

# APPENDIX A

*ASAP Member Comments on the Proposed Rule*

## ASAP Member Comments on the Proposed Rule<sup>1</sup>

“This will mean that we will be trapped here with no source of income and cannot go back home. We can earn our living and not be dependent on the government, we only need work permits.”

– ASAP Member in Oregon working in Technology

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“I am concerned about all of these changes. People who enter the United States legally and apply for asylum should be able to receive a work permit. Without it, they cannot legally support themselves or their families.

If they are unable to work legally, many will be pushed into illegal work where no taxes are paid and exploitation and black-market activity increase. Allowing asylum seekers to work legally helps them support themselves, pay taxes, and contribute positively to society.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Transportation

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“I have not had my interview scheduled for many years. I’ve not been able to leave the US for work, or otherwise. My one right that has been my lifeline was my ability to make a living for myself. I have won awards and completed great projects. These new restrictions would make it impossible for me, and people like me, to provide for ourselves, and to give back to the US.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Interior Design

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“If my family member or I don’t get the initial work permit after applying for asylum or aren’t able to renew it, we will be in a horrible situation. We can’t live without working and earning money to buy food and housing for our kids.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Construction

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<sup>1</sup> ASAP includes here 512 comments from ASAP members on the Proposed Rule, some of which were submitted to ASAP in English, and some of which were submitted in other languages and then translated to English. Some comments have been lightly edited for grammar and readability.

“Lapses in employment authorization will jeopardize my career that I built so hard in this new country that I fought to fit into. Basically I will lose everything, my job that I worked so hard for and the financial stability to be housed. Asylum seekers like me have so much uncertainty while waiting for a decision, yet we still pay taxes, serve Americans, and contribute to society just like every American citizen.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Administration and Finance

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“Yes, it will have adverse consequences on me and my immediate family. It means we will not work and that also means financial hardship.”

– ASAP Member working in Technology

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“I don’t know how I’m going to wait for my interview without any money for living.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Health Care

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“This would leave us with no source of income and force us to rely on government welfare.”

– ASAP Member in California working in the Nonprofit Sector

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“Leave the work permit rules as they are. Don’t make life more difficult than it is. Asylum seekers want to work and make legal livings.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Caregiving

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“It’s impossible to find a job now which is paid with cash, so I will struggle and will probably have to apply for financial help and food banks which is actually worse for the economy.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Food Preparation and Service

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“Asylum seekers should have the right to work while they are waiting for USCIS. Otherwise, it would be difficult for them to survive in the country.”

– ASAP Member in Washington working in Technology

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“The proposed restrictions on EAD renewals directly threaten my S Corp and livelihood. As a solo driver-guide, any delay in my work permit would force me to shut down my business and stop operating my 2025 Sienna. The shift to shorter validity periods and higher fees creates constant financial strain and uncertainty while I wait for my asylum interview.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Transportation

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“Not allowing those who are in the U.S. to legally work while waiting for a decision on their asylum applications will lead to an increase in people working here illegally who need to be able to work to survive.”

– ASAP Member

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“These proposed changes would create serious hardship for asylum seekers like me and for the communities we live in. Work permits allow asylum seekers to support themselves, pay taxes, and contribute to their workplaces and local economies. Without the ability to obtain or renew work permits, many people would be unable to legally work, even though they are trying to follow the law and build stable lives while waiting for their asylum cases to be decided.

For families, losing the ability to work legally would mean difficulty paying for basic needs such as housing, food, healthcare, and education for children. It would create unnecessary stress and instability for people who are already in vulnerable situations.

For workplaces and communities, this change could also have negative effects. Many employers rely on asylum seekers as hardworking and dedicated employees. Preventing people from working legally would harm businesses that depend on their workers and could push people into financial hardship.

Work permits help asylum seekers live with dignity while their cases are pending, which can often take many years. Limiting access to work authorization would not only harm individuals and

families, but also reduce the positive contributions that asylum seekers make to their communities.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the government to maintain access to work permits for asylum seekers and avoid policies that make it harder for people to work legally while waiting for their cases to be resolved.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Technology

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“This is very unfair. Asylum cases take years, and this can jeopardize the current job positions asylum seekers hold. The current renewal process is fine as it is. This will affect not only asylum seekers but the country’s economy as well.”

– ASAP Member in Missouri

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“I am an asylum seeker and a mother raising my child while waiting for my asylum case to be decided. My family came to the United States seeking safety and protection. While we wait for the legal process, the ability to work legally is essential for our family’s stability and well-being.

If asylum seekers are forced to wait 365 days before receiving a work permit, it would create severe hardship for families like mine. During this time we still must pay rent, buy food, care for our children, and meet basic needs. Without the ability to work legally, many families may struggle to provide stable housing and basic necessities for their children.

Most asylum seekers want to follow the law, work honestly, support their families, and contribute to their communities. We want to pay taxes, support local businesses, and build stable lives while our cases are being processed. Allowing asylum seekers to work helps families remain independent and reduces the need for public assistance.

Delaying work authorization for an entire year would create unnecessary suffering for families and children and make it much harder for people to rebuild their lives after fleeing danger. Allowing asylum seekers to work sooner strengthens families, communities, and the economy.

People who come to the United States seeking protection want to rebuild their lives with dignity, care for their children, and become productive members of society. Giving asylum seekers the opportunity to work reflects the values of fairness, compassion, and opportunity that the United States represents.”

– ASAP Member in Colorado working in Beauty and Personal Care

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“People will not be able to afford to provide for their families due to lack of work.”

– ASAP Member

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“A work permit is essential for us as asylum seekers; it allows us to work legally and pay our taxes which funds the government and federal agencies. A work permit lets us support our families, communities and do things the right way as we wait for a decision. Without this document, it would be almost impossible to contribute to society as it is supposed to be. This rule will endanger revenue for the government, social programs, and everything overall for all of us. Many of us work actively in healthcare supporting patients and American citizens.”

– ASAP Member in New Jersey working in Health Care

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“These changes will make it impossible for people to support their families, to hire attorneys to help them through the immigration court system and to defend their asylum cases in court. Without a work permit our immigrant community will be victimized by people illegally practicing law, they will be taken advantage of by ‘employers’ not paying them a fair wage for their hard work since they are unable to work legally and they will live in fear of reporting the injustices. The work permit allows people to support themselves with dignity while they wait for their asylum case to be heard, to take this from them is simply a tactic the government is using to strong-arm immigrants into abandoning their cases and returning to the country they fled.”

– ASAP Member in California working as an Immigration Attorney

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“If the government doesn’t allow me to renew my work permit anymore, it would be impossible for me to survive in this economy with no chance to work for my life. I wouldn’t know what to do with my life without a job to have money for my expenses. As an asylum seeker, I am trying to

survive in the U.S without my family or friends by my side; without a work permit, I can't even imagine how I am going to live in this country where I thought there would be so many opportunities for me to grow."

– ASAP Member in California working in Food Preparation and Service

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"I have a little one who depends on me. I'm all she has. If I stop working, I won't be able to feed her or put a roof over her head."

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Health Care

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"While we are in this beautiful country, we should be able to help with our contributions to the IRS."

– ASAP Member working in Hospitality

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"These proposed changes would have serious negative consequences for both immigrants and the broader U.S. economy.

First, if asylum seekers are prevented from obtaining work permits for such a long period, many of them will have no legal way to support themselves and their families. As a result, a large number of asylum seekers will be forced into the shadow economy. Instead of working legally, paying income taxes, and contributing to Social Security and Medicare, they will be pushed into informal employment where taxes are not collected. This policy would reduce tax revenue and weaken economic transparency.

Second, many asylum seekers have already built their lives in the United States. A significant number of them have purchased homes through mortgages and are making regular payments. If they lose the ability to work legally, many will inevitably default on their mortgages. This could trigger a wave of foreclosures and place serious stress on the housing and mortgage markets. Policies that suddenly remove legal work opportunities could destabilize the housing market and potentially create consequences even more severe than those experienced during the 2008 financial crisis.

Instead of restricting access to legal employment, the government should support policies that encourage asylum seekers to work legally, pay taxes, support their families, and contribute positively to American communities and the economy.”

– ASAP Member in South Carolina working in Administration and Finance

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“No employment if EADs or extensions take so long for approval.”

– ASAP Member

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“If the government doesn’t want me to work, I will have to receive public benefits and housing assistance.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Construction

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“These changes would create serious harm for me, my family, and the community I support. I live in California with my wife and children, and the ability to work legally is the foundation of our stability. Delaying initial work permits for such a long time and allowing USCIS to deny work permits for any reason would put families like mine at risk of losing housing, food security, and access to basic needs.

I work in a role that supports multiple communities and helps keep essential services running. If people cannot get or renew their work permits on time, workplaces like mine will lose experienced staff, and entire teams will struggle to function. This affects not only individual workers but also the public who rely on us every day.

These proposed rules would also increase fear and uncertainty. Knowing that information from a work-permit application could be used to deny an asylum case would discourage people from applying at all, even when they are following the law. Families would be forced deeper into poverty, and communities would lose workers who contribute to safety, stability, and economic growth.

For my family, these changes would mean months or years of financial insecurity, stress on my children, and the constant fear that one decision could take away our ability to survive. For my workplace and community, it would mean fewer workers, more instability, and a loss of the contributions that asylum seekers make every day. These changes would not help anyone—they

would only create more hardship for families who are trying to follow the rules and build a safe life.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Technology

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“The process is already difficult to understand. I have a large family. Our work permits are already seriously delayed. These changes of regulations will create really tough periods and more times of suffering.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Administration and Finance

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“I would not be able to support my living expenses if these changes are implemented.

I am working on a research project, funded by the U.S. government, related to semiconductor manufacturing, an area critical to the national security of the country, and I am contributing to this country. Denying me the opportunity to work will not benefit me as a person or the country as a whole.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Technology

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“This will affect my family and my income. I am becoming helpless.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Administration and Finance

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“I won’t be able to do my job without authorization. I will probably develop more mental health issues and generally I will become a beggar, despite me being able to work and contribute to the American economy at large.”

– ASAP Member in California

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“It is going to negatively impact me severely, considering that it takes years for asylum interviews to be scheduled. If one is without the ability to work, how then would they survive while their

asylum application is pending? I have to eat and pay my bills and meet my basic necessities. If I don't have a means to earn a living because I don't have a work permit, I will not be able to survive.”

– ASAP Member working in Health Care

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“If reapplying for a work permit becomes impossible, it not only deprives my immediate family of their livelihood but also affects the economy overall. If fewer people are working, there will be less tax revenue for the government, and less economic power. The poor will continue to be poor, government dependence will increase, and homelessness will worsen.

The time it takes for my company to hire a replacement, along with training costs, results in a loss of profitability, which ultimately affects the economy.

Is there a proper reason for these delays, or is it simply institutionalized injustice that seeks to deprive hard-working individuals of what is rightfully theirs? The work permits are not free; immigrants pay for them, thus bringing returns to the government.”

– ASAP Member in Washington working in Health Care

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“For many people, the asylum process is difficult to understand unless they have lived through it. For us, it is not just paperwork or policy—it is years of uncertainty, stress, and waiting to rebuild our lives.

I have already been waiting for almost ten years. During this time, the ability to work has meant dignity, stability, and the chance to support myself while contributing to my community. Delaying or denying work permits would not only make life harder for asylum seekers, but it would also take away the opportunity for people like me to live with purpose and independence while contributing to the place we now consider our home.

Most asylum seekers do not want to depend on anyone. We want to work, pay taxes, contribute to the economy, and be productive members of society. The United States has always been a country that values hard work, and many of us are eager to bring our skills, determination, and resilience to the workforce.

There is also a deep psychological toll in waiting for so many years without certainty about the future. Adding additional barriers to work permits would increase stress and hardship for people who are already carrying heavy burdens.

I believe asylum seekers can be an asset to this country. We want to build our lives here, contribute to our communities, and give back to the country that gave us safety.”

– ASAP Member in New York working as a Musician and Entrepreneur

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“I am the one working here. My son depends on me. How is he going to survive? This is the last legal way we have to stay in the US, if they remove it, we’re done. Our work colleagues and our neighbors all have pending asylum applications. Can you imagine the chaos if we all lost work authorization?”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Health Care

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“This would affect me greatly as I am a 22-year old, supporting myself with a fulltime job and as a fulltime undergraduate. Not only that, I spend my other time helping my community with advocacy, cooking for each other, and volunteering at community events. I have spent my life trying to build a life that benefits me and the people around me. Taking my work permit away will make me unable to pay my rent, which will leave me homeless, unable to support my brother who’s in school, and unable to continue to build the life and community I want. This would destroy all my hopes and dreams for my career and financial stability. I pay my taxes and always make sure that I’m donating to charities too. This law is taking away everything I’ve built and my future.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Administration and Finance

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“This would make asylum seekers’ lives impossible with no ways to earn money for food and shelter.”

– ASAP Member in Washington working in Technology

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“I came to the United States seeking safety. While my asylum case is pending, the ability to apply for a work permit is essential for my family. I have children and financial responsibilities, and working legally allows me to support my family and live with dignity. Preventing asylum seekers from applying for work permits would create serious hardship for many families and communities.

Most of us want to work, follow the law, and contribute to the economy. Please do not take away this opportunity.”

– ASAP Member in New York

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“Every member of my family, three of us, will be profoundly affected. It’ll make us shut down our business or take it anywhere else, outside the U.S. We will no longer be able to pay taxes in the U.S. Our business is based on creative work, which is unique and creates jobs. As a consequence, a number of jobs will inevitably be axed.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Filmmaking

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“The proposed rule to halt work permits for asylum seekers for an estimated 14 to 173 years is a step backward for our economy. I live in a community heavily impacted by immigration, and I see firsthand that barring newcomers from working legally only forces them into the underground economy and prevents them from sustaining themselves.

While I support providing short-term assistance for a few months, long-term self-sufficiency requires the legal right to work. In California and across the nation, we are dealing with a severe labor shortage. If our goals are to bring down the cost of living, increase domestic production, and bring manufacturing back to the United States, we need all hands on deck.

Preventing willing workers from legally filling open jobs does nothing to help make America great again—it only stifles economic growth and strains community resources.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Technology

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“This change will make it difficult for many people to find legal work.”

– ASAP Member

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“I am deeply concerned by the February 2026 proposal to overhaul work authorization (EAD) rules.

## I. Objection to the '173-Year' Pause

- The Argument: The proposal to 'pause' initial work permits whenever asylum backlogs exceed 180 days—effectively for up to 173 years—is a de facto ban on legal employment.
- Impact: This does not 'solve' the backlog; it merely hides the human cost. It forces families into extreme poverty and denies the U.S. economy the contributions of ready and willing workers.

## II. Objection to the 365-Day Waiting Period

- The Argument: Doubling the current waiting period from 150 days to 365 days is punitive.
- Impact: Most asylum seekers lack the savings to survive for a full year without income. This change will inevitably increase the burden on local NGOs, food banks, and municipal emergency services, shifting federal administrative costs onto local taxpayers.

## III. Objection to Unfettered Discretionary Denials

- The Argument: Allowing USCIS to deny work permits 'for any reason' removes the 'rule of law' and replaces it with administrative whim.
- Impact: It creates a climate of fear and unpredictability for employers. Businesses cannot hire with confidence if an employee's legal right to work can be revoked without a clear, standardized justification.

## IV. Use of Data for Asylum Denials

- The Argument: Using EAD application data to 'find derogatory information' for asylum denials discourages honest disclosure.
- Impact: It undermines the integrity of the humanitarian process by turning a benefit application into a trap, potentially violating due process for those seeking protection from harm."

– ASAP Member in California working in Transportation

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"It will destabilize families."

– ASAP Member in New York working in Caregiving

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“If I lose the opportunity to work, I will be forced to leave my job and lose healthcare. I won’t be able to support my family. I pay a lot in taxes every year, the government will lose this money from me not being able to work and pay federal and state taxes as well as social security payments. I will also not be able to continue building my career and be the professional I dreamed of becoming in the United States.”

– ASAP Member working in Technology

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“I don’t understand how someone can survive without working while waiting for their asylum application decision - most asylum seekers do not have families who can support them in the US.”

– ASAP Member in Oregon working in Education

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“These changes can significantly affect my family and its impact on us can be devastating. We are all scared to lose our right to legally work in the US.”

– ASAP Member in Oregon working in Sales and Retail

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“These changes would have a devastating impact on my life and my family’s lives. The possibility that USCIS might stop issuing work permits or arbitrarily deny them (‘for any reason’) plunges us into absolute uncertainty.

Without a legal work permit, I will lose the ability to financially support my children, afford decent housing, and contribute formally to this country’s economy. Furthermore, the fact that information from a work permit application can be used to deny asylum creates a climate of fear, where seeking the basic right to work becomes a risk to our legal security.

For us, a work permit is not just a document; it’s the difference between stability and destitution. These measures only foster precariousness and separate families who simply want to integrate and contribute to the community.”

– ASAP Member in Georgia working in Administration and Finance

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“These proposed changes would have a serious negative impact on people who are legally seeking asylum and trying to work honestly in the United States. Preventing asylum seekers from receiving work permits for such a long period would force many families into financial hardship, instability, and dependence on others for basic needs like housing and food.

Allowing work permits to be denied for any reason creates uncertainty and fear for individuals who are following the legal process in good faith. Work authorization is not just about income, it is about dignity, stability, and the ability to contribute to the community.

Using information from work permit applications to deny asylum cases would discourage transparency and undermine trust in the system. People should not be penalized for trying to comply with the rules.

These changes would hurt families, employers who rely on authorized workers, and local communities that benefit from their contributions. I respectfully urge you to reconsider these proposals.”

– ASAP Member in Delaware working in Transportation

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“As a human, this is not acceptable. If they allow people to apply for asylum, they have to think about how people will live while their applications are pending. I think one democratic right is the right of living. To be alive, a person needs at least basic needs. We are facing difficulties on two levels, one, the government doesn’t want to provide any living assistance and, two, the government doesn’t want to approve work permits. Is that humane? If a person can’t get basic needs, he or she will die of hunger. Do you think this is an acceptable and feasible idea?”

– ASAP Member in Oregon working in Caregiving

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“Delays in receiving a work permit can deeply affect a family with four children by creating financial instability, making it difficult to pay for basic needs like rent, food, healthcare, and school expenses, and increasing the risk of housing problems. The stress of not being able to legally work can lead to anxiety, depression, and strain in relationships, while children may experience emotional distress, behavioral changes, and disruptions in their education and daily routines. Limited access to public benefits and career setbacks can make the situation even harder, causing long-term impacts on both the parents’ stability and the children’s overall well-being.”

– ASAP Member in Virginia working in Hospitality

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“These changes could create panic for countless families. Many individuals have built their lives, careers, and financial stability around lawful work authorization. The possibility of losing that permission abruptly could force people to quit jobs, lose income, and face serious hardship. These changes would not only affect individuals but also employers, children, and entire communities. We are an integral part of our communities and make meaningful, positive contributions to society through our work, taxes, and civic engagement.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Education

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“As many asylum seekers are in the USA without permanent green cards, they need to work to support themselves and their families, so work permits are needed to work and earn money and pay taxes to the government every year. This will help them create good economic growth for themselves rather than sitting and doing nothing and receiving public benefits from the government.”

– ASAP Member in New Jersey working in Human Resources

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“Work permits should be valid for 5 years.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Sales and Retail

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“I will not be able to take care of my bills and my family.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Health Care

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“This rule will create financial instability and limit contributions to the local economy and public services.”

– ASAP Member in Maine working in Administration and Finance

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"I live alone in the USA and if my renewal EAD can be denied for any reason, then I do not have someone who can help me if I do not work."

– ASAP Member in California working in Technology

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"If there will be no work permit, how can a person and his whole family earn and satisfy their daily expenses? Through work permits, the government receives taxes, house rents, groceries and other shopping can be done.

I strongly believe if USCIS supports human rights, they must THINK definitely about the pros and cons of this Rule."

– ASAP Member in Michigan who Is Unemployed Due to No Work Permit

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"The idea of preventing asylum seekers from applying for work permits is most inhumane. These are people who fled their country to seek safety somewhere else. The government does not house asylum seekers or provide food for them. They work to feed themselves and their families. They also pay taxes. If they don't work, how can they eat? How can they pay their rent when the government does not provide housing? People wait for years for a decision on their asylum claim, how does the government expect asylum seekers to keep waiting all these years without working? This rule is nothing but an attempt at putting asylum seekers in frustrating circumstances. The proposed rule should not be implemented and should be avoided."

