

Boston College High School

Model UN Conference

XXXII





United States Senate: Modern-Day Immigration Crisis



Chair: Chris Brazeau '25

Co-Chair: Chris Curran '25

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Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to BC High MUN 32! I am your chair Chris Brazeau, and I am a Junior at Boston College High school, and honored to serve as your Chair for this committee. Outside of Model UN, I have founded the St. Peregrine's Initiative, a charity organization that donates toys to pediatric cancer patients in hospitals throughout New England. I am also the co-founder of our research club, and an athlete on the track team.

Model UN was introduced to me during the winter of my freshman year, by my senior mentor who was advertising Georgetown's yearly conference that our school was participating in. Having no MUN experience at all I decided to sign up for the trip, which ended up being one of the greatest decisions I've made at BC High. I have been able to participate in many other high school and college conferences over my past three years here, and have discovered that the friendships and experiences you make through MUN, are ones that you will never experience again in your life. I am very excited to chair this committee, and I hope that you as delegates will enjoy what we have to offer.

Lastly, we require that you submit a position paper one week in advance of the conference outlining your senator's position regarding immigration. This is done in order to ensure meaningful discussion throughout the conference from all delegates. Please email your paper to either email addresses below.

Best,

Chris Brazeau '25 Deputy Conference President
cr.brazeau25@students.bchigh.edu

Letter From the Co-Chair

Dear Delegates,

My name is Chris Curran, I am a junior here at BcHigh and it is an immense honor and privilege to serve as the co-chair of this committee. Other than model UN, I do many other activities. I am involved in the State Student Advisory Council which influences the state government on education policy. I have also started CIAC, a representative body for Jesuit high schools in the East Province. I also play soccer and tennis here at BcHigh. In terms of Model UN I have experienced much in terms of attending conferences but this is my first time co-chairing a committee.

This committee will offer a lot to all delegates and I am excited to see what you all will think of it. But I will say one thing: being present on this committee is one thing, but being intentional about how you want to participate is another. There is a lot to take from a committee like this, we are dealing with important issues. So I hope you all enjoy this committee and Chris and I will do our best to foster an efficient, positive, and welcoming environment for all delegates.

Thank you,

Chris Curran '25 Co-Chair

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Introduction

Over the years, the United States has implemented various solutions to address its immigration challenges. The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 attempted to restrict illegal immigration by granting amnesty to certain undocumented individuals



while introducing penalties for employers hiring unauthorized workers. In 2012, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program aimed to provide temporary relief for young undocumented immigrants, known as "Dreamers," allowing them work and protection from deportation. Additionally, comprehensive immigration reform proposals, featuring pathways to citizenship, enhanced border security measures, and considerations for merit-based immigration, have been debated to address broader systemic issues. These initiatives reflect attempts to balance security concerns, humanitarian considerations, and the need for comprehensive immigration policies but currently do not address the evolving landscape of immigration in the US.

The current immigration dilemma in the U.S. is a complicated and urgent problem that must be addressed. It has lasting effects on citizens, neighborhoods, and national security. Migration has always been a key part of US history, forming the country's diverse





culture and adding greatly to its development. But today, immigration has changed into a hot debate. It stands out for political disagreements and different viewpoints on homeland protection, economic thoughts, and humanitarian rights.

This committee seeks to provide a platform for nuanced discussion and acknowledge diverse viewpoints held by policymakers and the general public. It is crucial to reflect on previous policies and to understand the socio-economic contradictions at hand and furthermore create a resolution on short and long term policies for the contemporary immigration problem the US faces.

The goal of this committee is to both analyze the challenges at hand but to also propose new and innovative solutions. As the representatives of the American people, you have the responsibility of creating policies that align with the values of justice, fairness, and a better future as well as keeping them safe and prosperous. I encourage you to approach this debate with an open and creative mind, and to be committed to understanding different perspectives that may contradict yours, and a dedication to finding common ground although differing opinions.

