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## AMERICANS ARE SPLIT ON OBAMA'S ACTION ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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About half of Americans disapprove of President Barack Obama's executive action to protect millions of illegal immigrants from deportation and give them work authorization, according to a new national survey by the Pew Research Center.

The national survey, conducted Dec. 3 to 7 and released Thursday, found that 50% of the public disapproves of Mr. Obama's action, which could benefit as many as 5 million undocumented immigrants. Another 46% said they support the plan. The remainder said they don't know.

Opinions correlated with respondents' political affiliation. Roughly eight out of 10 Republicans disapproved of the president's move. Among Democrats, seven out of 10 approved of it.

Among Hispanics, 81% approved of the new plan. Meanwhile, 62% of whites disapproved of the initiative.

At the same time, 70% of Americans surveyed by the independent think tank support a pathway to legal status for people in the country illegally, if they meet certain requirements. Still, support among Republicans for a pathway has dropped since a February 2013 survey, to 53% from 64%. Democratic backing has held steady, with 83% supporting it currently, compared with 81% in early 2013.

Mr. Obama's job rating on immigration remains low. Only 38% of the public approve of it now compared with 32% in Nov. 2013, according to Pew. About two-thirds of Hispanics approve of his handling of immigration this month, up from 43% in November last year, a sign that his executive action has bolstered his standing in the Latino community.