– ASAP Member

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"This would create an additional enormous burden on asylum seekers. It would force many to work illegally and would make them vulnerable to scams and abuse as well as being taken advantage of by sinister employers. It appears that USCIS instead of dealing with the backlog by hiring more officers, is simply trying to make an asylum process so difficult that it would discourage many from applying. Every other country has a procedure in place that allows asylum seekers to work once they apply for asylum or a short time after. The new rule would make it impossible for asylum seekers to be able to have work authorization while their claims are pending."

– ASAP Member in Michigan working in the Nonprofit Sector

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“Without work permits it’s not feasible to earn a living wage legally. With shorter work permit validity periods it’ll be difficult to renew it every year and survive.”

– ASAP Member in Washington working in Technology

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“Without a valid work permit, I would not be able to get a driver’s license that I need to drive my kids to school and medical appointments. Also, my daughter would not be able to enroll in college without a valid EAD.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Health Care

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“I am the bread winner for my family. Without legal work authorization, I will not be able to put food on the table for my little kids and wife. How am I going to pay rent and other bills? Who will be responsible if I am thrown out of my house?”

– ASAP Member in California working in Beauty and Personal Care

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“It makes it harder for people who left for a better life and are good people.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Health Care

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“These changes will deprive asylum seekers of their job opportunities, reduce government tax revenue, and increase the burden on the US government and communities for families losing their source of income—a lose-lose situation. It’s incomprehensible why the US government would consider enacting such a foolish regulation.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Food Preparation and Service

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“The proposed changes to work authorization are a harmful decision that would put hardworking families across the U.S. at risk. People who come here because of difficult circumstances should

be able to work legally while their cases move forward. They follow the process, pay taxes, and contribute to their communities. These rules don't improve safety or fairness — they mainly make life harder for people who are already in challenging situations, and they would push families into instability.”

– ASAP Member in New Jersey working in Technology

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“I won't be able to pay my mortgage, or afford legal fees, rent and family care. This will therefore make me dependent on government assistance, and I do not want to be a burden on a nation that has given me protection.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Technology

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“If I can't work because of an expired work permit, then how am I supposed to pay bills and put food on the table?”

– ASAP Member

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“I currently have a work permit valid until 2029 (for 5 years). But with the government's new laws, I'll have to pay more for my work permit, plus a \$102 annual fee for USCIS doing nothing. And I'll only get a work permit for a year and a half. Plus, USCIS always delays my work permit renewals. So, I apply for an extension six months in advance, as required, and pay the fee. But I only received a new work permit a year and a half later, as requested. How will I work now with an expired work permit? And right now, the automatic 540-day extension isn't working (due to USCIS delays). Where will I get the money to live? I always pay taxes every year and only work for my paycheck. I don't understand these policies; the US is made up of the descendants of immigrants. And the government is pursuing a policy against new arrivals, honest, decent, tax-paying immigrants. People like me.”

– ASAP Member in Colorado working in Transportation

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“It's very hard to survive in a new country without working.”

– ASAP Member in Minnesota working in Health Care

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“Due to the backlog of the pandemic, I lost my job after submitting my work permit renewal in the allotted time USCIS requested. It was devastating to my household because I lost my income for months until the new document came in the mail. I was lucky to have had saved enough money to cover my bills for about 3 months. It was the most stressful time of my life because I had to decide on paying bills rather than buying food to eat and hoped that I would not become homeless. I have given myself to this country because I chose to seek asylum here and have been working and paying my fair share of taxes ever since my very first EAD card. I never relied on the government for any assistance.

I have lived a low key simple life even upon waiting for years to receive an interview which has not happened as of yet in my 10 years. I believe there are many more asylum seekers like me who contribute tremendously to this great country and seek nothing in return. I am writing this to plea with the powers that be to reconsider their actions because hundreds of thousands, if not, millions will be affected and thus will affect the workforce and like myself I love my job and my coworkers, it puts food on my table and allows me to be able to pay my bills and I want to be able to continue contributing to the American economy and show my appreciation for being accepted into the country. I wish the asylum system wasn't so broken.”

– ASAP Member working in Administration and Finance

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“Asylum seekers work here, pay taxes and live their lives. This is good for the American economy. Denying them the right to work will not bring any good. Families will suffer and it will bring additional costs to US taxpayers.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Health Care

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“I’ve been waiting for a decision on my political asylum application in the USA for over 6 years and I follow all the rules/regulations/laws that I have to. Our family every year pays taxes of about \$2,000-\$5,000. And right now I am truly scared that I built my life here because I am no longer welcome in my original country, but the USA also wants to make my life difficult even though I do everything right for the country.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Beauty and Personal Care

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“Long waits for work permit renewals, as well as difficulties or the inability to obtain an initial work permit free of charge, primarily affect those who arrived legally, are not hiding from ICE, lead a lawful life without any violations, work legally and pay taxes, and seek legal asylum in this country. Tightening work permit rules deprives them of a sense of security for the future. I could also lose my job due to delays in processing my work permit renewal request. This will result in me being unable to provide for myself and my family financially, leaving us without a livelihood and without hope for a better future.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Technology

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“I am a member of a family and a member of a community. We all depend on how productive we can be. Our productivity depends on our right to work. No work permit means no job. Please give us a chance to work for stronger and safer communities.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working as a Security Officer

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“Yes, these changes are going to cause hardship and suffering to the people who use their work permit to find work, because it is through work that they are able to support themselves, contribute to the economy, support their family and so on.

We request that the government be considerate and take decisions that would help both the citizens and the asylum seekers and help build a good community.”

– ASAP Member in Arizona working in Caregiving

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“We ask the administration to maintain the initial 150 days for obtaining a work permit.”

– ASAP Member in Florida

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“1. One needs a paycheck from work to survive in this world of surging expenses.

2. Education is in need of teachers like me with highly trained skills to serve.

3. If work permits are cancelled, more people will be forced to work without a permit, in order to live, which is not what the government wants to see. Why come up with new rules that will definitely cause more problems?

4. People who ask for asylum are ones who are falsely treated in their own countries and are seeking new starts and better lives in the US. Because the US is good, they come here. If new rules don't give them a chance to work to support themselves, that is not humane.

5. Asylum seekers who want to work are ones who want to put in effort and diligence through work. These are hard workers who can also contribute to the society and economy. Keeping work permits will not only give them a way out but also chances to help the local economy.

6. Instead of shutting the doors and causing more problems, why not allow people to keep work permits?"

– ASAP Member in Arizona working in Education

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"These proposed changes feel personal to me because I'm living through this process right now.

I came to the U.S. to rebuild my life safely and legally. I'm not asking for special treatment, I'm asking for the chance to work, pay my bills, and stand on my own feet while my asylum case is pending. A work permit isn't a 'benefit' in my daily life; it's the difference between stability and fear.

If USCIS stops issuing new initial work permits or forces people to wait 365 days, it means a full year of being unable to earn money legally. That's not a policy tweak: that's rent, groceries, transportation, medical visits, and basic survival. It means choosing between falling behind and risking homelessness. It means living with constant anxiety and uncertainty, not because we did anything wrong, but because we are stuck waiting.

The idea that USCIS could deny initial or renewal work permits 'for any reason' is terrifying. I can't plan a future or even plan next month. Employers won't invest in someone whose ability to work can disappear unpredictably. And if work permit information could be used to deny asylum, it makes the whole system feel unsafe, like doing the 'right' thing can be used against you.

I want to contribute. I want to work, pay taxes, and be part of my community. Please do not adopt changes that take away the only realistic path to self-sufficiency for people who are already trying to follow every rule."

– ASAP Member in New York

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“If I cannot renew my work permit, it prevents me from being able to support my family.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Health Care

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“It will be impossible for asylum seekers to work.”

– ASAP Member in New Jersey

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“This will affect my family, as I can’t go back to my home country. The United States, the country that received me, is making it worse for me.”

– ASAP Member in New Jersey working in Transportation

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“All are concerned. The proposed rule affects asylum seekers.”

– ASAP Member in Nevada working in Sales and Retail

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“Asylum seekers should get work permits, initials and extensions on time. If not, it can affect their ID, work, income, and status. Please help asylum seekers get work permits on time.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Sales and Retail

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“I am an asylum seeker, and having a work permit is essential for my ability to survive in the United States. Without the ability to work legally, it would be nearly impossible to live in this country, as people must be able to pay for housing, food, transportation, and other basic necessities.

I have been an asylum applicant for almost five years, with my case pending since May 2021. During this long period of waiting, the ability to work legally has allowed me to support myself and build a stable life while my case is being processed.

I am doing everything the right way. I follow the law, work legally, and recently joined a union job. I pay significant taxes and contribute to the economy and my community. I want to support myself through honest work and not rely on public assistance.

Making it harder to obtain or renew work permits would create serious hardship for people like me who are trying to follow the rules and live responsibly. Work permits allow asylum seekers to survive, remain self-sufficient, and contribute positively to American society.”

– ASAP Member in the District of Columbia working as an Electrician

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“This change to initial work permits would delay my integration into American society, hindering my contributions to society, and would also lead to a lack of income for my family, potentially creating a public burden on the country.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Administration and Finance

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“Asking for asylum is not a crime, it is a human right. Asylum seekers cannot be deprived of any freedom that international humanitarian law gives them, including the right to work, to food, to health, to protection, etc. Deciding not to issue work cards to applicants, for no valid reason, is discriminatory, a violation of human rights, and puts innocent people in prison-like conditions.”

– ASAP Member in Indiana working in Transportation

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“As an asylum seeker awaits their case processing, they need a work permit to support themselves. This allows them to cover bills and provide for their families, among other necessities.”

– ASAP Member in Washington working in Health Care

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“I am submitting this comment in opposition to the proposed rule, Employment Authorization Reform for Asylum Applicants.

I am an asylum applicant living in California, and I am a mother of a 5-year-old boy. I am trying to follow the law, support my family, and build a stable life in the United States.

I currently have work authorization, and it is essential for my family. It allows me to work legally and pay for rent and food.

Right now, I work and study Geographic Information Systems so I can return to engineering, which was my profession before. My work permit is a crucial document for me. If this rule takes effect, employers may look down on me or avoid hiring me, even when my current work authorization is valid.

The proposal sends the message that many asylum seekers do not have real cases and only came to work. That assumption is unfair and harmful. People with valid cases should not be pressured to give up because they cannot survive while waiting.

When legal work is blocked, but people still need food and housing for their children, some may be pushed into off-the-books work just to survive. This is not a fair outcome for people who are trying to follow the legal process.

The people most harmed by this proposal will be families with real asylum cases who are trying to follow the law and survive legally while waiting for a decision.

If DHS wants to identify false claims, it should find another way through careful screening and case adjudication that does not harm people with real asylum cases.

I respectfully ask DHS to withdraw or substantially revise this proposal.

Thank you for considering my comment.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Transportation

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“Asylum seekers are miserable enough before applying for asylum in the USA, new inhumane rules make us even more miserable. We feel like third-rate people, unable to find good jobs, build futures, and be fully incorporated in society. Give us a pass to permanent residency, please. Many of us are good hardworking people. Let us live normal lives that we were unable to do in our countries. The system is clogged and you can fix it with an easy pass for those who are stuck in it. Thank you.”

– ASAP Member in Washington working in Technology

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"Of course this will affect our family. We pay taxes, we bought a house, and we have a mortgage. We both work in good jobs. Naturally, any delay will impact us.

We are trying to contribute to American society. We work as decorators, creating installations and decorations in parks. We hope our work brings joy to people when the parks open and Americans look at everything with admiration.

If there are delays in work authorization or related documents, it will affect not only us, but many other families in situations like ours."

– ASAP Member in Florida working as a Sculptor

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"And some members of the government claim that immigrants are a burden on the country. I believe that paying taxes is a strong indication that we, immigrants, are ready and willing to contribute not only to science and to the country's development in many different ways, but also to America's growth from various perspectives. We are also prepared to pay taxes just like any other residents, thereby showing that we are no worse than anyone else, that we respect the law, and that we genuinely want to be beneficial to this country."

– ASAP Member in Illinois working in Production

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"I am writing to express my serious concern regarding the proposed rule that would restrict work permits for asylum seekers. I respectfully urge you to stop this change and protect the current law that allows asylum seekers to apply for work authorization while their cases are pending.

Under the current system, asylum seekers may apply for a work permit 150 days after filing their asylum application, and the government is required to process these applications within 30 days. This framework promotes stability, encourages self-sufficiency, and allows individuals fleeing persecution to support themselves and their families while they await a decision on their case.

The proposed rule would eliminate access to new initial work permits for an extended and indefinite period of time. The government itself has estimated that it could take decades before new initial work permit applications would be accepted again. Preventing asylum seekers from working legally would force many families into poverty, increase reliance on emergency public assistance, and place vulnerable individuals at risk of exploitation.

Additionally, the proposed rule would significantly lengthen waiting periods, expand discretionary denials, and impose new restrictions tied to manner of entry and filing deadlines.

These changes would undermine fairness and due process. Work authorization should not become a tool to punish individuals for how they fled danger or to prematurely jeopardize their asylum claims.

Asylum seekers come to the United States seeking safety. Allowing them to work lawfully while their cases are pending is consistent with our nation's long-standing humanitarian values and economic interests. When individuals are permitted to work, they contribute to local communities, pay taxes, and support their families with dignity.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you withdraw the proposed rule and preserve the current work permit system for asylum seekers.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter."

– ASAP Member in Georgia working in Food Preparation and Service

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"I believe that delays in reviewing and issuing work permits push asylum seekers into the gray economy. People will still be forced to work in order to support themselves and their families.

Therefore, decisions that delay or prevent the issuance of work permits create additional difficulties for people while also causing the government to lose potential tax revenue which will hurt U.S. citizens. Increasing tariffs on goods is unlikely to compensate for this loss of tax income, because when tariffs increase, the prices of goods within the country also rise."

– ASAP Member working in Construction

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"I have had a pending asylum case since 2020. In November 2024, more than one year and four months ago, I applied to renew my work permit, but I still have not received it.

If I do not receive my work authorization, I will be forced to shut down my company, and I will not be able to keep up with my financial obligations, including my credit card debts and other monthly payments."

– ASAP Member in Ohio working in Construction

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“These changes will affect not only immigrants but also businesses. When the workforce decreases due to work permits that prevent immigrants from working, not only will the economic downturn worsen, but someone who isn’t working also becomes a burden on society. On the immigration side, the application fees help boost the economy.”

– ASAP Member in Maryland working in Health Care

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“If asylum-seekers can’t apply for a work permit nor renew it, how are we supposed to work? Not having a work permit will increase the number of homelessness and that will affect the country even more; isn’t it more reasonable to let people work, pay their taxes and have a stable economy? What’s the point of taking away work permits, and it’s not like the USA lacks work, the USA lacks workers.”

– ASAP Member in Arizona

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“All of this is complete nonsense. They don’t need to be intellectually gifted, nor advanced in economics to realize that:

1. Billions of tax dollars will be lost; and
2. Employment market will be affected as asylum applicants will be accepting low-paying jobs - less jobs for everyone else - ALSO LESS TAXES;

– ASAP Member in New York working as an Immigration Paralegal

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“I will face big difficulties to pay for my apartment and I’m a solo parent of my minor son.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Technology

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“It will create extremely long waiting times to get a work permit and it leads to poverty and despair. We will have to rely on public assistance instead of supporting ourselves financially, paying taxes, and becoming independent.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Food Preparation and Service

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“Without a work permit, how are we going to survive? Is the government trying to starve us? It’s a kind of persecution even worse than those happening in dictatorial countries.”

– ASAP Member

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“This will stop our source of income, and hence our livelihood.”

– ASAP Member

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“Every asylum seeker should have a work permit as soon as possible to support their family. It makes the nation (USA) respectful in the modern world.”

– ASAP Member working in Food Preparation and Service

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“The proposed rule to make it more difficult for asylum seekers to obtain work permits is un-American and cruel. Intentionally targeting people who simply want to work and provide for their families goes against the fundamental values of this country.

By forcing a 365-day wait for initial permits and allowing USCIS to deny renewals for ‘any reason,’ these changes create a system that promotes poverty instead of self-sufficiency. This would prevent me from supporting my family, paying taxes, and contributing to my community and workplace. Hardworking people should not be blocked from the dignity of work while they navigate their legal process.”

– ASAP Member working in Administration and Finance

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“I would lose my ability to work for companies.”

– ASAP Member in Illinois working in Technology

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“People will be frustrated and disappointed because they thought the US would be a promised land for protecting them from oppression.”

– ASAP Member in Nevada working in Education

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“If I don’t have a work permit, how will my bills be paid, how will I live? USCIS must continue to issue work permits for 5 years.”

– ASAP Member in New Jersey working in Cleaning

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“I am deeply concerned about this proposed rule because it would make life extremely difficult for people like me who are seeking asylum and trying to build a stable life in the United States.

I came to this country for safety and a chance to work honestly. While my asylum case is pending, having a work permit allows me to survive with dignity. I work hard every day and try to follow the law. I do not want to depend on government assistance. I want to earn my living, pay my taxes, and contribute to the country that gave me the opportunity to be safe.

I am also a parent, and my children depend on me. Being able to work legally allows me to support them, pay rent, buy food, and take care of my responsibilities. Without a work permit, it would be extremely difficult to provide for my family.

Many asylum seekers are hardworking people who simply want the chance to work legally while waiting for their cases. Taking away that opportunity would create unnecessary hardship for families who are already going through a very stressful immigration process.

Allowing asylum seekers to work legally helps us remain independent, responsible, and productive members of society. It also helps us stay out of difficult situations and continue building a stable future for our families.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that asylum seekers continue to have access to work permits while their cases are pending.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Transportation

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“I will lose my job without a work permit, and I won’t be able to pay my rent.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Human Resources

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“These changes would affect me and my family in a very serious way. I currently have an asylum case pending and a valid work permit, which allows me to support myself and my child. If work permits are refused or limited for people in my situation, it would make it extremely difficult for me to provide basic needs such as housing, food, and health.”

– ASAP Member

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“The proposed changes would have a significant impact on me, my family, my workplace, and my community. As someone who is currently studying cybersecurity and working hard to build a stable future, policies that affect opportunities, stability, and access to resources directly influence my ability to continue my education and contribute to the workforce.

For my family, these changes could affect our sense of security and long-term planning. Families rely on consistent policies that allow them to work, study, and support one another without uncertainty.

In my workplace and professional environment, such changes could also affect productivity and participation. Many people in our communities are students, interns, and professionals who are trying to grow their skills and contribute positively to society.

At the community level, policies like these shape the stability and well-being of neighborhoods. When people are able to pursue education, work opportunities, and community involvement without barriers, the entire community benefits through stronger economic growth, diversity, and collaboration.

For these reasons, I believe it is important to consider how these changes affect individuals and families who are working hard to build better futures for themselves and contribute to their communities.”

– ASAP Member working in Health Care

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“The system is already broken. People’s work permits are not processed in a timely fashion. Without the ability to work, we won’t be able to support ourselves and our children. This punishes already desperate families. Asylum seekers pay taxes with the current system. This would force them to work under the table and no tax would be collected. It creates losers on both sides.”

– ASAP Member in Wisconsin working in Health Care

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“If you do not have a work permit, how can you work, and how can you pay rent or groceries? If I have a work permit then I pay taxes. I have a good record for growing businesses.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Transportation

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“I am an asylum seeker living in California and currently working legally in the United States with a valid Employment Authorization Document (EAD). My ability to renew my EAD in a timely manner is essential to my survival and stability.

Without a valid EAD, I cannot legally work to support myself and my family. My job allows me to contribute to my community and the economy. I also help support my family members who depend on me financially. If EAD renewals become more difficult or delayed, it would create serious financial hardship not only for me but also for my loved ones.

Like many asylum seekers, I have already waited years for my asylum case to move forward. During this time, the ability to work legally is the only way I can remain self-sufficient and avoid relying on public assistance. Delays or barriers to EAD renewal would cause unnecessary stress, instability, and fear for people who are simply trying to follow the law and rebuild their lives safely.

These changes would also affect workplaces and communities. Employers rely on workers like me who contribute to essential industries. If thousands of asylum seekers lose the ability to work due to delays or restrictions on EAD renewals, businesses will lose trained employees and communities will lose productive members.

Allowing asylum seekers to renew their work authorization without interruption helps families remain stable, allows people to contribute to society, and ensures that individuals waiting for their asylum decisions can live with dignity.

For these reasons, I strongly urge USCIS to maintain and improve accessible, timely EAD renewal for asylum seekers.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Transportation

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“This is inhumane. The government must provide protection to people fleeing persecution. We are being charged for the government’s delays handling our cases. They use scapegoating of immigrants as an excuse for their desire to limit resources and make immigration impossible and unbearable.”

– ASAP Member in California working in the Nonprofit Sector

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“If the person pays taxes, I think his work permit should be renewed.”

– ASAP Member in Ohio working in Caregiving

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“We, a family of legal asylum seekers living in Illinois, express our deep concern about the initiative of February 23, 2026. We came to the United States legally, fleeing persecution, applied for asylum in the first year, paid all required fees, and strictly obey the laws. We work, pay taxes, and provide for ourselves without burdening the country’s budget.

However, the proposed reform, combined with current USCIS policies, creates an unbearable trap for us:

- Economic survival and lack of alternatives: We have nowhere to return - persecution awaits us in our homeland. Without the right to work, we lose our only opportunity to pay for housing, medical bills, and basic needs. This puts our family on the verge of homelessness and complete dependence on charitable organizations, which burdens the state budget.
- Artificially Delayed Timelines (Administrative Freeze): Currently, the issuance of asylum interview decisions is effectively frozen indefinitely. Conducting interviews without issuing results artificially prolongs the time spent in ‘waiting’ status, without providing any legal certainty.
- Work Permit Void: A new initiative proposes to suspend the issuance of Employment Authorizations (EADs) if the average processing time for cases exceeds 180 days. Since the government itself introduced the ‘freeze’ of decisions, these deadlines are artificially

increased. This creates a vicious circle: the government does not issue a decision, the queue grows, and on this basis we are denied the extension of our right to work.

- Lack of real deadlines: Currently, there is no official deadline for ‘unfreezing’ the decision-making process. This forces us to wait an unknown amount of time without being able to legally earn a living, pay rent, and pay for the services of lawyers and interpreters that are necessary to defend our case. Preparing a quality asylum case requires significant funds for the services of licensed lawyers and professional translators. Depriving us of income is effectively depriving us of the right to qualified legal protection guaranteed by US law.
- Risk of ‘self-deportation’ through starvation: Depriving us of the right to work and simultaneously blocking decisions on the merits of the case looks like a deliberate creation of conditions under which legal applicants will be forced to leave the country due to the inability to survive, despite the real threat to their lives in their homeland.
- Loss of mobility: Without a valid EAD, we lose our REAL ID driver’s licenses, which in the US means complete isolation: the inability to get to doctors, schools, or aid points.

We call on the administration to immediately resume issuing decisions and ensure the continued right to work for those who conscientiously comply with all the requirements of the law. The right to protection loses its meaning if a person is deprived of the means of physical existence while awaiting that protection.”

– ASAP Member in Illinois working in Hospitality

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“Working as a Program Specialist for about six years, supporting adults with intellectual disabilities is more than a job to me—it is meaningful, heart-centered work that allows me to advocate, empower, and walk alongside individuals as they build fulfilling lives. The relationships I’ve developed and the trust my clients place in me carry a deep responsibility that I do not take lightly. If I were not in this role, I would feel the loss of purpose that comes from supporting others in reaching their goals. Many of the individuals I serve would experience the disruption of losing a consistent, dependable advocate who understands their strengths, needs, and aspirations. This work matters because stability, compassion, and commitment truly make a difference in the lives of the people I support.”

– ASAP Member in Pennsylvania working in the Nonprofit Sector

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“USCIS should consider continuing issuing work permits to asylum seekers so they can work legally.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Health Care

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"I am qualified enough to work in a top American bank, I am paying taxes, I am adding value to American banking and servicing American citizens, why would the government not want me to continue working? It makes no sense, not only me and my family will be affected but also American citizens will be affected. Less work permits mean less and slower services are provided to American citizens, which will increase prices of these services."

– ASAP Member working in Administration and Finance

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"I won't be able to provide for my family if I won't be able to renew my work permit."

– ASAP Member in Florida

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"This decision will affect those of us whose cases are still pending.

For years we have waited and waited without ever having the opportunity to defend our case. And these changes will disrupt and destroy our dreams."

– ASAP Member in Missouri working in Sales and Retail

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"We are working and paying taxes."

– ASAP Member in New York working in Construction

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"If asylum seekers or those awaiting asylum are not granted the right to work, it will lead to many seeking alternative sources of income. I will feel like I don't deserve to live."

– ASAP Member in California working in Data Analysis

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“The United States should not create a human rights disaster, nor should it abandon human rights principles and its leadership role, as this would cause the United States to lose its global leadership and its ability to attract talent.”

– ASAP Member in Pennsylvania working in Transportation

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“One concern of the current administration is immigrants burdening welfare and public assistance systems. However, if asylum seekers are prevented from legally working and providing for themselves, who (other than the taxpayer) will cover the cost of basic human needs like food, shelter, and healthcare? Preventing legal work authorization directly causes the very outcome the administration is trying to avoid.

I believe in this country’s right to secure its borders and ensure that criminals do not gain access to the opportunities this nation provides. Those are legitimate goals. However, we are people who have followed the legal process, and simply want to provide for our families, contribute to our communities, and give back to the nation that has offered us safety, peace, and freedom.

Giving authorities unchecked discretion to deny work permits for any reason, combined with allowing work permit information to be used against an asylum application, does not create security. It creates fear, mistrust, and uncertainty among people who are doing everything right. When people cannot trust that following the legal process will protect them, you don’t eliminate the immigration problem. You simply push it further into the shadows.

These restrictions are being applied to people who are already working within the system. Taking away their legal means of becoming productive, self-sufficient members of society does not solve the immigration challenges this country faces.. it deepens them.”

– ASAP Member working in Technology

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“As an asylum seeker, my case has been pending for a decade, and I’m a caregiver for three disabled US citizens, DENIAL or DELAYING to renew my EAD will result in horrible consequences not just for me but for US consumers and the US economy.”

– ASAP Member in Pennsylvania

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"It affects us because we will end up losing our jobs and if we are doing everything in our power to have legal status and be able to work, why aren't we allowed to get a work permit? While we wait for our case to be decided we at least have a way to provide food, pay bills and support our families without being worried about not being able to get a job for not having the proper documentation. We are not affecting anyone by having a work permit."

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Education

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"Economics nowadays are hard already. If the work permits rules are tightened, then it's going to be harder for us (asylum seekers) to get a job and feed our family.

Asylum seekers contribute so much in this country to make it great by paying taxes just like green card holders and citizens.

We just want a peaceful, better life and happy family life. Nothing else."

– ASAP Member in New York

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"I am a university student and do not have any income support from my home country. I work long hours to be able to provide for my needs and education and my family. Having a work permit gives me opportunities to work in the field of my study and also get a good pay.

With these new developments in immigration policies, I feel like I don't have anywhere to go. I had to leave my home country due to religious persecution, so I have been depressed for a long time. I thought at least I can live a normal life by working hard and following rules here in the USA. But with constant rule changes and uncertainties, it's difficult to find any hope/trust in the future.

We did not flee our birthplace just because we wanted to. We were in actual danger of harm because I followed a certain religion. We hoped to find peace in a new place, and now we are persecuted for being immigrants? So, where do we belong? Why do we have to fight and fight for even basic human rights to exist peacefully? I am not asking the government to give me free money, we are just asking for permission to work and earn a living. Why is such a basic human concept so difficult to understand?"

– ASAP Member in Indiana working in Food Preparation and Service

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"This will affect my internship process. Right now, I am pursuing an undergraduate degree, and I wish to land an internship in the near future, which, now, I am scared of not getting even though I have tried my best."

– ASAP Member in New York working in Technology

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"I am very worried that in addition to restricting new applications, the government will also introduce new restrictions on work permit renewals. This will have a significant impact on the stability of my family and community, because not issuing work permits or refusing to renew them will prevent us from working to support our families, leave our children without food, create more social security problems, and lead to a serious humanitarian crisis."

– ASAP Member in California working in Transportation

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"How will families survive if work permits are not issued or renewed? Please try and understand how big of a humanitarian crisis this would cause. This would simply force asylum seekers to return to the very country they have tried to stay away from. The more sensible way is to fast track cases for court hearings."

– ASAP Member

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"Without permission it is impossible to work."

– ASAP Member working in Transportation

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"It affects me morally more because if there is no protection in the country, I will live in fear just like in my country. I can't work to support myself and my family who depend on me. I need the stability of my mind that I lost a long time ago in my country and that I started to build, but because USCIS is taking away the right to work these things affect us morally."

– ASAP Member in New York working in Caregiving

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“Yes, asylum seekers are a strong part of the American work force. In my case, I am a health care worker, taking care of patients and training new generations that can bring the same care to our communities. If I don’t have a work permit, how can I be a caregiver or be part of building a new generation of health care workers?”

– ASAP Member working in Health Care

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“The idea to not issue initial work permits will be devastating to families with children. How does the government want them to feed their families or pay their bills? Issuing work permits allows asylum seekers to be able to work and contribute meaningfully to the society.”

– ASAP Member in Texas

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“The government can check how people are doing with a work permit. Are they really working? Are they really following the rules and regulations before renewing? And, people who follow accordingly, deserve to get the right to work legally.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Hospitality

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“We are very scared about this rule because without a work permit, we can’t work and can’t pay the bills and can’t take care of our family. I think every human being has a right to work honestly. By working, we also contribute to developing the economy of this country.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Sales and Retail

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“It will be hard for asylum seekers to not get a work permit while their case is pending because they need to work legally and support their family, especially people who work in healthcare settings.”

– ASAP Member working in Health Care

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“It will completely stop our livelihood.”

– ASAP Member in New York working as a Social Worker

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“Many of the jobs that immigrants do cannot be done by American citizens, or citizens may not want to do them, may not be willing to work for the wages offered, or may not be ready to take on physically demanding labor. Immigrants, often having no support system here other than themselves, are willing to take low-paying and difficult jobs in order to survive.

If immigrants do not have the right to work, it can lead to a situation where a person cannot support themselves or their family. Their children may not have access to basic necessities, which creates serious hardships.

There are real cases and real people who came here fleeing persecution in their home countries and then remain without legal work authorization. For someone who is already living in exile, being unable to work legally can make their situation even more frightening and unstable.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Construction

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“I am waiting for my case to be heard, and now I have my work permit. If I cannot extend my work permit, I will not be able to work. I serve 100 American homes with green energy every month. I share my great experience with leading American companies so that thousands of homes have green energy. If I do not have my work permit, I cannot do it. While I am waiting for my case, I pay taxes to the United States every month. I am law-abiding and do not violate any law, on the contrary, I follow the law. The cancellation of work permits will be a big blow, both for working and tax-paying people like me, and for Americans who need good specialists. I think the US government should be fair and conscientious in this matter.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Green Energy

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“Let me give you some thoughts regarding how this new work authorization rule would affect me, my family, and the community.

1. If we don't have work authorization, that is against the human right which is internationally recognized, the right to life. According to the 797 notice of action, which is the USCIS receipt

- of a pending asylum case, we can live in the US as long as our case is pending. Therefore, it does not make sense to deny a work permit after allowing someone to live in the US.
2. This rule would also increase dependency. If we don't work, we still need to earn income to cover our basic needs and we would struggle with finding food, shelter, and other basic needs. For that reason, we will need to go to public places or close friends or communities to give us continuous support until our asylum case is resolved. So it encourages dependency.
  3. This rule also jeopardizes the existence of asylum seekers' children, many of whom are US citizens. This is true in particular of those children who are under 18. If the asylum seeker has no right to work then he can't feed his children. This rule definitely will violate the constitutional rights of these children.
  4. The rule would also create opportunities for companies to exploit asylum seekers. The companies could offer a job that can be worked under the table and these companies would pay them less and exploit their labor.
  5. The enforcement of this new rule of the work authorization would also put asylum seekers into extra stress and anxiety. If you don't have any job, then staying at home by itself would create some kind of stress, and anxiety, which finally can lead to suicide. More than that, an asylum seeker might begin to feel hopelessness and loneliness. It might also encourage an asylum seeker to run the risk of returning to their country where they faced persecution.
  6. On the other hand, this law could make asylum seekers victims of criminals. Especially at home where there is no evidence. They would be exposed to domestic violence and child abuse.
  7. The law would financially disable asylum seekers. We can't pay for our immigration fees, for health insurance, and other administrative costs. This rule would make it difficult even for the community. For example, if an asylum seeker has no health insurance, he might not want to go to any healthcare institution and instead treat himself at home. And if the disease that he contracted is a transmittable disease then because he could not get health care service, the disease might be transmitted to the community.
  8. The government could lose money because of this rule. Asylum seekers are a good source of income for the government because they pay taxes and administrative fees. This rule would reduce the annual income of the government.
  9. Finally, I would like to tell you that this issue is a life or death issue for asylum seekers. I believe that no reasonable man would argue in favor of this law as it is against the public policy and the morality of US communities."

– ASAP Member in New York working in Fulfillment and Distribution

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"We have many problems in the Haitian community. Work is necessary. We think that the country is what it is today thanks to immigrants. There are people who have homes, businesses, children

who are studying, for example, if you are 40 years old in a country where you have never had permanent status, just TPS, how will you live if you do not work? He should have a work permit.”

– ASAP Member in North Carolina working in Farming

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“Financial Strain: More frequent renewals means paying filing fees more often, placing a burden on low-income families and asylum seekers.

Uncertainty and Stress: Constant fear of job loss due to processing delays or expirations, as work authorization gaps may occur.

Operational Hassle: Increased need for constant monitoring of expiration dates, document preparation, and potential legal consultation.

Daily Life Disruptions: Potential, though not universal, issues with renewing state-issued identification like driver’s licenses due to EAD lapses.”

– ASAP Member in Maryland working in Caregiving

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“This policy would affect both me and my spouse, who contribute to the American workforce in the public health and construction sectors—two fields where the United States continues to face workforce shortages. In addition to providing essential services, we contribute to the economy through our work and by paying taxes. If this rule were to pass, we won’t be able to renew our permits in time, resulting in financial loss for my family and the country.”

– ASAP Member

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“I am concerned about EAD holders in C08, who will not have the right to work.”

– ASAP Member in New York

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“Asylum seekers are really afraid of their safety and lives back home. So having work permits for asylum seekers is a must and it helps us and the government as well. Asylum seekers that work

legally with work permits are paying taxes despite a lot of US citizens thinking they are living off of taxpayers including EBT. So please stop this nonsense and let people live their lives.”

– ASAP Member working in Sales and Retail

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“Why will we be left without legal work in this country? We came here to work and pay our taxes; we have families who depend on our work, especially our children.”

– ASAP Member

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“Working as a Public Health Microbiologist in California requires extensive scientific training and certification. Candidates must first obtain a degree in microbiology or a related life science and then complete a highly specialized state approved training program in public health laboratories. This training involves months of intensive laboratory rotations covering bacteriology, virology, parasitology, molecular diagnostics, and other infectious disease testing that directly supports disease surveillance and outbreak detection.

Training opportunities are limited because they are only offered through a small number of public health laboratories in California, which means the number of licensed professionals entering the workforce each year is relatively small. The result is that Public Health Microbiologists represent a very specialized and limited workforce responsible for detecting emerging infectious diseases, monitoring outbreaks, and supporting clinicians and epidemiologists.

Policies that affect the ability of trained professionals to work can directly affect the capacity of public health laboratories to protect communities. When laboratories face workforce shortages, it can slow disease detection, reduce surveillance capacity, and delay responses to infectious disease threats that impact the entire community.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Health Care

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“The part of the new rule that gives officials ‘discretion’ to deny work permits for any reason is especially troubling and scary for me. My entire family still has a pending affirmative asylum application, so the idea that any of us might have a work permit renewal denied arbitrarily would be extremely destabilizing. We need to work in order to survive and meet our basic needs. I also feel like I would have become hypervigilant of what information about me is on the web and how

something like a social media post could be misconstrued and used against a person to deny a work permit. Not just online information, but I also think about any public-facing activities I may take part in. This new rule only adds to the pressure of feeling like I have to live my life in the shadows and in fear. Additionally, the change regarding initial work permits makes me afraid for other asylum seekers in my community.”

– ASAP Member in Indiana working in the Legal Industry

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“Yes, it's going to affect me so bad. It's illegal. How can we feed ourselves, or pay rent and other bills? They are just hurting people because they have the power to hurt. I'm handicapped so even with a work permit I'll struggle to have a job. If I don't have a work permit, it will be impossible to find a job.”

– ASAP Member in California

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“These changes have made me and my family very anxious and insecure. We worry about not having fixed working hours and about losing our current stable jobs at any time.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Sales

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“I need to be able to renew my work permit.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Construction

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“I cannot guarantee my employment authorization. So, my employer is looking for a replacement to guarantee its operations. It was already hard to get employment with an EAD on C08. Every recruiter asks what my visa status is. It is the same case for the rest of my family. Because of the instability this creates, I cannot spare anything for my 401k. I might need the extra amount to help out family/friends.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Technology

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“Even with a 5-year work authorization, it has already been extremely difficult for me to find stable, full-time employment. Many employers are hesitant when they see temporary status, even if it is valid for several years.

If work authorization were limited to only one year — or if it were taken away — it would make finding and keeping a job nearly impossible. Employers are unlikely to invest in hiring and training someone whose legal ability to work may expire so quickly. Without stable employment, I would have no way to pay for housing. I would very likely face eviction and could end up homeless or forced to seek shelter placement.

Shelter systems are already overwhelmed. There are not enough beds for everyone, and reducing work authorization would push many more people into homelessness — including, very likely, me.

I cannot safely return to the country I fled due to fear of persecution. Returning is not a viable option.

In addition, without employment and income, I would pay little to no taxes. Currently, I am contributing through payroll and income taxes. I also receive health insurance through my employer. If I lose my job due to reduced work authorization, I will lose my health coverage as well.

These changes would not only destabilize my life, but also increase the burden on local communities and public systems. Allowing people to work legally enables us to support ourselves, pay taxes, contribute to society, and live with dignity. Restricting that ability would have severe and lasting consequences.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Administration and Finance

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“These changes will have a negative impact not only on asylum seekers’ living quality but also on the country’s economy.”

– ASAP Member in California

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“Not qualifying for a work permit until 365 days would affect the survival of individuals and families, as they would not have basic needs or have freedom to move, etc.”

– ASAP Member in Texas

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“This change will make it harder for me to renew my working permit, and impossible to continue paying my mortgage.”

– ASAP Member in Massachusetts working in Sales and Retail

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“My mother-in-law applied for her renewed EAD in February 2025, but she’s unable to receive it. Now, due to these changes, she’s at risk of losing her job. She works as a tax preparer and has already passed her first part of the EA exam. She also has her own clients. She’s a great person, and she won’t be able to support her family, who has a child under 13 years old. She is also an ASAP member.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Administration and Finance

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“The asylum program was established as a moral and legal pillar to ensure the safety of those fleeing systemic violence and persecution. Today, the world is engulfed in turmoil, and the United States has a long, storied history of welcoming hardworking immigrants who seek a better life while simultaneously fueling the nation’s economic engine.

However, recent policy shifts threaten to undermine this legacy. These new measures effectively criminalize refugees for factors entirely outside of their control. We cannot control the corruption of the governments in our home countries, we cannot control the xenophobia of distant officials, and we cannot control the state of terror and the pervasive lawlessness that turns neighborhoods into battlegrounds.

To punish the displaced for the chaos they are escaping is a betrayal of the fundamental right to seek safety. Furthermore, by depriving immigrants of work permits, the system engages in a backhanded form of deportation; it is an attempt to force people out by denying them the dignity of self-sufficiency and the means to survive. We must choose to see the person behind the paperwork: the parent seeking a future without fear and the worker ready to build a life that strengthens the fabric of this country.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Electrical Engineering

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“I will lose my job and won’t be able to care for my kid. I’m a single mom and a widow.”

