

SECRETARY OF LABOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210

June 23, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Lori Frazier Bearden
Assistant Secretary (Acting), Employment and Training Administration

Donald M. Harrison, III
Administrator (Acting), Wage and Hour Division

Ana M. Guevara
Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs



FROM: **LORI CHAVEZ-DeREMÉR**
Secretary of Labor

SUBJECT: Establishment of the Office of Immigration Policy, and its Responsibilities

Background

The Department has long served a vital role in enforcing the nation's immigration laws. The Secretary of Labor (Secretary) has unique responsibilities under the Immigration and Nationality Act¹ (INA), which are delegated to the Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) through the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), to provide employers with timely access to a qualified workforce while protecting the wages and working conditions of U.S. and foreign workers in their employment, whether on a permanent or temporary basis. The Secretary has also delegated statutory and regulatory responsibilities related to enforcement of foreign labor certification and labor condition application programs to the Administrator for the Wage and Hour Division (WHD).

The Office of the Secretary (OSEC) establishes strategic priorities to advance the immigration policy objectives of the Administration and promote the most effective use of funds for administering foreign labor certification and enforcement activities under the statute. As this Administration strengthens the nation's southern border, enhances interior enforcement efforts, and promotes economic growth, employers will increasingly turn to legal pathways – most notably permanent and temporary employment visas under the Secretary's authority where statutory and regulatory deadlines exist – as a vital option to obtain a timely, qualified, and stable workforce that can help their businesses grow and prosper.

¹ 8 United States Code 1101 *et seq.* and related laws.

Establishment of OSEC Office and its Responsibilities

Given the high-profile nature of employment-based immigration and necessity to coordinate implementation of Administration policy objectives across multiple federal agencies, I hereby temporarily establish the Office of Immigration Policy (OIP) within the OSEC to more effectively assist me in carrying out my responsibilities under the INA. In performing these duties, I will designate a Director, OIP, who shall serve as my representative for all immigration related work streams and strategic management priorities and work closely with the Deputy Secretary as well as any other DOL agency heads, as appropriate, to fulfill these duties. The Deputy Secretary and I may designate other senior officials to serve as the leadership structure of the OIP to work alongside the Director.

More specifically, the responsibilities for the OIP will include:

- Strategic oversight and resource management of funding for immigration related work across the Department and any additional funding or forms of resources;
- Establish strategic management and policy priorities for immigration related work streams, then provide day-to-day direction and oversight to implement these priorities in close coordination with affected DOL agency heads;
- Monitor the administration of foreign labor certification activities and develop customer-centered policies, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary for ETA, to improve access to employment-based visa programs, optimize program performance, and ensure use of the latest technologies to improve service delivery and continuity of operations;
- Establish strategic priority and scope for all immigration related policy and regulatory projects and provide management oversight to track and coordinate timely completion of all project milestones and deadlines;
- Manage priorities, expectations, and communications of immigration related initiatives and projects with external partners, including the Office of Management and Budget, United States Digital Service, Congress, press, and other relevant external stakeholders, in close coordination with internal DOL agency heads (e.g., OCIA, OPA); and
- Oversee coordination with and between other relevant federal agencies, including the Departments of Homeland Security, State, and Agriculture.

Impact on Secretary's Orders

Secretary's Order 06-2010 delegates authority and assigns responsibility to the Assistant Secretary for ETA for carrying out the standards, policies, programs, and activities of the Department of Labor relating to the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, as amended, 8 U.S.C. 1101 *et seq.* and related laws, subject to (i) Secretary's Order 9-2009, which, in relevant part, delegates authority and assigns responsibility to the WHD Administrator for the enforcement of alien labor certification, attestation, and labor condition application programs, and (ii) Secretary's Order 18-2006 which remains in effect, which in relevant part, delegates authority and assigns responsibility to the Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs for

assisting the Secretary of Homeland Security in the preparation of immigration reports and assisting in the coordination of information on immigration and migration policy within the Department and coordinating the Department's participation in international forums on discussions of migration and immigration.

The responsibilities of the Director, OIP, are in addition to the authorities delegated to the Assistant Secretary for ETA, WHD Administrator, and Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs. As noted above, OIP will work in collaboration with all relevant DOL agency heads with respect to oversight, strategic planning, and management of immigration related work streams. No assignment of responsibility under this memorandum will be deemed to affect my authority to continue to exercise or further delegate such authority or responsibility. Further, because this is a temporary organizational change, there is no impact on the organizational structures of the affected DOL agencies and, at this time, revisions to existing Secretarial Orders are not deemed necessary.

Effective Date and Duration

This establishment and responsibilities memorandum is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until otherwise superseded and in no way creates authority for any DOL agency other than OIP to perform immigration related activities except as prescribed in this delegation.²

² The Solicitor of Labor is delegated authority and assigned responsibility for providing legal advice and assistance to all officers of the Department. The representation of the Secretary or other officials of the Department in legal proceedings under the relevant authorities is delegated exclusively to the Solicitor, as is any determination regarding whether proceedings are appropriate if the authority to do so is reserved to the Department.