

Trump Advocates Cutting Immigration in Half, Favors Skilled English-Speakers

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President Trump announced his support for cutting in-half the number of legal immigrants allowed into the United States while also moving to a 'merit-based' system based on English-language skills, education, high-paying job offers, and age. Also, new immigrants would be prevented from collecting welfare, which is in bold contrast to the fact that 50% of all present immigrant households receive welfare and, for many of them, this is the primary reason for their immigration. –GEG

President Trump along with Senators Tom Cotton and David Perdue have introduced a revolutionary immigration bill which would cut immigration numbers by half and favor highly skilled immigrants who can speak English.

The bill is modeled after other merit-based immigration systems like they have in Canada and Australia. The bill appears to be written in such a way that it may actually favor European immigrants for the first time since 1965.

From **NBC News**:

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump announced his support Wednesday for legislation that would cut in half the number of legal immigrants allowed into the United States while moving to a “merit-based” system of entry.

“That is why we are here today: Merit-based,” Trump said, joined at the White House Roosevelt Room podium by the bill’s sponsors, Sens. Tom Cotton, R-Ar., and David Perdue, R-Ga.

The RAISE Act, which Cotton and Perdue introduced in February, would scrap the current lottery system to get into the U.S. and instead institute a points-based system for earning a green card. Factors that would be taken into account include English language skills, education, high-paying job offers and age.

New immigrants would also be prevented from collecting welfare, an issue Trump had spoken to in recent months.

"That's a very big thing. They're not going to come in and just immediately go and collect welfare," Trump said.