– ASAP Member in South Carolina working in Administration and Finance

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“It’s impossible to make a living in America without a work permit. Therefore, by preventing legal employment, they are encouraging illegal earnings. I don’t want the asylum process to take so long. However, I need to work to meet my own and my family’s needs during the waiting period. I don’t expect a salary from you during this time, and I want the work permits to be issued as quickly as possible so I can meet my own needs and avoid any problems during the renewal process.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Education

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“If immigrants aren’t issued work permits, they’ll simply work illegally and avoid paying taxes. This will force immigrants to seek jobs that are potentially dangerous, pay less, and are completely untraceable.”

– ASAP Member in California

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“Working as a professional caregiver is a continuous job; we are transferred to different areas as people age, and they will always be in need of help. We cannot leave our older people living by themselves; it is dangerous. We need to help those who can not help themselves as long as we have the strength. It is also helping us to support our families.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Caregiving

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“It worries me that USCIS can deny renewals for ‘any’ reason meaning there might not be transparency in their decision under this government.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Sales and Retail

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“These changes are going to affect me and my family because without work permits you cannot work in the United States and will not be able to pay your bills or feed your family.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Security

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“The rule seems vague, but the damage it has the potential to cause is severe, especially for those of us who rely on our incomes to sustain ourselves.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Technology

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“This is inhumane. And willfully wrong. We are forcing people towards darkness. Most asylum seekers work and pay taxes and raise their kids and contribute to the economy. This is fundamentally wrong.

The USA is an exceptional country. So we should act that way.”

– ASAP Member in Maryland working in Sales and Retail

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“It’s about far more than just making money, it’s about human beings seeking refuge from their difficult circumstances in their countries for themselves and their families. Removing the opportunity to work for asylum seekers while waiting on their decisions is inhumane. Applicants have no control over how long their process takes, and although many come with finances to sustain themselves, finances do run out at some point. This will cause a strain on food pantries and banks that are meant to be for the American people that are struggling. Asylum seekers are willing to not depend on public or private aid and are willing to work to feed and house their families while they wait. If there is a large amount of asylum seekers working legally, this means a lot of tax money being paid into the local economies, strengthening them for Americans to be able to get benefits. Asylum seekers play a big part in society financially and they should continue to do so.”

– ASAP Member working in Food Preparation and Service

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“Life will be hard. We have already been threatened, sometimes beaten, and now we have to fear for our livelihood.”

– ASAP Member in Colorado working in Technology

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“The people who would like to stay in the USA peacefully, legally, and to protect their family, these changes will affect all of them.”

– ASAP Member working in Sales and Retail

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“I will not be able to renew my work permit and will not be able to work and take care of myself and my family.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Caregiving

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“These changes would make it much harder for asylum seekers to support themselves and their families while their cases are pending. Many people who apply for asylum wait a long time for decisions, and work permits allow them to work legally, pay taxes, and contribute to their communities. If work permits are delayed or denied more easily, it could create financial hardship and instability for many families and communities. Allowing asylum seekers to work legally helps them remain self-sufficient and reduces reliance on public assistance.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Health Care

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“We will not be able to survive.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Health Care

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“I have been waiting for an interview for asylum since 2022 and I renewed my work permit once. If USCIS has the power to reject a renewal application without any reason I’ll lose my work and won’t be able to pay my rent. I won’t have food and I can’t go back to the country where I came from. I’ll be in a trap.”

– ASAP Member in New York

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“Changes to asylum policies can affect individuals, families, workplaces, and entire communities. When rules become stricter or processing takes longer, asylum seekers may face stress, delays in work permits, and financial hardship. Families can struggle with instability, fear of separation, and difficulty maintaining housing or supporting their children. Workplaces may experience staffing shortages if employees lose work authorization, especially in fields like healthcare. Overall, communities can feel economic and social impacts because immigrants contribute to local businesses, schools, and the workforce.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Health Care

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“My wife and I got the initial work permit in 2021 and renewed it two times. As the process of applying for asylum is so complex and long, we are grateful the government is issuing the work permit for the pending asylum seekers and giving us the opportunities to work in this country, to contribute, and to be engaged in local customs and cultures.

If the proposals for suspending and denying work permits is approved, asylum applicants will face severe difficulties to live a basic life while waiting for the asylum process. This is unacceptable in a country that embodies justice, equality, humanity and love. As pursuing happiness and freedom is the foundation of this country, the people coming here to pursue a better life, regardless of their origins, should be given the right to make a living.

Please keep the policy to get and renew the work permit accessible to everyone who needs it to pursue a better life by working lawfully in this country.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Caregiving

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“Definitely this would have a big effect on almost everyone, including my family which entirely depends on me, because I will be unemployed when my work permit expires and I can’t renew

it. The government also will lose to a certain extent because when we work we pay taxes, so the government will lose that money.”

– ASAP Member in Minnesota working in Construction

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“This change will bring a lot of suffering and pain to the lives of applicants. It will affect their families and their future in the country, because waiting 365 days, which is a year, to make the initial request for a work permit is really hard, because we have to work, to support our needs in the country and to pay our bills, while the government cuts off all resources. It is really serious and cruel.”

– ASAP Member in New Hampshire working in Technology

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“Now it will also be harder to renew work permit.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in a Restaurant

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“If work permits are not issued, how are asylum seekers supposed to cope with life and daily living?”

– ASAP Member in Maryland working in Caregiving

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“If these changes happen, we cannot work, cannot buy food for our families, cannot pay our bills, cannot survive. How can we live? Our children cannot continue their studies in college.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Education

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“I need a work permit renewal to keep my job, to support my whole family. I legally work and pay taxes, but I feel insecure about this new rule. If I lose my job, my whole family, my kids, how would they survive?”

– ASAP Member working in Health Care

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"If we have no financial support it will be painful for families with kids to survive.

The USA, by this change, will violate its historical traditions as a country which accepts diversity and where people feel happy to live with freedom."

– ASAP Member in Indiana working in Transportation

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"It will affect me and my family because if I don't work I cannot feed my family here and pay my bills. And it will affect the country because if someone is in your country, to get profits like taxes, you have to give him work authorization so he is able to work. Then the government also can get taxes."

– ASAP Member in Ohio

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"These changes will affect us badly as they will make our lives more difficult."

– ASAP Member in Virginia

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"The inability to obtain work permits has led more people to engage in illegal work through various means, creating further problems and chaos."

– ASAP Member in California

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"The government has decided to suspend work permits. If we can't work, we'll become homeless, we'll have no food, we'll lose our dignity, we'll lose our lives."

– ASAP Member in California

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“Loss of income will make it impossible to pay living expenses. Time off work may mean I may not get my job back.”

– ASAP Member working in Health Care

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“I am a critical care physician working in a very busy ICU and delay or denial of my EAD renewal could affect patients’ care first and my family second. People who are working legally and using their documents should be rewarded with faster processing instead of delaying or denying them.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Health Care

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“I am an asylum applicant waiting for my EAD renewal. My application has already been pending for about 15 months, and I am currently relying on the automatic extension to continue working legally.

Additional screening requirements or delays would create serious hardship for people like me who have already been waiting a long time. We follow the law, work legally, and contribute to our communities while our cases are pending.

I respectfully ask USCIS to avoid policies that would further delay EAD renewals for asylum applicants who are already in the system.”

– ASAP Member in New Jersey working in Technology

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“I would like the government to continue the ongoing system.”

– ASAP Member in Georgia working in Sales and Retail

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“Without a work permit I can’t go to work or afford to take care of my family. I can’t even pay taxes.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Beauty and Personal Care

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“I will not be able to support myself with no work permit. I will lose my job. Where do I go? I obviously cannot go back to the country where I would be persecuted.”

– ASAP Member in Oregon working in Health Care

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“I am worried about renewal of work permits. If we do not have work permits or there is a gap between renewal work permits, then it is easy for us to lose our jobs. When losing a job, it is hard to get a new one. Some people may have to work without work permits. Thus, they may get less pay and require more work.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Food Preparation and Service

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“I’m sure these new rules will make life much more difficult for those immigrants who are trying to work honestly, pay taxes, develop and adapt, and become part of this society.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Construction

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“Making a decision to apply for asylum was one of the hardest things. However, I had to make this choice due to the political situation in my home country, Burma/Myanmar. I had to seek protection from this country because I feared persecution if I returned home due to my ethnicity and my participation in the pro-democracy movements and human rights activism. I am here in the country all by myself with no close family. Without a work permit, it will have a tremendous impact on my life. I cannot imagine what my life would be like without income and no support from anyone. While I am patiently waiting for my asylum application to be processed, I am grateful to have permission to work to cover my basic needs, particularly food and rent.”

– ASAP Member in Illinois working in Administration and Finance

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“Denying an asylum seeker a work permit can lead to several negative consequences for both the individual and the broader society. Key effects include:

1. **Financial Hardship and Poverty:** Without a work permit, asylum seekers are unable to earn income legally. This often forces them to rely on limited savings, charity, or assistance programs to survive.

2. **Exploitation and Informal Work:** Many asylum seekers may feel pressured to work illegally in the informal economy. This can expose them to labor exploitation, unsafe working conditions, and unfair wages because they lack legal protections.

3. **Mental Health Challenges:** Being unable to work can lead to stress, anxiety, depression, and loss of self-worth. Employment often provides a sense of purpose and dignity, which is important for psychological well-being.

4. **Delayed Integration into Society:** Work helps people learn language skills, build social networks, and adapt to a new country. Without employment opportunities, asylum seekers may struggle to integrate into their communities.

5. **Increased Dependence on Public Support:** When asylum seekers cannot work, they may depend more heavily on government assistance or community organizations, which can increase social service costs.

6. **Skill Loss or Underutilization:** Many asylum seekers arrive with valuable professional skills or education. Long periods without work can lead to loss of skills and professional stagnation.

In summary, denying work permits can create economic, social, and psychological difficulties for asylum seekers while also limiting the potential contributions they could make to the host country's workforce and economy."

– ASAP Member in New Mexico working in Health Care

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"Why do we have to mistreat people like this, even immigrants? We are following American law. Now, to show the world how we mistreat people who want to follow the law, we come up with rules that are inhumane and we forget the history of the USA."

– ASAP Member in Massachusetts

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“The proposed rule makes it difficult for families to survive, to pay bills, to eat, to attend to health issues, and to go to school.”

– ASAP Member in Delaware

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“These changes will disastrously affect our lives, because without the ability to work we will end up homeless and die of hunger.”

– ASAP Member in Washington working in Caregiving

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“This proposed rule could affect me even though I already have a work permit, because I will need to renew it soon and I am worried that the new rules will make renewals much more difficult and slower. I rely on my work permit to legally work, pay my bills, and support myself while my asylum case is pending, so any delays or new barriers to renewing it would put me at serious financial and emotional risk.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Technology

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“Denying initial applications would have a significant negative impact on families, because they would not be able to work and earn income to provide their basic necessities. This could lead to homelessness, malnutrition and ill health. A lot of people do not want to constitute social nuisances or depend on the government for anything. We are hard working people and would love the opportunity to use our hands and brains in meaningful work that benefits us and the Nation.

Denying work permit renewals will pose a serious challenge, throwing applicants into a state of unrest because they would lose their current employment and have to go back into the job market if or when they get an approval and the impacts above will apply here as well.

As a parent, providing for my kids is my primary responsibility and I will never want to be put in a position where I will not be able to provide their basic needs. So I am appealing to the government to please reconsider its decision.

Thank you.”

– ASAP Member in Pennsylvania working in Technology

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“I have a family. I ran from persecution in my home country not to find it here in my new home and loving country.”

– ASAP Member in Texas

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“I am a passionate CNA in the State of Indiana. Denying renewal of my work permit for no reason will affect my ability to work, and I will not be able to help the elderly in need. Please have some compassion for those elderly and me. A longer wait to apply for an initial work permit will affect so many families, they will not be able to work, to eat, to attend to their needs, please understand that a lot of them have American children in need, a lot of immigrants are in the healthcare industry which is already understaffed and always needs their help.”

– ASAP Member in Indiana working in Caregiving

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“This will prevent us from working to have the means to meet our needs.”

– ASAP Member in New Jersey working in Health Care

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“The rule makes it very difficult to live a life and seriously depresses us.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Construction

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“I came from a country where there is a war going on. I brought my little child here in the hope of finding protection and asylum. I work for a non-profit organisation and help elderly people. But since I cannot renew my EAD documents, how will I be able to feed and provide for my child? I no longer have a home. I have nowhere to return to. But now it turns out that I cannot stay here either, without the means to feed my family and raise my child.”

– ASAP Member in Pennsylvania working in the Nonprofit Sector

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“The rule will make it more difficult to maintain any type of living as we won’t be able to work, therefore we won’t be able to buy food and attain other basic needs.”

– ASAP Member in Georgia

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“These changes would significantly disrupt normal life for my family and me. They would prevent both my spouse and me from being able to work, leaving us without a sense of stability or purpose. We would be left in uncertainty, unable to move forward while our asylum case remains pending, with no clear timeline for when we might be scheduled for a USCIS interview.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Construction

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“These changes would have a severe and deeply destabilizing impact on my family and me. They would effectively halt our ability to maintain normal life by preventing both my husband and me from working lawfully. As a result, we would lose our financial stability and our ability to support ourselves, leaving us in an extended state of uncertainty.

Our asylum case remains pending with no clear indication of when we will receive a USCIS interview, leaving us unable to plan for our future or take meaningful steps toward rebuilding our lives. The prolonged waiting period—combined with the inability to work—would place significant emotional, financial, and psychological strain on our household.

In practical terms, these changes would confine us to a situation in which we cannot progress, cannot provide for ourselves, and cannot fully integrate into the community, despite our willingness and commitment to do so.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Health Care

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“These changes would have a serious impact on my family and many other families like ours. We have lived in the United States for more than 11 years. My husband has a pending asylum case, and our 17-year-old son grew up here and considers this country his home.

Work authorization is extremely important for families like ours. It allows us to work legally, support ourselves, pay taxes, and contribute to our community. Without the ability to apply for or renew work permits, many families would face financial hardship and instability.

My son is waiting for his work authorization so he can start working, gain experience, and build his future. Preventing asylum seekers from receiving work permits would make it much harder for young people like him to become productive members of society.

Policies should support families who follow the law, work hard, and contribute to their communities. Restricting work permits would harm not only immigrant families but also workplaces and local economies that rely on our contributions.”

– ASAP Member working in Health Care

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“My family and I have had work permits for more than 5 years, and this new rule affects our jobs and lives.”

– ASAP Member working in Technology

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“With all the proposed changes, it feels like there’s a targeted effort to attack us as a minority fleeing persecution. This would impact our livelihood as asylum seekers and limit our abilities to be contributing members of society while our cases are being adjudicated. The financial and psychological toll this presents will be immense while we are seeking safety and refuge in the United States of America.”

– ASAP Member in Massachusetts

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“We want to be seen and work in the society whose government lets us stay here. Work permits let us feel like decent human beings whose rights are not violated at least here in comparison to the countries we escaped.”

– ASAP Member in New York

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“If I won’t be able to renew my work permit under my asylum application, my wife and I won’t be able to work to earn money to raise my two children, my little niece, and to take care of my mom and my wife.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Security

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“We will be struggling even for the basics. Our family will have more difficulties.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Health Care

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“The rule prevents my family members from working legally, adding extreme hardship to our lives. Combined with the uncertainty of when the asylum decision will be given, we won’t be able to know how long this hardship will last, which is even more hopeless.”

– ASAP Member

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“These proposed changes would have a serious impact on me and my community. If asylum seekers are required to wait 365 days or longer before receiving a work permit, it would create significant financial hardship. Many asylum seekers rely on the ability to work legally to support themselves and their families, pay rent, buy food, and contribute to their communities. Stopping or delaying work permits would force people into unstable situations, increase dependence on public or charitable assistance, and create unnecessary stress and uncertainty. It would also affect workplaces that depend on dedicated and hardworking employees who are seeking safety and stability. Allowing work permits to be denied for broad or unclear reasons, or using information from work permit applications to negatively impact asylum cases, would create fear and discourage people from applying. This would make communities less stable and undermine the goal of helping people become self-sufficient. These changes would not only affect individuals, but also families, employers, and local communities that benefit from asylum seekers’ contributions.”

– ASAP Member in Oregon working in Administration and Finance

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“I won’t be able to work, and I’d continue being homeless. My life conditions will be very bad.”

– ASAP Member in Washington working in Education

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"I am working with a work permit. Without one, how should immigrants live?"

– ASAP Member in California working in Administration and Finance

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"Wrong decision."

– ASAP Member

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"Life in the US is not easy at all, especially when you don't have a job. If someone applies for a work permit like an asylum seeker, it's because he wants to work and wants something better for himself and the US. In that way, making it difficult for someone to have a work permit and changing the rules to increase the time frame are not going to encourage people to apply for asylum."

– ASAP Member in Massachusetts working in Sales and Retail

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"I have a great job, currently working in a university as an Assistant Director of Admissions. And I pay my taxes each year, and I have never received a ticket (even a parking ticket). I am a decent asylum seeker who takes every step with my lawyer just to avoid possible legal mistakes. I really don't have the luxury not to work. I received my work permit back in 2023, and it'll expire in 2028. I have concerns if the rules change, and if I'll be affected. I strongly hope everything goes right."

– ASAP Member in New York working in Education

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"I am an asylum seeker and a work permit is my only hope until my pending case is decided."

– ASAP Member in New York working as a Seamstress and Business Owner

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"It affects me legally because I don't have identification documents, to drive or identify myself when necessary. It affects me because I won't be able to continue with my college or be useful to the community. It affects me economically because I don't have access to work to make money

to take care of my family and to pay my taxes. We came to America to work and help the community, we are not bad people give us a chance please.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Health Care

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“I want to be able to earn a living while in the US.”

– ASAP Member in Texas

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“This is devastating; it will completely affect me.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Technology

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“I gave my blood, sweat, and tears for this country’s wars. I fought in a foreign land for the idea of freedom and gave the best of myself thousands of miles away from home. I have lost brothers in that sacrifice. So I cannot stay silent while this country considers policies that would force vulnerable people into fear, dependence, and desperation. I would rather stand for freedom than watch it be hollowed out by cruelty and by folks who have never worked for an honest living. People seeking safety deserve dignity and the right to work while their cases are pending. I strongly oppose these changes.”

– ASAP Member in Georgia who is a Combat Veteran

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“I’m worried about being denied a renewal.”

– ASAP Member

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"I'm concerned about the new rule that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) wants to put in place for asylum seekers. This rule would be harmful for asylum-seeker families. It could leave many people without enough resources to survive and may push them into hunger, creating a serious humanitarian crisis."

– ASAP Member in Alabama

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"Asylum has been part of the US for a very long time. With asylum, thousands of families come to the US because of persecution in their home countries. The US is the protector of human rights. The US is the greatest advocate for democracy. If initial work permits or renewals are stopped, families would not be able to make a living in the US and they would most likely be forced to live in situations where human rights are violated or even significantly affect both mental and physical health. Asylum gives a chance to families to have a better life. Having this rule would take away that chance from so many people."

– ASAP Member working in Transportation

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"This is discrimination against the human race and an abuse of power."

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Caregiving

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"The renewal of work permits has become difficult, and their validity period has been shortened, which puts pressure on normal livelihoods."

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Technology

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"Stopping the issuance of work permits will affect my ability to keep my job. My family will suffer as I'm the sole provider."

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Administration and Finance

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“I will not be able to provide for my family while waiting for asylum approval.”

– ASAP Member in Iowa working in Education

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“This is an illegal infringement of asylum seekers’ rights. I want to live here peacefully, legally, and legitimately, work, and pay taxes, not constantly worry about my future because of new immigration laws!”

