

"The RAISE Act prevents new migrants and new immigrants from collecting welfare ... They're not going to come in and just immediately go and collect welfare. That doesn't happen under the RAISE Act. They can't do that," President Trump stated. However, most immigrants are [barred](#) from receiving welfare for up to five years.

We at ADC believe that this act is discriminatory and a stark contrast to Emma Lazarus' poem, which is written at the base of the Statue of Liberty. The poem reads, Emma Lazarus's poem, "The New Colossus," that appears at the base of the Statue of Liberty. The poem reads: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses."