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## KEY POINTS IN NEW HOMELAND SECURITY DEPORTATION MEMOS

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The Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday issued a pair of memos spelling out strict new policies for the detention and deportation of illegal immigrants. Here are some of the key points:

### **Who is subject to deportation?**

Under former President Barack Obama's administration, undocumented immigrants who weren't convicted of serious crimes or who had come to the U.S. before January 2014 were generally safe from deportation.

Under the new Homeland Security department memo, entitled "Enforcement of the Immigration Laws to Serve the National Interest," authorities will "no longer will exempt classes or categories of removable aliens from potential enforcement." That means that almost everybody living in the U.S. illegally is now subject to deportation.

### **Who will be at the top of the list for deportation?**

As many as 11 million undocumented immigrants live in the U.S., and the memo acknowledges the need to prioritize.

It states that priority for deportation will be given to convicted or suspected criminals, people who "have engaged in fraud or willful misrepresentation in connection with any official matter," people who have improperly received public benefits, and individuals whom an immigration officer deems "a risk to public safety or national security."

But officials also said that people aren't exempt from deportation just because they may not fall into a priority group.

### **What about the "Dreamers"**

The new memo makes it clear that young undocumented immigrants who arrived in the U.S. as children, a group known as the Dreamers, as well as some individuals who are parents of U.S. citizens or permanent residents, can still expect to remain and work in the U.S., under policies issued in 2012 by Mr. Obama.

This aligns with Donald Trump's remark last week that, "we're gonna show great heart" in dealing with the Dreamers. "You have these incredible kids," he said at a news conference.

## **Border wall – or border fence?**

Donald Trump campaigned on building a “big, beautiful wall” along the southern border with Mexico. The memo issued Tuesday entitled “Implementing the President’s Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements Policies” and signed by Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly directs Customs and Border Patrol to begin planning a barrier.

The memo doesn’t include strict language requiring a solid, physical wall running the length of the border, but allows for the construction of a barrier “in the most appropriate locations and utilizing appropriate materials and technology.”

A combination of fences and walls along the entire southern border with Mexico would cost more than \$20.6 billion to construct with additional maintenance expenses.

## **Unaccompanied, undocumented children – and their undocumented parents**

One of the memos notes that the U.S. is required to grant special treatment to children who cross the border illegally without parents, a group of individuals referred to officially as unaccompanied alien children. This treatment can include access to social services and adjudication before an immigration judge rather than expedited removal to which adult border-crossers are subject.

The memo states that 60% of the minors initially determined to be unaccompanied alien children are eventually placed in the care of a parent who is him or herself residing illegally in the U.S.

In a measure the memo says is needed to deter undocumented immigrants in the U.S. from paying smugglers to bring their children across the U.S. border, the memo directs “in appropriate cases” immigration authorities to initiate deportation proceedings or criminal prosecution of the parents.

“Regardless of the desires for family reunification, or conditions in other countries, the smuggling or trafficking of alien children is intolerable,” the memo states.