– ASAP Member in California working in Sales and Retail

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“I was an asylum seeker and in the year I applied for asylum, I had to wait 365 days to be able to apply for a work permit. I was lucky that my family in my home county provided me with financial support, a lot of asylum seekers don’t even have the financial resources to help them with their daily needs such as food and shelter. During the one year when I was unable to work, I felt miserable and suffered from low-self worth. I have obtained my license to practice law in the U.S., but I can’t apply for any of the jobs and felt I worked hard in vain. I believe everyone has the right to improve their life conditions and it’s basic human dignity. Now preventing asylum seekers from submitting their work permit applications, takes their dignity away, and would seriously force them into poverty or becoming a public charge, unless they work under the table. We are talking about moms not being able to feed their children, vulnerable people who fled tyranny being marginalized again. It is inhumane and against the basic idea of why asylum law exists in the first place.

Additionally, the right to obtain a work permit should not be discretionary, as it creates vague bases for the government to deny the right to livelihood for anyone they deemed unworthy. It creates uneven standards and unnecessary litigation and carves out room for discrimination. It contradicts the principle and ground rules of why asylum law was enacted in the first place.

The proposed new rule is deeply inhumane, it’s not created to offer people protection and refuge or aimed at helping people integrate into society and incentivizing them to contribute to the community and this country. Its purpose is to intimidate, discriminate and oppress the already vulnerable people who went through unimaginable suffering in their home countries. It is against the values this nation was founded on!”

– ASAP Member in New York working in the Legal Industry

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“Having the right to work is a human right, not a privilege. It is such a disappointment when I see the country I am seeking asylum from thinking of me as a liar or someone who is trying to exploit the system for benefits.

When such a problem arises, the government should think of better ways of handling the issue rather than preventing the people who are trapped inside from working. This is not a favor, this is a human right, and we should not take such decisions lightly. If such a rule slips into action, another would come by, and slowly most of our very basic rights become at question. This is not what I imagined the United States to be. This has to be a matter of human rights, not citizens vs. non-citizens, and not Republicans vs. Democrats. We should come together to find something that works for the best of this nation.

I have legally worked for the past 3 years as an Academic Tutor and Academic Operations Supervisor to support the educational system of the United States. The reason I did not want to leave that job even when I was offered better chances somewhere else was because I really wanted to support education. The most rewarding moments for me were when I had parents coming personally to the sessions where I work to thank me for helping their kids pass their exams and achieve their dreams. I helped people on their journeys to become physicians, nurses, optometrists, and many other professions.

Stopping the issuance of initial work permits would mean a catastrophic disaster to the interests of the United States. I know very well that there are other people seeking asylum who are performing essential jobs that nobody else is willing to take or even remotely consider.

When the government makes a decision like this in the name of national interest or national security, it should also weigh the outcomes of such decisions. When you take away the very basic human right to work for asylum seekers, where do you expect these people to go? They are trapped and do not have a place to call home. The decision to delay or prevent issuing initial work permits is a one-way ticket to homelessness. When you have people sleeping on the streets and have no food to eat and nowhere to go, you are placing at risk the national security and interests of the United States that you claim to protect.”

– ASAP Member in Oklahoma working in Education

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“Due to the loss of my job if the proposed rule is enacted, my family will be forced to live on the street, as they will lose all the funds to pay rent and car loans.”

– ASAP Member in Pennsylvania working in Transportation

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“Granting working permits early to asylum seekers will help them support their stay rather than being a charge to the family that received them and also will help them support the lives of their loved ones back home.”

– ASAP Member in Ohio working in Caregiving

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“This could cause even more illegal labor, as it would not be possible to work legally, but one would try to feed their family anyway. Also, this will create uncertainty, as there will be no clear understanding and transparency in the process.”

– ASAP Member in North Carolina working in Technology

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“Barriers to receiving work permits will lead to an illegal workforce, which will result in less taxes, less opportunity to provide for families including little kids and also may increase disruptions to the labor market in certain industries. My family will be in financial hardship if I lose my work permit, and my 4 year old daughter who was born in the United States will be left without means for survival.”

– ASAP Member in North Carolina working in Sales and Retail

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“I am afraid that I won’t be able to respond to my family’s needs. Thus, I will become homeless, jobless, and might be forced to return to my home country where my family life will be jeopardized for real.”

– ASAP Member in Idaho working in Health Care

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“These Proposed Changes Would Affect Me, My Family, and My Community.

I am deeply concerned about the proposed changes regarding work permits for asylum seekers. For many people seeking asylum in the United States, the ability to work legally is essential to survive and live with dignity while their cases are pending.

If obtaining a work permit becomes more difficult or takes longer, it will create serious hardships. Asylum seekers must pay for housing, food, transportation, and other basic needs. Without the

ability to work legally, many individuals and families may face financial instability and unnecessary suffering.

Work authorization also allows asylum seekers to contribute positively to their communities. Many work in essential sectors such as hospitality, construction, cleaning services, security, and other industries that support the U.S. economy. By working legally, asylum seekers pay taxes, support local businesses, and become self-sufficient rather than depending on others.

Limiting access to work permits will not improve the asylum system. Instead, it may create more economic hardship for families and communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge DHS to reconsider these proposed changes and to protect access to work authorization for asylum seekers.

As someone who believes in working hard and contributing positively to society, the opportunity to work legally is extremely important.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Security

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“Without the ability to work, I will not be able to pay for necessities such as food, shelter, and medical care. This would create not only financial hardship but also emotional distress, as I would be dependent on aid programs that may not be sufficient or sustainable. I came to this country seeking safety and the opportunity to rebuild my life, but without the right to work, I will be forced into a situation where I cannot contribute meaningfully to society or support my family.

My inability to work also affects the local community, where I currently volunteer and support various initiatives. These changes would essentially trap me and my family in poverty and isolate us from the opportunities to grow alongside the people who make up this country.

A substantial workforce gap would also result from the inability of asylum seekers to work. Many immigrants are already employed in essential roles such as healthcare, farming, food production, etc., that keep the economy running. The proposal would harm the very businesses and sectors that rely on immigrant labor to function. Businesses would have an even harder time staying open because of the lack of workers, and this decision would make the problem worse.

Living without the ability to work creates a constant state of anxiety and uncertainty for me and my family. The prolonged wait for work permits means that we are unable to plan for our future or feel any sense of stability. The stress of this situation has a direct impact on my mental health, and I will be left wondering when my life will begin to improve. This policy will only make it harder for people like me to overcome the trauma we’ve already experienced.

By denying asylum seekers the right to work for extended periods, the government is prolonging our experience of insecurity and despair. This does not only affect our economic well-being but also our dignity and sense of purpose. The inability to contribute to society and the stigma of being labeled 'dependent' further isolates us from the very community we are trying to become a part of.

The proposed changes go against the things that have long made this country a beacon of hope for people seeking a better life. The American Dream is rooted in the opportunity for hard work, resilience, and the hope that anyone, regardless of their background, can build a better future. Denying work permits to asylum seekers undermines the very values that make this nation great in addition to depriving people of the chance to contribute to society."

– ASAP Member

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"I disagree with the new proposal that would reduce the validity period of work permits for asylum seekers. I believe that maintaining them for longer periods, such as three or five years, is more reasonable and efficient. Renewing them so frequently creates a greater administrative burden for both the government and the applicants, increasing the number of applications that must be processed. The most logical approach would be to maintain longer permits and cancel them only in the event of a final asylum denial."

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Transportation

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"I'm going to lose my job and I won't have a way to support my family."

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Transportation

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"The rule is wrong because we're following the rules to get better job opportunities, and it's too long to wait."

– ASAP Member in Pennsylvania

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“This rule would affect me when renewing my work permit when I have less than six months left.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Food Preparation and Service

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“With a work permit, you have access to jobs that allow you to pay your lawyer during your asylum process, and cover expenses such as rent, utilities, medical insurance, food, and children’s expenses. Some of us have family members with cancer, and I am the one who pays for my mother’s treatment. Due process is not being afforded.”

– ASAP Member

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“It would affect all asylum seekers and their families who are unable to obtain their work permit to legally work and have their license.”

– ASAP Member in Illinois working in Food Preparation and Service

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“We need income in our household; we have gone more than 180 days without work.”

– ASAP Member in Pennsylvania working in Cleaning

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“This rule would affect me in a very negative way.”

– ASAP Member in New York working as a Paralegal

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“I am worried that when my current permit expires, the renewal will not be approved or the new permit will not arrive on time. My employer would have to automatically fire me, and my family and I will be left without resources to support ourselves since I am the main provider for the household.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Cleaning

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“This rule will have a negative impact because we would not be able to continue working and thus fulfill our own and our communities’ responsibilities.”

– ASAP Member

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“It is an outrage against immigrants.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Food Preparation and Service

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“It would affect me because it’s the only way I can support my family with a legally stable job.”

– ASAP Member in Florida

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“It would be more difficult to keep a job due to the short duration of the permit.”

– ASAP Member in Michigan working in Transportation

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“It affects all asylum seekers.”

– ASAP Member in North Carolina working in Construction

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“It wouldn’t really affect us that much, even though my whole family is seeking asylum. We already have our work permits until 2029, but it seems unfair that people have to apply for a work permit every year and pay so much money for renewal, plus the excessive processing time. It would mean people would only pay for work permits but never have them valid...”

Also, the one-year waiting period to apply for the initial work permit is excessive. People need to have some way to support themselves and live in the United States. They need to be able to have their driver's licenses, bank accounts, and more. The helplessness you feel without a Social Security Number or documents that help you achieve security is awful. There's nothing worse than being restricted for no reason, for things that seem like discrimination. There's no need to punish people like that; people need to have support or be able to support themselves."

– ASAP Member in Florida

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"We would lose our jobs, our means of support, and our legal status to be here in this country."

– ASAP Member in Arizona working in Education

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"It already takes a long time to get a work permit. Now it's going to take much longer. During the Biden administration, my wife was unable to work for six months. Now it could take even longer."

– ASAP Member working in Education

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"Renewing the permit is vital. Without it, thousands of professionals would be forced into unemployment, affecting the stability of their families and exacerbating the talent shortage that is currently impacting the productivity of the US economy and the generation of per capita income for the nation."

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Accounting

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"Thanks to my work permit, I'm a medical assistant, and I really enjoy my job helping patients and my doctor. This job made me realize I want to be a nurse, and I've started paying for college so I can become one. All of this is thanks to my work permit; if they take it away, I don't know what would happen to my future and everything I've been able to build in this country."

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Health Care

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“It would be nearly impossible to obtain a work permit while the asylum process is pending. The economy would be severely impacted; workplaces would experience reduced production since we represent a large portion of the workforce. At the farm level, food costs would rise even further because the labor force is largely composed of immigrants. The cost of living would increase, and the stress would be fatal for many people. In short, the impact would be massive.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Fulfillment and Distribution

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“It would affect me because without a work permit I wouldn’t be able to work and therefore pay my bills, food, shelter, and clothes for my son.”

– ASAP Member

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“Because many of us have genuine political asylum claims, we need to work until we’re given the opportunity to have an interview and be able to explain why we’re afraid to return. We want to do things right in this country and be able to work legally and contribute to it.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Cleaning

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“My wife and I are currently in a shelter, we have our work permits, and we’re always mindful of taxes and ways to help the community. But now we’re afraid our renewals will be more difficult because, having come here seeking protection and often without much income, our only source of support depends on our work permits.”

– ASAP Member in Utah working in Nutrition and Pharmaceuticals

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“They practically leave us with our hands tied, and this is affecting us psychologically.”

– ASAP Member

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“We are all waiting for asylum interviews and to renew work permits.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Health Care

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“We would stop producing while we wait for decisions. The community would be economically disadvantaged. We would be unprotected.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Automobiles

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“I am a Cuban single mother, head of household, the sole provider for my children, and I work hard for them.”

– ASAP Member in Iowa working in Food Preparation and Service

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“We run the risk that the government will take away our option to work while we wait for the response to our asylum application.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Sales and Retail

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“This rule would affect us because with this permit we can work legally, pay taxes, have health insurance, and meet our obligations.”

– ASAP Member in New Jersey working in Refrigeration and Ice Machine Maintenance

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“Immigrants who come to this country seeking asylum do so because of torture and humanitarian reasons. We come to this country to abide by the rules, work legally, and pay our taxes on time for the most part. Leaving asylum seekers without work permits is inhumane, especially since many of them come with children who need to be raised properly.”

– ASAP Member in South Carolina working in Human Resources

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“It is impossible to be without a work permit in this country; it affects every aspect of being able to survive.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Transportation

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“Under this rule, even if the permit is renewed in advance, it may be denied, and I wouldn’t have the option of being rehired and doing my job that no one else does.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Education

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“This rule would affect me because, as an asylum seeker, I have no family to help me financially during my process, and it would be difficult to support myself without a work permit, which is a human right.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Cleaning

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“Not having a work permit would complicate our ability to stay in our jobs.”

– ASAP Member in Illinois working in a Warehouse

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“My biggest concern with this proposed rule is that it penalizes people who are going through the legal asylum process and need to work to survive while they wait for a decision that often takes a long time. If the initial work permit is blocked or severely delayed, many people will still need food, rent, transportation, and medicine; they will simply be pushed into the informal economy, into labor exploitation, and into greater dependence on family members, churches, community organizations, or public assistance.

This rule doesn’t just affect the asylum seeker. It also affects their children, their families, and the communities where they live. When a person cannot work legally, they lose stability, cannot plan for the future, cannot fully contribute through taxes, and are more vulnerable to abuse, substandard wages, and unsafe working conditions. This weakens entire neighborhoods and increases the pressure on community networks that are already doing far too much.

Furthermore, this rule harms the economy. Many small and medium-sized businesses need workers in sectors such as construction, cleaning, warehousing, caregiving, food, transportation, and services. Preventing asylum seekers from working legally reduces the available workforce, increases turnover, creates an artificial labor shortage, and shifts economic activity into the informal sector. Instead of creating order, it generates chaos: less compliance, less revenue, and greater vulnerability.

If the government's goal is to improve the system, the solution should not be to block work permits for people with pending applications, but rather to expedite cases, reduce backlogs, and maintain clear and fair rules. Denying the possibility of working legally does not solve the system's problems; it only shifts the cost onto families, employers, and the community."

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Construction

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"Many of my relatives wouldn't be able to work, how would they pay the bills here? This is not fair to me."

– ASAP Member in Florida

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"It is impossible to go a year without working in the United States because when you leave your country due to political persecution, you can bring very little in American currency, and the average monthly income to live on the bare minimum is around \$3,000, which would be \$36,000 a year, and very few people can come with that amount of money."

– ASAP Member working in Construction

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"While we await a response, it is important to work to provide for our families, as well as to contribute financially to this country by working hard, doing things right, and making a positive contribution to the United States."

– ASAP Member in New Jersey working in Health Care

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"For the past three years, I have worked continuously in a warehouse for a private company. During that time, I have fulfilled my job responsibilities, maintained a respectful relationship with

my coworkers, and experienced no problems in my work environment. I have always strived to respect the rules of my workplace and the laws of the country where I reside.

While my asylum application is being processed, my intention has been to live responsibly and stably. Like anyone else, I wish to live in peace, maintain a home, pay my rent, and work honestly while I wait for my case to be evaluated according to the law.

Thanks to the work permit I have been granted, I have been able to support myself legally. With the income I have earned, I have paid my taxes, covered my health insurance, and kept up with my utilities and basic expenses. I believe that fulfilling these responsibilities is the very least that someone who wants to live and work properly should do.

At no time has my intention been to inconvenience anyone or cause problems. On the contrary, the purpose of applying for a work permit is precisely to be able to work legally, respect the rules, and contribute to society through effort, responsibility, and fulfilling my obligations.

Throughout this time, we haven't had any conflicts with anyone. My only intention has been to maintain an honest, respectful, and stable life while I await the resolution of my immigration process."

– ASAP Member in Tennessee working in Sales and Retail

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"It would be extremely detrimental because while we wait for the process to be completed, all applicants need to work to cover our personal expenses: food, housing, our children's needs, etc.—things that every person anywhere in the world normally has as an ordinary citizen, as a person, as a human being. So, without a work permit, the right to work, which is a fundamental universal right, would be undermined. They say we shouldn't be a public charge, so how are we supposed to survive without working and not be a public charge?"

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Transportation

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"In places where work is formalized, a work permit is required and nobody wants to lose their job."

– ASAP Member in Ohio working in Construction

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"All I have is a work permit, which was valid for five years but was cancelled; they only gave me 18 months."

– ASAP Member working in Cleaning

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"I'm worried because I could lose my work permit and driver's license when I try to renew my work permit and it takes a long time to process. And if it's for 18 months, the work permit might arrive after the it has expired."

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Construction

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"This new USCIS rule is simply an attempt to intimidate and prevent immigrants from coming to the US, a country that renews itself and progresses thanks to the vast number of people who come here every day with new dreams and work opportunities. It is unjust for someone to be without their work permit, as it is an official document from this nation that allows them to work and achieve the economic independence they need to provide for their family. Let us be more resilient with our neighbors, as has been the case since the founding of this nation, giving everyone who comes to contribute to the economy of the United States of America the opportunity to do so. Peace and love are what humanity needs."

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Caregiving

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"I currently work as a Safety Manager for the construction industry (Electrical contractor). Having work authorization while I am waiting for my asylum interview/case to be reviewed gave me the opportunity to help my community, keeping employees safe at my workplace. Additionally it does have a great impact on helping my wife and kid, both US citizens. Without the ability to have a work permit I wouldn't be able to do both, help my community and my family which are of the greatest importance. Asylum seekers are making a positive impact in communities, workplaces, and our families. While waiting for an asylum interview we live a normal life and therefore it is possible that we make a mistake, like having a parking ticket, a speeding ticket, etc. If they were to deny work authorization for any reason, that would leave us without our only resource to provide for our families which depend on us."

– ASAP Member in Colorado working in Human Resources

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"This rule would affect me because I would no longer be able to work legally, and that would affect my family. I wouldn't be able to cover my household expenses like rent, food, and other basic needs."

– ASAP Member in Kansas working in Construction

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"The affected community would not be able to be productive, contribute economically to each family involved, nor to the country."

– ASAP Member working in Manufacturing

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"Everyone in my family has work permits through asylum and we have a court hearing in February 2027."

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Cleaning

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"I am an asylum seeker in the United States and currently work legally with a C8 employment authorization. The new USCIS measures would directly and significantly affect me.

Personally, these changes jeopardize my job stability and my ability to maintain a steady income. I work honestly and fulfill my responsibilities, paying taxes and contributing to the economy. If my work authorization is delayed, canceled, or not renewed on time, I would lose my primary source of income.

My family depends entirely on my work to cover basic needs such as housing, food, transportation, utilities, and education. Any interruption to my employment authorization would create economic and emotional instability for my children and my household.

At my workplace, my absence would disrupt operations, as I perform technical and manual tasks that require expertise. My employer would also be affected by losing a skilled and responsible worker.

At the community level, as an active worker, I contribute by paying taxes, patronizing local businesses, and participating in the economy. Restricting access to legal employment for asylum seekers can create greater economic and social vulnerability, not only for us but also for the communities where we live and work.

My intention has always been to abide by the law, work with dignity, and support my family while my asylum case is pending. These changes would create uncertainty and seriously affect our stability.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Food Preparation and Service

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“In countries where democracy is in its infancy, good people seek new horizons, as many have done in the past. Where we are persecuted for our ideas in our own country, we seek countries with long democratic traditions, like the USA. As good people, our primary goal is to earn a living through our own efforts, and denying this right is, in a way, denying the inalienable rights to health and freedom, among others. This country is the cradle of democracy, and here we can build a dignified life by working honestly and legally.”

– ASAP Member in Alaska working in Construction

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“A work permit not only gives you the opportunity to have a legal job, but also the opportunity to integrate into society, to contribute to this country through taxes, to be able to study, to have a business, and to walk around this country with a little less fear.”

– ASAP Member in Tennessee working in Biochemistry & Nursing

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“A work permit is essential to support my family. I’m the only one in my family without legal status, but many of them depend on me, especially my newborn baby. Working isn’t stealing, it isn’t a crime; it’s producing what’s necessary for me and my family.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Construction

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“I believe this rule is unfair to many immigrant workers for several reasons. First, it forces them to begin a costly and complex process too far in advance, even though their permit remains valid for a considerable period. This creates anxiety, uncertainty, and an additional financial burden for people already facing precarious immigration situations.

Furthermore, lengthy processing times cause many workers to fear losing their work authorization, which can affect their job security, income, and the well-being of their families. This uncertainty impacts not only the worker but also employers and the economy as a whole.

