

[Click here to print](#)

MailOnline

Sunday, Nov 30th 2014 10PM 60°F 1AM 59°F 5-Day Forecast

Obama unilaterally shielded nearly 5 million illegal immigrants from deportation but amnesty advocates say it's not enough

- 'This will impact less than half of the 11 million undocumented immigrants living here right now,' one said
- 'He's done good but I wish he had done more,' said another
- Immigration activists are upset that Obama isn't saving single, childless and LGBT immigrants, as well as those who have committed minor crimes
- Conservatives think he went too far and they're pushing the GOP to reign in his authority - or else

By [Francesca Chambers for MailOnline](#)



Published: 18:11 EST, 28 November 2014 | Updated: 18:50 EST, 28 November 2014

President Barack Obama took the unprecedented step last week of using executive authority to protect close to 5 million immigrants residing in the United States illegally, defying the wishes of both Republicans Congress and the American people.

Immigration reform advocates are already decrying him, however, saying his expansive actions didn't go far enough.

'This will impact less than half of the 11 million undocumented immigrants living here right now,' Lancaster, Pennsylvania, radio host and immigration activist Wilfredo Seda told a [local news publication](#) the day after Obama's announcement.

'By ignoring that many people, we are still leaving most people in the shadows,' Seda continued.

Scroll down for video



• SHARE PICTURE

-
-
-
-
-

+4

President Barack Obama delivers remarks on his executive action regarding immigration reform at the Copernicus Cultural Center in Chicago, Illinois on Tuesday. At one point he was heckled by three different immigration activists



• SHARE PICTURE

-
-
-
-
-

+4

Obama told the hecklers, one of whom can be seen standing behind him to his left, that he didn't understand why they were mad at him considering he had just acted to save millions of illegals from deportation

'He's done good but I wish he had done more,' United Action Connecticut President Steve Volpini told [The Record-Journal](#).

'You're talking about parents of DREAMers, many of them won't be eligible, unless they have children born here. That's going to be hard to take,' he said.

The order to defer deportation for select groups of illegal immigrants outlined by Obama in a presidential address last week only covers the parents American citizen children. It does not affect the parents of illegal immigrant children.

Also protected by the directive are qualifying immigrants who arrived in the U.S. before the age of 16, also known as DREAMers.

All applicants must have been living in the U.S. since Jan. 1, 2010 in order to be eligible for work permits. Immigrants who arrived after that date will still be subjected to removal proceedings.

In addition to living in the U.S. for the last five years, immigrants seeking special consideration must pass background and national security checks in order to stay in the country and they must pay their taxes.

The president has said on numerous occasions that he would like to have helped more illegal immigrants but he believes that the law prohibits him from expanding his deferred action program any wider than he already has.

Only Congress, he's said, can decide to waive deportations for all illegal immigrants.

RELATED ARTICLES

- [Previous](#)
- [1](#)
- [2](#)
- [Next](#)



[Obama defends using executive action to tackle immigration,...](#)

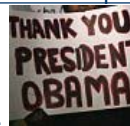


['This is just a first step': Obama](#)



[promises immigration...](#)

[Senate Democrats turn on Obama over immigration plan after...](#)



[Obamacare](#)

[loophole gives employers a \\$3,000 incentive to...](#)



[Congress CAN pull financial rug from under Obama's...](#)



[Obama heads to Chicago to pitch immigration](#)

[steps while...](#)

Share this article

Share
15 shares

In promoting his executive actions President Obama has played up his decision to remove criminals, not children and families, from the country first.

A seemingly positive realignment of government resources, the commentary has angered some immigration activists who believe that minor criminal records shouldn't stand in the way of legal status.

'Many deserving individuals are left out of his announcement like those who are waiting patiently on waiting lists, those with minor criminal offenses, and the parents of DREAMers,' Bill Ong Hing, founder of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center in San Francisco told [NBC News](#) last week.

Maru Mora Villalpondo, an immigrant who will be saved from deportation by Obama's proclamation, made a similar observation last Friday at a protest in front of a Tacoma, Washington, detention center.

In addition to immigrants who have committed petty crimes, Villalpondo told the Associated Press Obama's plan unfairly left out single, childless and LGBT immigrants.

'For those millions and millions that are not going to be protected under the president's executive action, we're here for them. We're going to tell the stories of those that are not going to be protected,' Villalpondo said during the rally.

At the same event another illegal immigrant who will be allowed to stay as a result of Obama's order, Claudia Martinez, lamented that her husband may still be deported because he was once arrested from driving under the

influence of alcohol.

'I feel sad for my husband because he's the one who works. I'd like him to have a work permit, so we can advance,' she reportedly told AP in Spanish.



• SHARE PICTURE

-
-
-
-
-

+4

A young man identified as Angel Fernandez interrupted Obama's Las Vegas, Nevada, speech last Friday to press him to end deportations for more illegal immigrants

In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, activists were also visibly dismayed during Obama's announcement when he said he would target criminals and beef up border security, the city's [National Public Radio affiliate](#) reports.

'I can't accept the first half of the speech, I think it's still insulting to many who are Mexican,' Gil Amador, a member of the city's immigration group Voces de la Frontera, told the radio station during a watch party the night of Obama's national address.

'Democrats are still scared of Mexicans and there is an implicit racism on this. They are scared of us,' he said.

Instead of keeping Mexicans out, he said the U.S. needs to 'build bridges' between the two countries.

'It's not just deportations, it's not about dreamers. It's about connecting our communities,' he said.

At public events since his speech Obama has repeatedly been heckled by immigration activists who are upset with him for not instructing immigration officials to stop deporting all illegal residents.

During a celebratory speech last Friday in Las Vegas, Nevada, hours after his immigration announcement, two young men from Phoenix, Arizona, interrupted his remarks to share their displeasure.

'That's right, not everybody will qualify under this provision. That's the truth,' Obama said. 'That's why we're still going to have to pass a bill.'

'This is a first step,' he said moments later. 'It's not the only step. We're still gonna have to do more work.'

Again on Tuesday Obama was chided during an appearance in his hometown, Chicago, Illinois, by a young female activist who felt he wasn't doing enough for the cause.

After Obama noted that deportations of criminals have increased by 80 percent, a young woman began shouting at the president.

[Obama heckled by pro-immigration activists during speech](#)



'Mr. President, that has been a lie. You have been deporting every...' she said before she was interrupted by the president.

Moments later a second young woman, this one sitting in a section directly behind the president that is normally reserved for his most ardent supporters, began yelling at him, as well. She was quickly joined by an unidentified man in the audience.

Growing frustrated, Obama turned around to the young woman closest to him and said, 'Can I just say this? All right, I've listened to you. I heard you.'

Turning back around, he said to the two other hecklers, 'I heard you. I heard you. All right?'

'I've been respectful. I let you holler,' Obama told them. 'But you've got to listen to me, too. All right?'

'And I understand you may disagree. I understand you may disagree. But we've got to be able to talk honestly about these issues.'

'Now, you're absolutely right that there have been significant numbers of deportations. That's true. But what you're not paying attention to is the fact that I just took action to change the law,' he continued.

He later told them, amid laughter from the rest of the audience, 'I understand why you might have yelled at me a month ago, although I disagree with some of your characterizations, it doesn't make much sense to yell at me right now when we're making changes.'



- SHARE PICTURE

-
-
-
-
-

+4

Jose Patino of Phoenix, Arizona, also interrupted Obama's speech that afternoon. The text on Patino's shirt indicates that he may be living in the country illegally

On the opposite end of the political spectrum are conservatives, who say now is the correct time to be yelling at Obama over immigration. They perceive his actions to be lawless and making the issue a centerpiece of their complaints against the Democratic president.

A CNN poll released on Wednesday shows that 56 percent of Americans agree with them that Obama shouldn't have went around Congress to change the law, even though 50 percent of them say they would otherwise be fine with the actions included in his order if it came from the legislative branch.

Another 26 percent said the reforms went too far, regardless, while 22 percent said they should have went further.

As immigration reform advocates have been placing direct pressure on Obama at his own events, according to the [New York Times](#), anti-amnesty activists are bombarding their members of Congress with envelopes filled will articles on illegal immigration.

The Times also said a group of sheriffs were planning a demonstration next month at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Republicans on the Hill who oppose Obama's executive actions having been putting their all into convincing the

leadership of both the House and the Senate to give their blessing to a plan that would fund every government agency but those within the Department of Homeland Security.

The only way for DHS to receive government money for services beyond border patrol and immigration enforcement procedures would be for Obama to sign legislation rescinding his executive order.

Conservatives who back the plan say they believe members of Obama's party in the Senate, where Republicans will only hold 54 of the 60 seats needed to block a filibuster, would join with them in sending the bill to the president's desk.

Even if it go there, though, the White House has indicated that it would consider vetoing it. Conservatives say they think Obama would rather see DHS funded than not at all, however, and they believe the gamble would pay off.

Republican leaders have been mulling the strategy and have indicated that they are looking to make a decision during a weekly closed-door policy meeting with members on Tuesday.

Even now, less than a month after the election that gave their party power, conservative activist groups are looking ahead to 2016 to make lawmakers on both sides of the aisle who don't side with them on this, and other key issues, pay at the ballot box, however.

'This is going to become the Obamacare for the 2016 cycle,' David N. Bossie, president of Citizens United told the Times.

'You're going to see a constant drumbeat, a constant march,' he said.

'When you call down the thunder, sometimes it's not pretty.'

Read more:

- [President's immigration plan receives mixed local reaction](#)
- [Milwaukee Immigrant Advocates Say Executive Order is Progress but Not Enough](#)
- [Local advocates seek further immigration reform](#)
- [Asian American Advocates Say Immigration Action Falls Short](#)
- [After Obama's Immigration Action, a Blast of Energy for the Tea Party](#)



Comments (55)

Add your comment

Share what you think

[Oldest](#)

[Best rated](#)

[Worst rated](#)

[View all](#)

[j.marinero](#), somewhere in the us, United States, a day ago

President "can't get right" Obama has gone too far!!! This is unconstitutional, not only that, is also not fair for us the american people!

[New Comment](#) | [Reply](#)




Click to rate

155

12

[Pixie](#), Los Angeles, United States, a day ago

2016 can't come soon enough

New Comment Reply	Click to rate	 146	 11
Kauai , Hawaii, United States, a day ago Yup. Advocates will continue to say "more, more, not enough".			
New Comment Reply	Click to rate	 126	 6
Assbook , Boston, United States, a day ago Let's get 75% votes out of house and veto the executive order.			
New Comment Reply	Click to rate	 117	 7
JN , Fremont, United States, a day ago He is the only president of USA who is so busy to care for the illegal immigrants than the American who cried out for food, shelter and job. Talking about all the veterans And cutting back on food lunches for our poor children and we are parents who are sweating out every day working for whom?			
New Comment Reply	Click to rate	 134	 11
Justabrake , New York, United States, a day ago Some day he'll get his !			
New Comment Reply	Click to rate	 98	 7
 Spitfire , Palo Alto, United States, a day ago 2 more years is too long and amnesty is too much.	Click to rate	 127	 7
 noneofyourbusiness , a day ago Imprison Obama for treason.	Click to rate	 127	 9
 Fiddler On The Swamp , Golden Triangle, United States, a day ago Amazing, all the stupid things he's done.. surprised he hasn't been impeached yet	Click to rate	 124	 9
 lauxstar , Bay Area, United States, a day ago Out!	Click to rate	 108	 6
 Susancanyon , Scottsdale, a day ago What were these people expecting when they entered a country illigally? I have some compassion but there is also individual responsibility.	Click to rate	 82	 4

The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.

Add your comment



Who is this week's top commenter?

[Find out now](#)

- SHARE PICTURE

-
-
-
-
-

Copy link to paste in your message

Find this story at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2853525/Obama-unilaterally-shielded-nearly-5-million-illegal-immigrants-deportation-amnesty-advocates-say-s-not-enough.html>

Published by Associated Newspapers Ltd

Part of the Daily Mail, The Mail on Sunday & Metro Media Group

[© Associated Newspapers Ltd](#)