

Consortium and 400+ Signatories Urge Biden Administration to take Immediate Action to Protect Abused, Abandoned, and Neglected Immigrant Youth from Deportation

[Federal Advocacy](#) - [Immigration Courts](#) - [SIJS](#)

On May 20, 2021, the Consortium, together with its partners in the SIJS Backlog Coalition and a total of over 400 immigrant rights organizations, academic experts, and law firms, sent a letter to Biden Administration officials urging changes to protect Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)-eligible youth from deportation. SIJS is a visa program that Congress created to allow children and youth who have survived parental abuse and neglect to remain in the United States. The Trump Administration's attacks on SIJS, combined with long waits for visas, have left many SIJS-eligible youth waiting in vain for years for a permanent status, and under constant threat of deportation.

There are commonsense actions the Biden Administration could take today to protect SIJS-eligible youth that would let these brave young survivors of abuse and abandonment move on with their lives – and stop wasting government resources on needless enforcement actions against them. The Consortium and our SIJS Backlog partners offered the Administration a variety of options that would immediately help, including:

- Ending deportation prosecutions of eligible young people who are waiting for (or have) a visa
- Making it easier for SIJS youth to get a work permit

- Helping SIJS-approved youth who are ready to “adjust status” and get a green card get their hearings scheduled and their adjustments done quickly and efficiently

You can see the full letter [here](#), and read more about the SIJS Backlog Coalition [here](#).