

LET MY PEOPLE GO ACT

To make this policy legally feasible within 5 years, you would follow a three-track legal strategy: **Executive Action for immediate relief, Congressional Legislation for long-term structural changes, and Constitutional Frameworks for permanent equity.**

Phase 1: Immediate Executive Realignment (Years 1–2)

The President can initiate these changes without waiting for Congress by directing federal agencies to shift their enforcement priorities.

- **End Private Detention:** Issue a directive to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to phase out and eventually [immigrantjustice.org/re...](https://immigrantjustice.org/reform)
- **Implement "Alternatives to Detention" (ATD):** Mandate that ICE utilize [aila.org/library/featur...](https://aila.org/library/feature) for individuals with no criminal record. These programs are [americanimmigrationcoun...](https://americanimmigrationcouncil.org) and ensure high compliance with court dates without incarceration.
- **Restorative Economic Relief:** While full restitution often requires a court, the executive branch can grant [cato.org/study/reformin...](https://cato.org/study/reform) (EADs) more quickly to those in legal pipelines. This allows individuals who suffered economic loss during detention to re-enter the workforce immediately.

National Immigrant Justice Center +4

Phase 2: Legislative Structural Reform (Years 3–4)

To ensure these changes aren't reversed by the next administration, they must be codified into law.

- **The Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act:** This proposed legislation would [jayapal.house.gov/2025/...](https://jayapal.house.gov/2025/) and require DHS to prove an individual is a threat to public safety before they can be held.
- **Economic Restitution Fund:** Congress can pass a "Restorative Justice Appropriation" that provides [project2029.me/10-steps...](https://project2029.me/10-steps) to individuals wrongly detained or those who suffered severe economic loss during detention, modeled after the Civil Liberties Act of 1987.
- **The Registry Act Update:** Moving the costa.house.gov/media/p... currently only applies to

those here since 1972—to a more recent year would create an immediate pathway to legal status for millions.

[house.gov](#) +3

Phase 3: Permanent Constitutional Safeguards (Year 5)

The final step is to elevate these protections so they cannot be weakened by shifting political winds.

- **Enshrine the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA):** Recognizing the [americanprogress.org/ar...](#) would provide a "strict scrutiny" standard for any law that impacts women differently. This makes it [now.org/constitutional-...](#) for systemic biases to persist in sentencing or workplace protections.
- **Restore Due Process via Habeas Corpus:** Strengthening [rescue.org/article/due-...](#) through judicial review ensures that no person can be held by the government arbitrarily or without trial, providing a permanent check on ICE/DHS power.

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By starting with **cost-saving administrative shifts** and moving toward **universal fairness**, you create a logical progression that builds the broad consensus needed for the final legislative and constitutional steps.