Many applicants comply with all laws, pay taxes, and actively contribute to their communities. However, the current system places them in a vulnerable position due to administrative delays beyond their control.

I respectfully request that this policy be reviewed to extend validity periods, expedite processing times, or ensure clearer and more accessible automatic extensions, so that workers are not harmed by administrative delays.

Thank you for your attention to this concern.”

– ASAP Member working in Cleaning

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“If we can’t work, how will we help this country and our families move forward?”

– ASAP Member in Tennessee

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“This affects us significantly because life in this country is not easy and requires working to earn a minimum income for food and housing. A work permit allows us to apply for decent jobs that contribute to the pension and health insurance system, payments which are automatically deducted and support the system. Informal work does not.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Cleaning

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“Without work permits, the impact on the community and the economy is significant because many families only have one permit and no other status while they wait for their interview to obtain work with a fair income. This person contributes to the community, and thousands would be affected, not only families but also companies losing staff due to the lack of valid work documentation. This would cause delays in all aspects.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Consulting Service

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“I am a single mother and I need my work permit, as I need my permission to work.”

– ASAP Member in Wisconsin working in Sales and Retail

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“It would be virtually impossible to work and support a family, and it would practically mean the end for immigrants.”

– ASAP Member

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“If they start denying work permits, it would directly affect me because I would lose the stability I have now. I would worry about not being able to work legally and not knowing how I would cover my monthly expenses like rent, food, and utilities. That uncertainty would generate a lot of stress and anxiety.

It would also have a strong impact on my family. If I’m one of the breadwinners, the situation would become difficult. There would be constant worry about the future, about how to keep the household stable, and how to plan for long-term goals. In addition to the financial aspect, it would be an emotional burden for everyone.

At my workplace, it would affect the team. If several people lose their permits, the company could be left without experienced employees. That would increase the workload for the others and could create an atmosphere of tension and uncertainty.

In my community, I think it would be felt because many families depend on those jobs. There would be less economic activity in local businesses and more concern in general. It wouldn’t just be an individual problem, but something that would impact many people at the same time.

Personally, what would affect me the most would be the insecurity of not knowing what will happen next.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Cleaning

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“We would lose everything and our children’s livelihood.”

– ASAP Member in Kentucky working in Customer Service

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“The proposed changes deeply concern me because they would severely impact the stability of asylum seekers and their families. Many asylum seekers have fled persecution and violence in their home countries and come to the United States seeking protection and the opportunity to rebuild their lives with dignity. Work permits are an essential tool for them to support themselves, pay for housing, food, transportation, and meet the basic needs of their children and dependents.

If initial work permits are eliminated or the waiting period is extended to 365 days, many families would face extreme financial hardship. This would increase vulnerability, poverty, and dependence on external assistance, as well as negatively impact the mental and emotional health of those who have already endured traumatic experiences.

I am also concerned that USCIS could deny work permits for any reason or that information from work permit applications could be used to harm asylum claims. This could create fear and insecurity among asylum seekers, who might feel less confident exercising their rights within the legal process.

Allowing asylum seekers to work while awaiting the resolution of their cases not only enables them to live with dignity but also benefits local communities and the economy. Many of these individuals actively contribute by working, paying taxes, and supporting their families.

For these reasons, I believe that limiting or eliminating access to work permits for asylum seekers would have very negative consequences for families, communities, and the system as a whole.”

– ASAP Member in Utah working in Translation

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“Work permits allow maintenance and emotional stability.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Sales and Retail

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“Most of us seeking asylum don’t want to be a burden on the state or create social problems. It’s very beneficial that, while we await a decision on our asylum applications, we can generate our own income to cover our basic needs, maintain financial independence, and comply with the mandatory tax filing requirements in this country. Not having a work permit is definitely detrimental to both the applicant and the host country.”

– ASAP Member in North Carolina working in a Warehouse

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“The inability to renew my work permit would affect me, especially since it’s only valid for 18 months and it’s so expensive.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Sales and Retail

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“This rule would affect us too much because if they deny us our permit renewal when it’s time, how will we work and support ourselves in this country? We also have children studying at university, which we also pay for.”

– ASAP Member in Florida

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“The changes to the renewal process will affect my job, as I would lose job security. It will also affect my ability to obtain my driver’s license and pay for my daughter’s university studies. The amount of taxes received by the government would also be affected, and companies would lack stability with their employees.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working as a Paralegal

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“This rule completely violates human rights. There’s no other legal argument; it’s a blatant and inhumane violation of human rights.”

– ASAP Member in New Jersey working in Beauty and Personal Care

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“Without being able to work, I would lose any income that allows me to support myself financially in the country. I left everything behind, escaping the persecution and harassment of a dictatorship, just to be able to live. After so much effort and work, always within the legal framework, denying the renewal of my work permit would mean losing everything.”

– ASAP Member in Illinois working in Transportation

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“The delay in work permits would not only affect the person involved and their family, but also the country’s economy, as it would generate less tax revenue for social programs.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Sales and Retail

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“These changes go against the most fundamental human rights, such as the right to work, the right to food for yourself and your children, the right to a safe home where minor children can live, the right to clothing, the right to education... without work permits you cannot get a job, and without a job you and your family are left without the most basic means to survive.”

– ASAP Member

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“These changes would not only affect me but thousands of people all over the country. Not being able to work will have families living on the streets with no food and will take away their dreams. This is really unfair for people that are hard working and contribute to this country every day.”

– ASAP Member in Rhode Island working in Landscaping

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“Without a legal work permit, it is almost impossible to obtain a decent job in the United States.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Aircraft Parts

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“This proposed rule would affect us because it would prevent us from obtaining legal authorization to work to meet our needs, and also to contribute to the development of the country in the various roles that we immigrants provide in the United States.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Sales and Retail

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“Public Comment on Proposed Changes to Employment Authorization for Asylum Applicants

I respectfully submit this comment as someone who lives and works within an immigrant community directly affected by the policies governing asylum and employment authorization. From that perspective, I want to explain the real and practical consequences that the proposed changes would create.

#### Impact of a 365-day waiting period

Requiring asylum applicants to wait 365 days before they can even apply for employment authorization would create severe hardship for many families who are already trying to comply with the legal process. Within immigrant communities, many asylum seekers arrive with limited financial resources and must rebuild their lives while waiting for their cases to move forward.

During that waiting period, people still need to pay rent, buy food, provide for their children, and meet basic living expenses. If the law prevents them from working legally for an entire year, the result is not stability—it is economic desperation. Families may face housing instability, food insecurity, and extreme financial stress while they are attempting to follow the legal asylum process.

#### Consequences for compliance with the law

The ability to work legally is one of the most important tools that allows asylum applicants to remain self-sufficient and comply with the law. When people are allowed to obtain lawful work authorization, they can support themselves, pay taxes, and contribute positively to their communities.

However, when legal work becomes unavailable for long periods of time, individuals are placed in an impossible position. Preventing lawful employment does not eliminate the need to survive; it only removes the legal path to do so. Policies that delay work authorization for extended periods risk pushing vulnerable individuals toward instability rather than promoting lawful employment.

### Uncertainty created by broad discretion to deny employment authorization

The proposal suggesting that employment authorization may be denied or not renewed without clearly defined standards raises serious concerns for stability within immigrant communities. Families depend on the continuity of lawful employment to maintain housing, support children, and remain financially independent.

If employment authorization can be denied unpredictably, individuals and employers will face significant uncertainty. This instability affects not only asylum applicants but also businesses and local economies that rely on authorized workers.

### Concerns about the use of information from employment authorization applications

The possibility that information provided in employment authorization applications could later be used to negatively affect asylum determinations may discourage applicants from engaging fully with the lawful employment system. When individuals fear that seeking legal work authorization could harm their asylum case, it undermines trust in the administrative process.

Policies should encourage transparency and lawful participation, not create fear around engaging with authorized employment systems.

### Broader community impact

Within immigrant communities, we regularly see how the ability to work legally helps people stabilize their lives. Employment allows parents to support their children, integrate into their communities, and contribute economically while they wait—often for years—for their asylum cases to be resolved.

Restricting or delaying lawful employment for such extended periods risks increasing hardship without improving the integrity of the asylum system.

### Conclusion

For these reasons, I respectfully urge USCIS to carefully reconsider the proposed measures that would delay or restrict employment authorization for asylum applicants. Policies that allow individuals to work legally while their cases are pending promote stability, economic self-sufficiency, and compliance with the law.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this comment and for considering the real-world impact these policies may have on immigrant families and communities.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Construction

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“How are we going to support our family if we don’t have a work permit? Waiting a year is too long.”

– ASAP Member in Pennsylvania working in Cleaning

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“In terms of employment, we’ll be left without jobs, unable to pay our bills. It would be chaos, especially for those of us who have been here for a long time, struggling and trying to get ahead.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Health Care

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“These changes would seriously affect many individuals, families, and communities. When people are allowed to work legally while awaiting an immigration decision, they can support themselves, pay for housing, buy food, and live with dignity without relying on public assistance.

Furthermore, working people pay taxes and contribute to the country’s economy. They support local businesses, pay rent, and actively participate in their communities. Limiting or delaying access to work permits not only harms the individuals affected but also the communities and employers who depend on responsible workers.

It is difficult to understand why people willing to work and pay taxes would be prevented from doing so legally. Allowing legal work benefits both families and the country’s economy.

For these reasons, I believe that restricting access to work permits while people await an immigration decision would be unjust and detrimental to many communities.”

– ASAP Member in Texas

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“I’m worried about not being able to work without my permit, and that this could be a major obstacle to continuing to live in the United States, as I don’t want to return to my country because of all the insecurity and things I experienced there.”

– ASAP Member in Kentucky working in a Factory

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“These changes would have a significant impact on my family, my workplace, and my community. As an asylum seeker who has built a stable life in the United States, the ability to maintain a valid work permit is essential for supporting my family and continuing to contribute productively to society.

I currently work in a professional role where I am responsible for coordinating operations, managing materials, and ensuring that production flows efficiently so customers receive their orders on time. If work authorization becomes harder to obtain or maintain, it would not only affect my ability to provide for my family, but it would also disrupt the operations of my workplace, where my role directly supports business continuity.

Like many asylum seekers, I want to work, follow the law, pay taxes, and contribute positively to my community. Policies that create uncertainty around work authorization make it difficult for families to plan for the future and for employers to rely on trained, committed employees.

For many of us, work authorization is not just a document — it is the foundation that allows us to live with dignity, stability, and the opportunity to contribute to the country that has given us refuge.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Administration and Finance

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“It would affect my community and my family because they would no longer be able to work and earn income legally, nor would they be able to pay taxes to the government and maintain legal status.”

– ASAP Member in New Jersey working in Health Care

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“Well, you wouldn’t be able to work, and that would affect our families both emotionally and financially. We wouldn’t be able to pay rent or buy food, and the children would be the most affected. There would be hunger and many more social problems than already exist in this country.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Transportation

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“Denying work permits is a form of discrimination against immigrants.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Technology

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“This rule would definitely affect me because I would lose access to work if I couldn’t renew this permit, and in doing so, I would lose the income I use to support my family and myself, as well as to help the non-profit organizations I currently support. I would definitely lose everything I’ve built over more than 10 years. As an asylum seeker, I should have the right to honest work and be able to support my family and community.”

– ASAP Member in Indiana working in Technology

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“It would force me to stop working and would be a serious problem for my whole family.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Construction

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“Working is a right; taking away the benefit of doing so legally affects immigrants and the system as well, because by working with a work permit we pay taxes and are useful to this country.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Technology

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“Impact of the Collapse in the Work Permit System

The delay in processing work permits is not just an administrative failure, but a catalyst for vulnerability that affects three key levels:

At the Individual and Family Level: Migrants, often fleeing a failed state of origin, suffer revictimization. Encountering bureaucratic barriers to a ‘new beginning,’ their fundamental rights to dignity and basic subsistence are violated.

In the Workplace: The lack of valid documents pushes the workforce into the informal sector. This fuels irregular work and eliminates workers’ bargaining power, creating fertile ground for labor exploitation, below-minimum wages, and unsafe working conditions.

In the Community: A collapsed system erodes the social fabric. Economic marginalization prevents effective integration, reduces tax revenue, and undermines public services for everyone.

The administrative inaction of the host state results in an institutional violation of labor and human rights, perpetuating cycles of poverty and exclusion.”

– ASAP Member in Georgia working in the Nonprofit Sector

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“All of the above would directly affect each family due to their status.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Construction

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“The right to work is fundamental. If they want to do this, then they should just eliminate asylum. It makes no sense to seek asylum only to end up destitute. What does the UN say about this? We contribute to the development of this country.”

– ASAP Member in Florida

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“This is terrible. It not only affects the applicant’s family but also increases informal employment. It affects the economy, as there would be fewer visible taxpayers contributing through taxes and entrepreneurship that fosters employment.”

– ASAP Member in South Carolina working in Technology

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“It harms immigrant families and also the government, because we are a working hand that contributes to the country’s economy.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Health Care

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“It could affect all the communities and even the economy because a lot of us that came as kids into the country have a career already and we just want to work and have a better life and future for our family.”

– ASAP Member in Massachusetts working in Health Care

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“I am a hardworking man whose greatest desire is the well-being and stability of my family. Since receiving my work permit, I have worked consistently in drywall installation, directly contributing to the construction of more than 120 homes. My work not only provides for my household, but also represents a real contribution to the growth and development of this country.

I fulfill my work and tax responsibilities; I pay my taxes and respect the laws. Every day, I strive to be an example of honesty and responsibility for my children.

I am also an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where I have learned principles such as hard work, service to others, and respect for the laws of the country in which we live. My faith teaches me to be a good citizen, a good neighbor, and a man of integrity.

If my work permit were taken away, the impact on my family would be devastating. We would lose our financial stability and the security we have built through great sacrifice. My only desire is to continue working with dignity, to provide for my wife and children, and to keep contributing positively to this nation that has given me the opportunity to demonstrate my commitment and dedication.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Construction

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“This proposed rule would affect me because it would take longer to be able to apply for a work permit.”

– ASAP Member in South Carolina working in Transportation

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“It will affect me in every way; I need the work permit to pay for my studies.”

– ASAP Member in New Jersey working in Health Care

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“Being without a work permit would affect our ability to support ourselves, to work, and to fulfill our commitments and obligations.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Accounting

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“This would have a huge impact, because how would families live, especially those with children? Working is not a crime.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Transportation

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“Work is how we earn our daily bread. Without the permit, we won’t be able to survive.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Cleaning

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“If I don’t get my renewal on time because of this rule, I’ll lose my income and of course I won’t have enough to cover my living expenses and taxes!”

– ASAP Member in Indiana working in Cleaning

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“Removing or delaying work permits for people seeking asylum would greatly affect many families, including mine. Many asylum seekers want to work legally, support their families, and contribute to the economy. Without a work permit, it would be very difficult to pay for rent, food, and basic needs. It would also affect communities and employers who rely on hardworking and responsible people. Allowing asylum seekers to work legally helps families become self-sufficient and contribute positively to society.”

– ASAP Member in Texas

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“It would be very difficult to live without working, and places that provide food and housing would become overwhelmed.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Food Preparation and Service

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“This rule would greatly harm me, since due to my government’s reprisals against me and my son, I cannot return to my country, so if we were to lose our work permits, we would have nothing to live on.”

– ASAP Member in Utah working in Food Preparation and Service

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“We too want to contribute to the growth of this country with our economic contributions: paying taxes, paying our home, health, and vehicle insurance, renewing work permits, and most importantly with our labor to carry out numerous projects in different areas: economic, agricultural, construction, and hotel. But without work permits, it would be impossible to contribute and we’d become a burden.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Construction

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“I believe that whatever the reason people came to the United States, denying them work permits or canceling them would only lead to more illegality and a lack of control over who is in the country. It would also increase illegal work because, clearly, with or without a permit, people need to work to support their families. It’s illogical to think that someone would be here and not work, as that would only create an additional burden on the state. It’s important to clarify that the majority of immigrants want to work.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Caregiving

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“I am the sole provider for my children. Without the option of a job, their education, food, and other needs would be at risk!”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Construction

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“This would all pose a real problem for preserving jobs, bank accounts, and licenses, and would represent an extraordinary expense for families.”

– ASAP Member in Virginia working in Food Preparation and Service

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“I work in the education sector, and this is very important to my family and the community where we live. If this happens, it would greatly affect our finances and my contributions to the community.”

– ASAP Member in Indiana working in Education

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“It would have a huge impact on our family. We’ve been in this country for 10 years. We’ve done everything legally possible, working to build a future for our children, and we depend on the work permit to keep our jobs. My husband works for a supermarket in logistics and shipping.”

– ASAP Member in North Carolina working in Transportation

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“It would affect us because my family and I rely on our work to support ourselves in this country, which we came to fleeing a dictatorship.”

– ASAP Member in Florida

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“The opportunity to work legally and thus contribute to paying taxes on time will be nearly impossible due to the new laws they want to pass.

We must consider how each foreigner, in addition to working, also contributes to this country...”

– ASAP Member in Florida

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“I’m training to be a dialysis nurse. I’m currently a dialysis technician at a hospital. This would affect my professional future and my safety as [an asylum seeker] here in the US. My husband wouldn’t want to be separated from me. I’ve already completed my training as a technician; I just need to finish my studies to get my nursing license. Whether I’m a dialysis technician or a nurse, it would affect my ability to care for and dialyze my kidney patients.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Health Care

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“This rule would make us lose the possibility of even having a valid identification such as a driver’s license.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Food Preparation and Service

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“This rule would leave us without a source of jobs, without a home, and unable to contribute to the country because we pay taxes with our jobs.”

– ASAP Member working in Technology

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“Work permits guarantee economic sustainability and legal employment. Not issuing work permits to asylum seekers would create economic hardship for each person who arrived in this country facing financial and social problems and, above all, dangers that threaten their lives.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Food Preparation and Service

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“It’s not a good idea for America.”

– ASAP Member in New Jersey working in Education

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“When it comes time to renew, it’s very worrying that it might not be approved for any reason, especially after such a long wait. This could mean losing our jobs and facing significant financial difficulties in meeting our families’ needs. We must remember that we contribute positively to the economy of this great country, which we’ve called home for years.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in a Warehouse

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"Not having a work permit makes it impossible for my family to support themselves. At my job, it would cause a problem for my manager, who would have to fill my position, which is complicated because what I do requires extensive training."

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Hospitality

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"I think it would greatly affect the lives of those of us who cannot return to our countries. If we can work while our cases are being resolved, we would be less of a burden on the state and more useful to our communities, our families, and therefore to this country, because in this way we can support ourselves and contribute to economic growth."

– ASAP Member in Utah working in Food Preparation and Service

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"This rule would greatly affect my family, as my husband and I are the sole breadwinners. I work at a daycare, so it would impact the community in that area."

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Education

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"If I have problems renewing my work permit, I'll have problems at both jobs, and my employer will too, because I'm a manager at both jobs. We almost never have enough staff to fill positions, and it would be a problem for both of us. While I'm trying to resolve my status, I need my permit. I'm a single mother, head of household, I pay a monthly mortgage, and I also have a brother with Down syndrome who depends on me. I pay for my only daughter's school meals and medical care (she doesn't have health insurance even though she's an American citizen because I don't want my family to become a public charge). I need to work. I'm trying to do things right because I love this country!"

– ASAP Member in Tennessee working in Food Preparation and Service

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"This rule will harm America because we are hardworking, responsible, and kind-hearted people, and our greatest desire is to raise our children; we are like little ants, contributing our best effort."

– ASAP Member in Pennsylvania

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“If I don’t have a work permit, I wouldn’t be able to support my family, who depend entirely on me. In my case, my wife is undergoing cancer treatment, and I have a 3-year-old daughter.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Transportation

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“Without a work permit we have no opportunity to get ahead and at the same time meet our tax obligations.”

– ASAP Member in Georgia working in Cleaning

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“My husband is about to apply for his work permit, as he was recently listed as a dependent on my asylum application, and we are worried that it may be denied based on this proposed new rule.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working as a Paralegal

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“I had a TPS work permit and lost that benefit. I’m in the asylum process and waiting for the estimated time to apply for my new permit, and now, if they pass this rule, it’s not safe. I’ve waited a long time to get a work permit through the asylum process.”