Background

The United States has a rich history shaped by waves of immigration, beginning with European settlers in the 17th century and continuing through various waves. Immigration played a pivotal role in building the nation, contributing to its cultural diversity, economic development, and demographic evolution. The late 19th and early 20th centuries witnessed mass migrations, notably from Europe, while the mid-to-late 20th century saw increased diversity with immigration from Asia, Latin America, and other regions. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 abolished national origin quotas, leading to a more inclusive immigration policy.

In recent decades, the U.S. has faced immigration spikes because of economic opportunities, political instability, and violence in countries which have increased migrants seeking refuge. Additionally, the Syrian refugee crisis has created an awareness of humanitarian rights, and has brought attention to how



they should be dealt with. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designations reflect attempts to address specific populations facing unique circumstances. The emergence of mixed migration flows, including families and unaccompanied minors, has posed challenges for border management and immigration systems. The push-pull dynamics of immigration, and the need for humanitarian considerations, highlights the complexity of this crisis. Debates around border security, enforcement, citizenship, and the balance between national interests and humanitarian obligations should be highly considered.

Current Issue

One of the primary challenges in the US immigration crisis is the migrants from Central America, fleeing violence and political instability. The mass migration of families and unaccompanied minors has overused resources in the U.S.-Mexico border, leading to humanitarian concerns and logistical challenges in processing and accommodating individuals seeking asylum.



Another challenge lies in the interpretation of immigration policies, contributing to legal uncertainties and outcomes for immigrants. Detention facilities and conditions for migrants awaiting legal proceedings have become contentious issues, drawing attention to the need for humane immigration reform. The United States employs a combination of immigration policies that govern legal immigration, border enforcement, and pathways to citizenship. While policies such as DACA and TPS offer relief to specific groups, the immigration framework faces ongoing debates. The implementation of border security measures, including physical barriers and



technological enhancements, remains a central component of U.S. immigration policy. The Biden administration has proposed reforms aiming to provide a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, address root causes of migration, and enhance legal immigration channels.

Immigration remains a deeply polarizing and debated issue in the U.S., touching on national security, economic considerations, humanitarian concerns, and cultural identity. Key debates include discussions on border security, resources for immigration enforcement, establishment of pathways to citizenship, and the role of legal immigration in shaping the nation's future.

Questions to Consider

1. What are the root causes of the modern-day immigration crisis in the United States?
2. How have recent immigration policies impacted communities and individuals?
3. What are the ethical considerations in addressing immigration, and how can they be balanced with national interests?
4. How can the U.S. check immigrants for security without being unfair based on nationality?
5. How can immigration policies keep the border secure while treating migrants, especially minors, with care?

Positions

Democrats:

1. Chuck Schumer
2. Dick Durbin
3. Debbie Stabenow
4. Amy Klobuchar
5. Mark Warner
6. Elizabeth Warren
7. Cory Booker
8. Joe Manchin
9. Tammy Baldwin
10. Gary Peters
11. Catherine Cortez Masto
12. Brian Schatz
13. Jeff Merkley
14. Michael Bennet
15. Richard Blumenthal
16. Tom Carper
17. Ben Cardin
18. Ed Markey
19. Jeanne Shaheen
20. Jack Reed
21. Bob Casey

22. Ron Wyden
23. Tammy Duckworth
24. Patty Murray
25. Maggie Hassan
26. Sheldon Whitehouse
27. Tim Kaine
28. Diane Feinstein
29. John Tester
30. Sherrod Brown

Republicans:

1. Mitch McConnell
2. John Thune
3. John Barrasso
4. Joni Ernst
5. Shelley Moore Capito
6. Steve Daines
7. Mike Lee
8. Mike Crapo
9. Chuck Grassley
10. Lisa Murkowski
11. John Boozman
12. Marco Rubio

13. Jerry Moran
 14. Rand Paul
 15. Susan Collins
 16. Roger Wicker
 17. John Hoeven
 18. J.D. Vance
 19. Lindsey Graham
 20. Mitt Romney
 21. Ted Cruz
- Independents:
1. Bernie Sanders
 2. Kyrsten Sinema
 3. Angus King

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