



Liberia DED Talking Points



On March 31, the Trump Administration must decide whether to forcibly deport approximately 4,000 legal Liberian immigrants who work hard, pay taxes and many of whom have US citizen children.

Most of these families have been here for more than 25 years -- and many will be commencing their Easter celebrations the next day, April 1.

They have been allowed to stay in part because of Republican President George W. Bush. His administration granted them Deferred Enforcement Departure (DED) status in 2007 after their TPS status expired. The Obama Administration extended this status.

These individuals are Americans in all but their papers.

- **They contribute to our economy.** Many work in key sectors, especially in under-represented sectors, healthcare and education.
- **They are part of our community.** They work and pay taxes. They own homes and patronize restaurants. Their children go to school.

These families cannot be sent back to Liberia.

- **Liberia is still recovering from civil war** and hasn't rebuilt basic infrastructure like healthcare, banking, electricity, housing, education, security and food. Unemployment remains staggeringly high.
- **Liberia is still recovering from the 2014 Ebola crisis** which has strained the healthcare system to the point of breaking, leaving nearly no access to basic healthcare needs related to malaria and pre-natal care for women.

The Trump Administration must take into consideration the contributions these families make to our economy, the moral repugnancy of breaking up families with forced deportations of legal immigrants and the fact that Liberia is still recovering from crisis.

They should extend DED for these hardworking, taxpaying parents of US citizen children on March 31.