– ASAP Member in Alabama working in Construction

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“These changes would profoundly affect me, my family, and my entire community. This isn’t just about politics or laws; it’s about real lives. In my case, they could jeopardize my stability, my job, and the future I’m trying to build with hard work and sacrifice.

In my family, they would generate fear, anxiety, and constant uncertainty. Living without knowing what tomorrow might bring affects everyone’s mental health, emotional stability, and well-being, especially the children’s.

In my workplace, these changes could lead to the loss of valuable employees, reduced productivity, and economic instability. Many hard-working people contribute to this country every day, paying taxes and supporting essential sectors.

In my community, the impact would be even greater: family separation, increased poverty, and a weakening of the social fabric. These changes wouldn't just affect individuals; they would create a ripple effect that would damage the local economy and community cohesion.

In short, these wouldn't be simple administrative adjustments; they would be decisions with real and lasting human consequences."

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Health Care

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"I am worried because it says that all asylum work permit applications will be denied, and now we feel unprotected and very afraid."

– ASAP Member in Kentucky working in Cleaning

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"I seek safety and protection in this country, otherwise my life is at risk. Here I fulfill my commitments and duties like any good citizen. I came in search of the alternatives offered, it is not fair that they change the rules on me."

– ASAP Member in Nebraska working as a Factory Operator

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"I would lose my job, which is the source of income for my household. I wouldn't be able to buy food or any other products, which affects all businesses because neither I nor many others would have the means to buy anything. Above all, I would become a burden on the state if I don't have the necessary documentation to work. I am a taxpayer with my taxes up to date, but I wouldn't be able to declare anything if I can't work. My children would miss school, and that means an educational deficit."

– ASAP Member in California working in Food Preparation and Service

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“This rule would result in total uncertainty in the work permit process. I don’t know how to address this uncertainty.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Construction

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“It’s unfair; these are human beings who need to work and live with dignity, not be punished.”

– ASAP Member working in Transportation

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“If you can’t work, you won’t be able to earn money to support yourself, that means not paying for housing, food, clothes, entertainment, and more.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Human Resources

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“I am a single mother and the sole provider for my family. How will I support my son if my work permit expires and I can’t renew it under this new rule? I renew it on time, but it takes longer than the processing time to be approved.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Human Resources

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“Having a work permit is essential to supporting our families; not being able to obtain one would be a major problem.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Agriculture

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“This would affect me and my family financially because I’m a single mother and my children depend solely on me. I would lose my job because my documents aren’t in order, and I would stop receiving a salary that covers my expenses. I might no longer be able to afford an apartment on my own so my children have their own space, and I would have to rent with other people so they don’t become homeless.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Beauty and Personal Care

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“The need for formal, legal, and organized work is a way to subsist and meet the most basic human needs. Work dignifies human beings, and the United States is a just country where people should not be begging for work.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Caregiving

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“It would affect me because we need our permits to be able to work and show that we are not a public charge and that we want to help each other and support the development of the country.”

– ASAP Member in Texas

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“In my family, three of us work. We all need to pay bills, we all pay our taxes, and we all work because we absolutely have to. Without a stable job, it’s impossible to have a normal life. We all need money to live. How are we supposed to live without work? This measure is clearly intended to suffocate immigrants and make it impossible for them to survive.”

– ASAP Member working as an HVAC Technician

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“These changes would severely affect my family and my immigrant community because they could leave us without work authorization while we wait for a process that could take many years. This could jeopardize the economic survival of many families and force them to work in the informal sector. It would generate more anxiety and suffering for the entire immigrant community and would place an additional burden on the federal government.”

– ASAP Member in Tennessee working in Sales and Retail

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“The United States would generally be the most affected by denying work permits to asylum seekers who are trying to legally integrate into the country’s workforce. The US benefits from the taxes paid by thousands of immigrants; currently, even people with ITINs have been filing taxes, but this could change due to the government’s negative policies.

The dynamic is simple: if the government issues work permits,  
-the country receives money from the fees charged for obtaining and renewing them  
-it receives money from more taxpayers  
And this would help improve the economy and pull it out of the hole it is plummeting into.”

– ASAP Member working in Construction

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“The dignified, safe, and honest way forward after making an asylum application is to obtain a work permit to support the family while awaiting the process. If this support disappears, the situation would be dire and would further complicate the lives of those seeking asylum, which is not an alternative but a plea for life.”

– ASAP Member

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“This rule makes me fear losing my job.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Distribution and Fulfillment

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“These changes would have a serious and deeply personal impact on my life and the lives of many families like mine. As an immigrant who works hard, contributes to the community, and follows the law, policies like these create uncertainty, fear, and instability for people who are simply trying to build a better future. My family and I, like many others, work, pay taxes, and support our local economy. Changes that make it harder for immigrants to live and work safely do not only affect individuals — they affect entire communities, workplaces, and families. Decisions like these should consider the human impact on people who are already contributing positively and striving to achieve stability, opportunity, and dignity in their lives.”

– ASAP Member in New York working in Health Care

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“Not having an income from work condemns a person to live in a critical economic situation. An asylum seeker is someone who flees their country and carries limited or no savings. An asylum seeker can integrate into an economy with a work permit and become a productive member of society, contributing to consumption and taxes, which in turn benefits the host country, preventing them from becoming a burden.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Cleaning

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“This rule directly harms my family.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Health Care

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“I would not be able to work if my work permit is not renewed while I await my asylum decision.”

– ASAP Member in North Carolina working in Cleaning

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“Not being able to work while we wait for a response to our asylum application would affect us, as it would be very difficult to support ourselves financially. Without an income, we wouldn’t be able to pay for housing, food, or medicine. It would also affect many companies that hire people with work permits, since these permits authorize us to work in the United States. I also think the country could be economically impacted because suspending the permits of millions of people who are currently working and paying taxes, which greatly contribute to the national economy, would negatively affect us.”

– ASAP Member in Washington working in Machinery Production

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“We would lose our jobs and the ability to support our families, to build a life, and to contribute economically to this country and to the community.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Education

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"I believe many of us are trying to follow a legal path to work here and abide by the rules, even before they removed the C11 category permits. I worked and paid my taxes, all within the bounds of the law."

– ASAP Member in California

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"No one can survive in this country, or any other, without being able to work for more than a year. That's impossible. We fled our home countries not because we wanted to, but because we were forced to. We're treated like criminals when the only crime we've committed is wanting a better life. And while we have pending asylum, we keep paying for renewals every year, driver's licenses, \$100 fees per person for having pending asylum, etc. We pay the government, and it's still not enough. We pay taxes, and it's still not enough."

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Printing

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"The community is affected because an asylum seeker likely needs to work to support themselves, and that person probably has skills to develop and offers services to the community, and thus is not a burden on the State."

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Caregiving

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"Asylum seekers need protection and support in any vulnerable situation they may be experiencing. Therefore, they should be provided with opportunities to reintegrate into the workforce while awaiting the outcome of their immigration process, both for themselves and their families."

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Cleaning

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"My biggest concern is that they will stop issuing work permits, which, of course, will affect my ability to keep my job."

– ASAP Member in Florida

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“The work permit has allowed my family to settle down and grow, and allows us to give back to the country through tax payments. Without it, we wouldn’t be able to work or have a stable income, and relying on humanitarian aid has never been an option if we can work.”

– ASAP Member in New Hampshire working in Window Assembly

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“Being able to work legally allows me to support my family without needing to ask for any assistance and to pay my taxes. It covers all household expenses and provides my family with a better quality of life.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Sales and Retail

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“Work authorization is a way for us to generate money in the country, working legally and making our payments in all aspects, because we work honestly.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Food Preparation and Service

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“I am Venezuelan and have been in this country for over four years. I am grateful, but it is unfair that people with pending asylum applications or TPS cases in court are being treated like criminals, and perhaps even worse, like terrorists. Now, if we comply with each and every rule, we don’t represent a danger to the nation, we are not a detriment, so why are we being treated this way? We certainly need to work honestly and legally; in fact, many of us work for large companies, contribute to this great country, file our income tax returns, and comply with **all the** regulations. Venezuelans are being treated harshly in our country of origin and in this country, which I am very grateful to have accepted us in due course. Furthermore, I am convinced that we migrants contribute a great deal to this great country.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Food Preparation and Service

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“This rule would affect me because I need a work permit to be able to work and pay my taxes; if possible, it should be for 5 years and not for 18 months.”

– ASAP Member in Pennsylvania

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“It would become chaotic, due to the high cost of living in the United States and because every asylum seeker needs to work while their process is underway in order to cover basic expenses such as food, rent, utilities, and other necessities.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in a Warehouse

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“I would lose my job and my income. It would affect my family and my job, as I would have to leave it. I wouldn’t be able to support my daughters who are in college. I volunteer as a teacher at my church and I wouldn’t be able to continue doing it. It would affect my taxes.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Human Resources

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“I am the sole provider for my two children and my household. I also work in a hospital; part of my job is as a first responder, covering elective and emergency surgeries for neurosurgeons and trauma specialists. I have several years of experience in this field and am trained in robotic and cardiothoracic surgery. If I wasn’t able to work, we would be short-staffed.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Health Care

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“This rule probably will affect me in the future when I have to renew.”

– ASAP Member in New Jersey

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“This rule would result in fewer job opportunities and more difficulties paying taxes due to unemployment.”

– ASAP Member in Virginia working in Construction

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“We are a family that works legally and files our taxes every year. We have never requested any type of government assistance. My husband is even starting a business as a semi-truck driver,

and I work as a program coordinator for an organization that impacts the senior community and is federally sponsored by AmeriCorps. Keeping our jobs is vital for us and our daughter, who has a kidney condition. Returning to Colombia is not an option, given that I was persecuted for supporting vulnerable communities in my role as a psychologist.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in the Non-Profit Sector

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“I could lose my job and face other difficulties, which wouldn’t be in the best interest of many people.”

– ASAP Member in New Jersey working in Food Preparation and Service

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“This is a country that largely runs on the labor of immigrants of all nationalities. Currently, there are problems in various areas of production. If this affects the country, imagine how it affects families. A person who doesn’t work becomes a burden on both their family and the country.”

– ASAP Member

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“What really worries me is my son’s work permit, since he is under 15 years old. I didn’t renew his work permit because he is under 15 and because he is not actually working, apart from the cost of it.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Cleaning

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“We immigrants come here eager to work for a better future, inspired by being part of a new world full of opportunities, and ready to give our all to help this country. Not having a work permit prevents us from participating fully in this society, from helping the country grow, and denies us the opportunity to contribute to its progress.”

– ASAP Member in Utah

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“Employers and companies will hire people without work permits and pay them below the legal minimum wage, exploiting migrants who come from their countries fleeing injustice.”

– ASAP Member

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“We are working families who pay taxes and comply with all the rules, making a better country; this measure would leave us without the right to work honestly for our sustenance and progress.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Construction

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“Not having a work permit would leave me and my family without legitimate options for finding work. It would also prevent me from renewing my driver’s license and accessing banking services.

It would be inhumane, and asylum would cease to be a humanitarian resource. It would almost condemn my family and me to illegality and deportation, even though we have done everything legally.”

– ASAP Member working in Caregiving

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“My family and I are worried about the employment authorization situation, especially regarding renewals. We are hardworking people, we do things right, we have no criminal record, and we are afraid to return to our country of origin. All these changes are unfair and racist. We trust that this will not go ahead, as it will set back the country.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Food Preparation and Service

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“It’s quite difficult because I’m alone, and without a work permit, it’s very hard to support myself when there are bills to pay. We also have to consider that without being able to get a work permit, we wouldn’t be able to renew our driver’s licenses, and therefore, we wouldn’t be able to travel. It’s a domino effect that would only cause chaos and significantly impact the economy, since many of us, due to changed circumstances and the loss of TPS status, are applying for asylum (most likely with fear), and now facing a 365-day wait is incredibly unfair...”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Transportation

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"I am a person who depends on my job and I really need you not to deny me a work permit while my asylum application is being processed. I need you to maintain, like other immigrants, the possibility of obtaining a work permit and continuing to work."

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Tourism

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"This rule will affect my family, my workplace, and my community."

– ASAP Member in Massachusetts working in Manufacturing

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"This rule would affect me financially, making it difficult for me to pay my bills and cover my expenses as I always have. It would also affect my family, whom I support financially since my parents are elderly and do not work. It would also affect my job, as I have been working at the same place for four years and have established a stable working relationship."

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Food Preparation and Service

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"Everything in this rule will affect me, because if permits are delayed, I could lose my job, and consequently my house and cars. These are truly difficult times we're living in, with so much uncertainty. The last time I renewed my permit, I almost didn't receive it in time. Everything is affected by the permit delays, and now that we don't have any extensions, plus they've reduced the permit duration from 5 years to 1 year and a few months, as soon as the permit expires we'll be left without work and without any means of support for our families. I hope they think about us and all the damage this could cause us, even more than what's already happening."

– ASAP Member in California working at a Costco Wholesale

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"In the workplace, many employers, when employees lack physical permits, disregard the approval receipt, thus affecting employment and, consequently, the family's security in every way."

– ASAP Member working in Sales and Retail

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“Without a work permit, we wouldn’t be able to support our home and family, and it would be very hard for all of us.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Transportation

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“It would be impossible to work legally in the country and comply with traffic laws to drive with a driver’s license.”

– ASAP Member in Georgia working as a Receptionist

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“This rule would affect me because it wouldn’t allow me to work with dignity and fairness. It wouldn’t allow me access to my basic life rights, like paying rent and having food to eat. It would negatively impact my basic survival needs in this society. I would feel vulnerable and discriminated against by society because of the lack of this document.”

– ASAP Member in California who is a Student

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“This rule will cause slower processing times that could affect our work.”

– ASAP Member in Maryland working in Cleaning

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“This rule will cause employee losses by companies, problems making payments by affected families, problems paying taxes, and inability to support oneself.”

– ASAP Member in Georgia

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“One comes to this country basically to continue being a good citizen and get ahead; the asylum mechanism is a protection against the defenselessness one suffers in their country of origin, and the work permit is the fundamental tool for good people like me and thousands of other dreamers to comply with the laws required by this prosperous country.”

– ASAP Member in Georgia working in Manufacturing

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“This rule would force asylum seekers to seek work illegally in order to survive.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Construction

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“It would be disastrous; how would we generate enough money to meet our payment obligations? Right now, with this whole immigration situation, I’m going through a very difficult time. I’m a certified teacher until 2030, and I’ve been waiting for my work permit since August. I’m still waiting, accumulating bills, and struggling to provide for my children. But people come to this country to contribute, not to be a burden on the government, and it’s not fair that this is happening to me.”

– ASAP Member in Kentucky working in Education

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“As an asylum seeker, I would not be able to renew my work permit, and without it, I would not be able to work legally during my stay in the United States.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Administration and Finance

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“My professional skills benefit not only my family but also the development of this country. My taxes contribute to the state, and my children are not a burden on the government nor do they consume benefits thanks to my ability to work legally. Without a work permit, this would not be possible.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Technology

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“Seeking asylum is the only option in a free and prosperous country outside our own for reasons of security and justice. This traumatic process of starting a new professional and social life is only possible with the opportunity to work and serve the country that is offering this life option.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Construction

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“This rule impacts renewals and that directly affects us because it prevents us from supporting ourselves. It prevents us from working legally and paying our taxes, and it also prevents us from contributing to the economic system of this beautiful nation.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Administration and Finance

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“I don’t understand why work permits last such a short time, only one or two years. It means job losses, a loss of income for your family, immense instability, and in many cases, the loss of very good workers. It makes life harder for working people. Applying for work permits is incredibly stressful with such high demand, and you lose your job because renewals don’t arrive on time. This also means having to renew your driver’s license. I’d rather pay for a five-year work permit so the government gets its money, and those of us who actually work can stop living in constant stress.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working as a Digital Shopper

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“How can someone who is a genuine political refugee, whose life or personal safety is at risk, survive in this country? Both the increased work permit fee and the reduced expiration date represent an overwhelming burden for someone whose life’s work has been stolen, and like me, at 70 years old, must work 12 to 14 hours a day, 7 days a week, just to pay the bills and survive in this country. I believe we have no right to demand anything; we can only appeal to the compassion and humanity of our leaders. The world is unpredictable; no one’s future is guaranteed, and Americans don’t know when they might find themselves in our situation, despite their efforts for freedom—a reality I would never wish upon them, even if my asylum request were denied.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Food Delivery

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“This rule would negatively affect me because without the option to renew my work permit, I wouldn’t be able to work anymore and I wouldn’t have any way to pay for anything. And if I have to wait a year to apply for a work permit, how will I live during that time?”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Food Preparation and Service

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“It’s a long time to survive in this country without a work permit.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working at a Casino

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“This is definitely an extremely arbitrary measure that directly affects us migrants who came to this country solely with the main objective of contributing to this society with our work and our own efforts, not constituting a public burden on the country. We are honest people who one day decided to leave our countries fleeing totalitarian, oppressive, communist regimes that completely nullify citizens’ rights, and we only ask for an opportunity to work and get ahead through our own efforts.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Health Care

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“This rule will have a negative impact because fewer immigrants will have the opportunity to work honestly and honorably in the country. Those of us who fled our countries for political reasons and made our lives here, respecting the laws, rules, and procedures, deserve to have our documents. The country needs labor, and the Hispanic community has a significant positive impact on the nation.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Refrigeration/Supply Chain

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“We are hardworking people.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Caregiving

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“The changes would be very detrimental to everyone. Without a work permit, you can’t get a driver’s license, you can’t access any health services, or renew any insurance policies. In general, it would be an unprecedented catastrophe for all of us who want to remain in this country legally and with peace of mind for everyone in our families.”

– ASAP Member in Tennessee working in Human Resources

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“The rule is unfair and discriminatory. If we come to the United States fleeing our countries for various valid reasons, which will be evaluated when we defend our cases in the asylum interview, it’s reasonable to work because how else will we support ourselves in the meantime? We have always been a workforce that benefits the US economy, and this is simply an attempt to stifle us.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Food Preparation and Service

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“It’s possible that the day we want to renew, it won’t be possible anymore.”

– ASAP Member in Georgia working in Cleaning

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“For us immigrants, it is mandatory to have a work permit in order to be able to work.”

– ASAP Member in Maine working in Cleaning

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“Not having EADs would prevent us from continuing to work.”

– ASAP Member in Oklahoma working in Education

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“This directly affects me because I have a daughter studying and working, and we’ve made a great effort to do so. We’ve respected the laws, paid taxes, and stayed within the law as much as possible. We are a family asking to be considered from a human perspective, with laws that support us, not laws and positions that limit us and put more obstacles in our way.”

– ASAP Member in New Jersey working in Caregiving

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“If these new rules are approved, it will affect job renewals and the stability we could lose.”

– ASAP Member in Texas

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“Those of us awaiting a response to our asylum applications could face difficulties in accessing basic rights such as decent work if permit renewals are blocked. This leads to hunger, exposure to labor exploitation, and struggles to survive.”

– ASAP Member in Georgia working in Human Resources

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“In many ways, many people would lose their jobs, there would be more informality, and many families would experience great hardship.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Administration and Finance

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“This rule would affect me professionally; I wouldn’t be able to work, and business owners wouldn’t be able to hire staff due to the lack of legal authorization to work.”

– ASAP Member

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“My family would lose our livelihood since we work full time, pay taxes, pay a mortgage, and live on our wages. Without a work permit, we would lose our jobs and with them the ability to continue contributing to the economy.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Education

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“Without a work permit we could not work legally and to cover the needs of the family we would be forced to work without a permit, that is, the proposed rule will leave us at a crossroads where any decision leads us to violate the law.”

– ASAP Member in Georgia working in Cleaning

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“Limited access to work permits affects asylum seekers physically and emotionally because the main reason for seeking asylum is the fear of losing their individual freedom in their country of origin, as well as the total loss of the family’s economic stability—that is, family separation. Consequently, their lives are put at risk by depriving them of the universal right to work honestly and contribute to the country’s economic development. The USA is multicultural, and its first-rate society is a product of this migrant workforce.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Transportation

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“The proposed rule would be a devastating change to the system.

Economically, for example, many of the taxes that enter the country come from these people who have work permits and work hard every day and pay their taxes as required by law.

Socially, human rights exist, and if a person enters the USA fleeing their country of origin and seeking a better life, they have the right to have a decent job and to be able to support themselves.

This rule violates human dignity and the right to work. A person without a work permit is more vulnerable to labor exploitation, meaning they will have to work more and will not receive a fair and decent wage.

This rule violates the rights of children, as they will be indirectly affected if their parents do not have work permits and decent working conditions. Immigrant children would be left without social security to access a decent healthcare system where the life of the child must be protected.”

– ASAP Member in North Carolina working in the Legal Industry

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"A work permit is essential because it allows people to support themselves honestly, and fulfill all their legal obligations, such as paying rent, food, health insurance, car payments, and taxes, which contributes to the progress of the state where they live.

This prevents asylum seekers from becoming a burden on any state, since having a work permit allows them to support themselves while their case is being decided."

– ASAP Member in Florida working in a Warehouse

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"I'm worried that they'll then decide to affect those of us who already have work permits and that renewals will become increasingly limited."

– ASAP Member in Florida

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"Not being granted a work permit puts my financial security at risk."

– ASAP Member in Texas

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"Without a work permit, I wouldn't have the tools to look for a formal job and it triggers thousands of problems."

– ASAP Member in New York working in Food Preparation and Service

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"The proposed rule would affect the search for employment, and lead to family deterioration. The right to work is necessary to have a dignified life."

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Health

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"This proposed rule would be a huge problem. How could you be self-sufficient without a work permit? Without a work permit, finding a job will be much harder. Also, when someone seeks asylum, they're looking for a legal path to comply with the legal process, and if you put obstacles

in their way, what will they do? I think most asylum seekers want to obey the law. I personally come from a culture of respect for the law.”

– ASAP Member in Utah working as a Tire Technician

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“Being without a work permit is catastrophic for any family. It would practically force them to live in poverty or leave the country and start over elsewhere.”

– ASAP Member in Massachusetts working in the Non-Profit Sector

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“Not all cases are like mine, but I think of all the asylum seekers. Personally, I don’t believe a work permit should be denied, since those of us who want one do so because we want to work and contribute by paying taxes or following any other rules that allow us to live peacefully in this country. We know there are many cases to be processed, but we want to be here contributing even if we don’t have a positive response yet. That’s why it’s important to keep our work permits so we don’t become a financial burden on anyone.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Sales and Retail

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“Is the following something sad and painful? I’m 62 years old and I’ve been in this country for 4 years, working and paying all my expenses and taxes, and I long to have a nice car and a little house so I can finally live like a real human being. Despite my age and taxes, I left Cuba fleeing that regime, and to arrive in this country where all the opportunities are just around the corner, and not be able to take that step, is something sad. 🙄🙄🙄🙏🙏🍀🍀🙏🙏

Good luck and blessings to all those immigrants who can’t achieve the true American dream.”

– ASAP Member in Nebraska working in Care of People

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“I think that instead of fixing the situation, the proposed rule contributes more to illegal work and the exploitation of immigrants by unscrupulous people. We must remember that we all came here in search of change and a future, not to remain hidden and outside the law because of the whims of a few.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Administration and Finance

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“Without the renewal of my work permit, I would automatically lose my job, and as the main breadwinner for my household, I would automatically be unable to cover expenses.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Technology

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“It would affect me most of all since my job is my livelihood; it’s how I eat, clothe myself, and pay my rent. I’m single and alone in this country, and I desperately need a work permit because without it, I couldn’t work. At my job, they really need me because I work in the bakery and start at 4:00 a.m. Everyone there is Latino.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Food Preparation and Service

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“Losing your work permit means losing your job, losing your income to support yourself, and it’s discriminatory for everyone.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in a Warehouse

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“People who file for asylum must work so they can support themselves and their families. When people get their EAD, they are allowed to work legally and file taxes, which is beneficial for the US economy. An EAD makes it easier for them to have an I.D. and get healthcare. Denying EADs or making it harder to get them won’t deter immigration and instead, would place additional burdens on the US economy.”

– ASAP Member in Delaware working in the Legal Industry

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“This proposed rule would affect workplaces; people could be suspended for lacking legal status due to not having identification documents.

In some cases, this is due to racism related to lack of documents. In any event, many people could lose their jobs.”

– ASAP Member

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“The proposed rule would have a significant impact in the case of renewals that are taking too long.”

– ASAP Member in Virginia working in Technology

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“I’m worried because I’m about to apply for my asylum work permit. These new rules are making things difficult and creating obstacles. It affects us in every way.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Sales and Retail

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“The proposed rule would affect us very negatively. Our family of five would be severely impacted. My husband and I are the heads of our household, and our three children would lose access to basic services like housing, food, education, and healthcare. Many other family members would also be greatly affected. We are honest, hardworking people who came here to contribute to making the United States a great country. Please don’t take that opportunity away from us!”

– ASAP Member in Georgia working in Technology

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“Without a valid work permit, I wouldn’t be able to cover the basic expenses for my family and me to survive (rent, car, gas, food, etc.). That’s not even considering the considerable income I’d have to pay in taxes to Social Security (whose benefits I’m not sure I’ll ever receive), Medicaid, and the IRS.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in the Non-Profit Sector

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“These changes would severely impact asylum seekers and their families. Many people rely on work permits to support themselves, and pay for housing, food, and basic necessities. If asylum seekers cannot work legally for extended periods, it would cause financial hardship, stress, and problems for their families and communities. Allowing people to work legally also helps the economy and businesses that need workers.”

– ASAP Member in North Carolina working in a Warehouse

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“Renewals are already time-consuming. You have to start the renewal process after six months, hoping the new permit will arrive in the remaining time. It’s very expensive, and if we lose our work permit, we can’t afford to renew it and pay for driver’s license renewals at the same time.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Agriculture

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“The proposed rule diminishes the quality of life of my family group, which includes minors and those who are learning about life; it affects our economy, my work, and our relationship with society.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Sales and Retail

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“We asylum seekers face real risks in our countries of origin. Our desire is to live peacefully. We want and need to work to support ourselves and honestly earn our right to stay in this country. I believe this measure, like some others, is a way for the government to corner immigrants so they have no other option but to deport themselves.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in a Warehouse

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“The proposed rule could limit my ability to work, affecting my finances and my family’s economic stability, and therefore cause uncertainty and anxiety. It would affect my ability to contribute to my community’s economy.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Manufacturing

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"It is very worrying that we won't be able to get work permits when we want to do things within the law. The proposed rule is also contradictory."

– ASAP Member working in Cleaning

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"If we already live in an economy that is having an international impact, how do you think we should survive having political asylum in the country, without the right to earn an honest living for one's family, without being an economic burden on anyone?"

– ASAP Member in California working in Cleaning

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"This would have a major impact not only on asylum seekers but also on their employers. No one can be in this country or any other without providing for their family. This instability creates instability in homes, worried parents, and children who feel unsafe because of everything we are experiencing."

– ASAP Member working in Health

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"I've been waiting for my asylum interview since 2018, and it's been frustrating not being able to continue the process. Work permits have been a huge relief, allowing me to have a better life in every way, since I can get a job and put food on the table. Renewing them has become increasingly difficult because the waiting times have been far too long. Before, we had an automatic 180-day extension after the permit expired, and then an additional 540 days after. Now that they've eliminated that, we're in a situation where if the permit doesn't arrive on time, we'll lose not only our jobs but also everything we've achieved thanks to them—loss of homes, cars, or the lives we lead. It would be a very drastic change.

I understand the government's concern about wanting to analyze fingerprints to see what kind of citizens we are. They could take fingerprints, but at least they should reinstate the permit extensions when they expire so we don't lose our daily sustenance. They also shortened the permit period to 18 months, in addition to the extra annual charge for a pending asylum application. There are many things against us. God willing, the judges will have a change of heart and offer at least some relief to everyone. We know it's difficult, but we hope they can help in some way. Every day, the news reports something against all of us who are seeking a better life,

and it's rarely good news. Let's hope they see that we are willing to help and be good citizens, and that they will help us in any way they can."

– ASAP Member in California working at a Costco Wholesale

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"How do we survive without work? We immigrants who work in this country contribute through our taxes and we don't hide."

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Construction

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"We need work permits and we're not here to steal anything, we just want the authorization to work for our families."

– ASAP Member in Ohio

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"Those of us with pending asylum work permits are terrified that we won't be able to renew them and won't be able to work. This fear is a daily struggle: what will happen? We won't be able to work, we won't have any income, how will we pay our debts? We want to get ahead in this beautiful country, we want to do things right, and we want to pay our taxes as the law states. Please don't enforce this law."

– ASAP Member in Maryland working in Construction

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"I oppose any proposal that limits or delays work permits. Many people actively contribute to the economy and essential sectors. Reducing or complicating the work permit process will only increase job insecurity and negatively impact employers and families."

– ASAP Member in Colorado working as a Tax and Health Insurance Preparer

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"This proposed rule would affect me in terms of income, since without a work permit I wouldn't be able to work, and how would I pay my bills like rent and food?"

– ASAP Member in Tennessee working in Automotive Production

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"These unfair measures would affect my family because without a work permit, the chances of finding a job to support any family are reduced."

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Construction

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"Through this document, I respectfully address the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to formally express my opposition to the proposed changes that would affect access to Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) for immigrants and asylum seekers.

These changes represent a significant setback in terms of human rights, economics, and immigration policy, and have the potential to harm not only immigrants but the U.S. economy as a whole.

## II. Analysis of the Proposed Changes

### 1. Suspension of Initial Permits for 14 to 173 Years

The proposal that USCIS cease issuing initial work permits for a period of between 14 and 173 years is unfeasible and inhumane for the following reasons:

- It would deprive entire generations of immigrants of their fundamental right to work legally, inevitably pushing them into the informal economy.
- It contradicts the constitutional principle of due process by denying them, without sufficient legal justification, a right that the law currently recognizes.
- It would impose a massive economic burden on the social welfare system, as people without legal income would depend on public services.

### 2. 365-Day Wait for Asylum Seekers

Extending the waiting period for work permits to 365 days—doubling it from the current 180—has devastating consequences:

- A full year without legal income is unfeasible for families with children, people with chronic illnesses, and senior citizens.
- It exponentially increases vulnerability to labor exploitation: unscrupulous employers take advantage of those without legal options.
- It contradicts international refugee treaties signed by the U.S., particularly the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.

### 3. Discretionary Denial Without Justified Cause

Granting USCIS the power to deny work permits for any reason, without justification, eliminates existing legal safeguards and opens the door to:

- Arbitrary discrimination based on national origin, ethnicity, or religion, without the possibility of effective legal recourse.
- Total legal uncertainty: individuals and their employers will be unable to plan or contractually commit to employment.
- Violation of the Fifth Amendment by eliminating due process in administrative decisions that affect fundamental rights.

### 4. Use of Work Permit Information to Deny Asylum

This change is particularly serious because it creates an institutional trap: those who apply to work legally see that information used against them in their asylum proceedings. This leads to:

- Applicants being forced to choose between economic survival and protecting their asylum case, an unacceptable choice.
- A massive disincentive to transparency and integration into the legal system, fostering the underground economy.
- A violation of the principle of non-refoulement and the right against self-incrimination in concurrent legal proceedings.

## III. Economic Impact on the United States

Restricting access to legal employment does not benefit the U.S. economy; quite the contrary. Historical and economic data demonstrate that:

1. Immigrants fill critical sectors with labor shortages: construction, agriculture, healthcare, technology, and services.
2. Legal immigrant workers pay taxes, contribute to Social Security and Medicare, strengthening public finances.
3. Condemning them to informality reduces tax revenue, increases unregulated work, and weakens labor standards for all workers.
4. Immigrants who have been in the country for more than 10 years are already socially, culturally, and economically integrated. Denying them legal status is wasting already developed human capital.

#### IV. The Central Principle: Work as a Path to Integration

Work is not a privilege: it is the fundamental mechanism through which immigrants and citizens integrate into society, support their families, and immigrants learn the language and contribute to their communities. Denying immediate access to legal work from the first day of application does not deter migration; it only guarantees that it will occur under more precarious, vulnerable, and less beneficial conditions for the receiving country.

A truly effective immigration policy should be geared toward immediate integration: work permits from the first day of application, streamlined verification processes, and recognition of the contributions of those who have been building this country for over a decade.

#### V. Formal Request Based on the arguments presented,

I formally request that USCIS:

1. Reject the proposal to suspend the issuance of initial work permits.
2. Reduce—not extend—the waiting period for asylum seekers to a maximum of 90 days.
3. Maintain objective and reviewable standards for permit denials, with the right to appeal.
4. Expressly prohibit the use of job application information as adverse evidence in asylum cases.
5. Create an expedited regularization pathway for immigrants with more than 10 years of verifiable residency in the country.

I appreciate your attention to this comment and trust that USCIS authorities will consider the human, economic, and social well-being of the millions of people who contribute to this country every day.

These measures combined would create a vicious cycle: no work permit → no income → greater dependency → greater vulnerability → informal economy → less tax revenue.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Technology

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“The proposed rule would leave me unable to continue supporting my family during the process.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Architecture

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“This affects us because we wouldn’t be able to work legally in the country, therefore we would lose our current jobs. The people who depend on my income are also affected, and most importantly, I wouldn’t be able to contribute with my tax payments.”

– ASAP Member in Mississippi working in Technology

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“This would affect me because when I go to renew my work permit, it will take too long, or they could deny it for any reason without explanation. This would leave my wife and me without work, without a decent way to survive in this country. I wouldn’t have any means of support, and probably no one would want to hire me. This would also mean that since I wouldn’t have any income, I wouldn’t be able to pay taxes, which would also affect the federal government.”

– ASAP Member in California working in Education

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“These changes would greatly affect me because I am in the process of applying for a work permit under the asylum category, but my asylum clock has not yet reached 180 days. If these changes take effect and the judge does not agree to add the correct number of days that have passed since I submitted my asylum application, I will be unable to obtain a new work permit and will therefore lose my job. I will not be able to work legally and will not be able to cover essential expenses such as food and rent.”

– ASAP Member in Washington working as a Machine Operator

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“This would affect all of us who work to support our families. It’s not fair; we’re not hurting anyone. While we wait for an answer, the right thing to do is to be able to work and put food on the table for our children and our families.”

– ASAP Member working in Cleaning

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“Without a work permit, one would be unable to earn an income to cover expenses such as food, water, insurance, and other necessities. Without a work permit, access to many other things, such as a driver’s license, identification card, and health insurance, is limited. This new proposal violates the human right to seek asylum and to access the justice system when seeking protection.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working as an Administrative Assistant

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“I am the head of my family; I have a wife and two young children. I am the only one who works; my wife doesn’t work because she takes care of our children. I currently have a valid work permit. If this rule were to be approved, and work permit renewals took much longer than usual, neither I nor anyone else would be able to keep our jobs because no company would hire us without a valid work permit.

I dare say this would affect the well-being of hundreds of thousands or millions of people and, consequently, their families who depend on that work permit to support themselves financially in this great nation. Not to mention that this would also greatly affect the overall economy because thousands of companies would lose their employees, which would have a huge impact on their productivity and, therefore, on the overall economy of our communities. Without jobs, there will be no money to pay rent, mortgages, food, personal and business loans, water, electricity, and phone bills, etc. This would not only impact the economy but also the emotional

stability of all the families involved. My opinion on this is that changes are necessary, but the stability of the economy and social welfare should be guaranteed. I believe that one of the changes that should be implemented for granting an initial work permit should be the condition and/or requirement that the person file a tax return with the IRS the following year. The same should apply to work permit renewals; the main requirement should be filing a tax return with the IRS (with appropriate exceptions for people with disabilities or those who are unable to work for one reason or another). This way, the government can be sure that these individuals are not placing an additional burden on public spending, since they are working, paying taxes, and thus contributing to this great nation. In this way, the government can have greater control over whether work permits are being used correctly by applicants.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Construction

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“We need to work legally, pay our taxes, and have the necessary documents so that our right to work is not violated.”

– ASAP Member in Tennessee working in Sales and Retail

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“It could affect my opportunity to work legally in this country and therefore, my ability to provide for my family.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Administration and Finance

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“The proposed rule places me at risk of losing my job, which I’ve held for almost 7 years. I would lose all the benefits I’ve accumulated with the company up to the present. My salary is my family’s main source of income. A severe economic crisis would prevent me from paying rent; we would be evicted from our home. My three children and I would be homeless, and my husband wouldn’t be able to buy food to feed them properly. I wouldn’t be able to pay for health, dental, or vision insurance, and we would lose our means of transportation because we can’t keep up with the payments. A deep debt crisis would arise because I can’t make the payments on time. Stress and chaos within the family due to economic reasons could lead to mental health problems, a family breakdown caused by the economic crisis, and instability in our children’s schooling, affecting their academic performance.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Sales and Retail

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"It harms asylum seekers, because a work permit is needed to earn the income necessary to feed ourselves, pay for housing, and send our children to school."

– ASAP Member in Louisiana working in Cleaning

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"With our legal work, we are also helping to make the United States prosperous, as we are contributing to the economy and job creation."

– ASAP Member in Florida

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"Denying work permits to honest individuals who have followed the law and contributed to this country through taxes—despite not being guaranteed legal status or being denied paths to achieve it—would profoundly affect not only their morale but also their ability to continue living honestly in the U.S. Furthermore, it undermines those who continue to invest in this nation, which served as an escape from dictatorship for much of Venezuela's skilled workforce."

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Technology

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"I am a single woman who cannot support myself financially without a job."

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Sales and Retail

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"I work in human resources for a manufacturing company where most people have asylum work permits. If this happens, our workforce would be affected by 90%."

– ASAP Member in Indiana working in Human Resources

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“This affects me because I haven’t yet had the 150 days required to apply for my work permit, and if that changes before my deadline, I wouldn’t be able to work for a long time. If that happens, how will I support myself?”

– ASAP Member in Florida

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“Without work, there is no food, no shelter, and no sustenance for life.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Cleaning

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“I would lose my job and therefore my source of income.”

– ASAP Member in Texas working in Education

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“We came to this country seeking protection, and we take advantage of this opportunity to grow and enrich our community by contributing our talent and resources.

We hope the government realizes this and stops labeling us as criminals, so we can live freely without persecution.”

– ASAP Member in Florida working in Technology

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“It is very worrying if this is approved, as we do not have the financial resources to cover our expenses for a year or perhaps more, since I understand that we would have to wait 365 days to submit the application and the response could take another 180 days.

Expenses don’t stop, and by these I mean basic necessities: housing, food, insurance, gasoline, etc.

And I believe that what would happen in my home would happen to many immigrant families undergoing the asylum process.

The US, as a nation, is a signatory to treaties and conventions that require that people arriving in this country seeking asylum receive the necessary assistance during this process.

If the government approves this proposal, they would be violating these treaties.”

– ASAP Member in Florida

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“I am writing to share my concerns regarding the proposed rule, ‘Employment Authorization Reform for Asylum Applicants’ (DHS Docket No. USCIS-2025-0370), and the potential impact it may have on individuals and families like mine.

I am an asylum seeker living in the US with my family. Having a work permit has allowed me to support my household, pay rent, and meet our daily needs while my case is pending. Like many others, I am committed to working legally, contributing to society, and remaining self-sufficient during this process.

Restricting access to work permits would create serious challenges for families like mine. Without the ability to work legally, it becomes very difficult to cover basic living expenses and maintain stability while waiting for a decision on an asylum case.

I also have concerns about the proposed one-year filing deadline restriction for work permits. In some cases, individuals may enter the United States lawfully on a visa and remain in valid status for an extended period of time. Due to personal or changing circumstances, they may apply for asylum after one year while still having maintained lawful status. In such situations, it is difficult to understand why they would be denied access to a work permit, despite having followed legal processes and remained in compliance with immigration rules.

I understand the importance of addressing system backlogs and improving efficiency. However, limiting work authorization for asylum seekers may lead to unintended hardship for individuals who are trying to follow the law and support themselves responsibly.

I respectfully ask that this proposal be reconsidered and that asylum seekers continue to have the opportunity to work lawfully while their cases are being processed. This allows people to live with dignity and reduces unnecessary hardship during an already uncertain time.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my perspective.”

– ASAP Member in Tennessee working in Retail