<table>
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<th><strong>Current System</strong></th>
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| **LEGAL IMMIGRATION** | - Family unification  
  - Spouse, child, parent, or sibling of US citizen  
  - Spouse, minor or single adult child of lawful permanent resident  
  - U.S. relative must take financial responsibility for immigrant  | - Quotas (for other than “immediate relatives” of U.S. citizens) leave 4 million people in backlog, some for more than 20 years  
  - American citizens and legal residents separated from family members  | - Increase quotas  
  - Modernize and simplify immigration process  
  - Expand “immediate family” classification  |
| **Employer sponsorship of workers** | - May apply for temporary or permanent status  
  - Must prove that no U.S. worker can fill position  
  - Strong preference for skilled workers  | - Per-country limits and low quotas for unskilled workers create backlogs up to 10 years  
  - Expensive, time-consuming, complex process for employers  | - Increase quotas  
  - Streamline application system  |
| **Refugee or asylum seeker** | - Must prove past persecution or reasonable fear of persecution if they return to home country  
  - Economic, environmental refugees not recognized  | - Very limited number admitted  
  - Lack of legal and other support  
  - Spend 18 months in detention, on average  | - Increase quotas  
  - More support for asylum seekers  
  - Have alternatives to detention  
  - Address root causes of migration  |
| **UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRATION** | - Persons may cross U.S. border illegally, or overstay their visa  
  - Illegal immigration is a civil, not criminal, offense  
  - Driven by:  
    o Push factors: poverty, oppression, violence, insecurity  
    o Pull factors: employment, opportunity, safety, family unity  
    o Employers’ demand for workers  
  - Limited opportunity to gain legal status  | |  |
| **COMMUNITY CONCERNS** | - Fear of crime and terrorism  
  - Displacement of US workers  
  - Use of tax-funded social services  | |  |
| **Undocumented Immigrants’ Concerns** | - Vulnerable to exploitation at work  
  - Lack non-emergency medical care  
  - Children ineligible for financial aid for college  
  - Can’t get driver’s license or ID  | |  |
| **ENFORCEMENT** | - Border security: Preventing unauthorized border crossings  | - People die attempting to cross border  
  - Costly and ineffective  | - More barriers, surveillance technology, and personnel at border  |
| - Criminal justice system: Arresting, detaining, and deporting undocumented persons  | - Detention is costly, separates families, and conditions may be harsh and abusive  
  - Communities less safe because immigrants are reluctant to deal with local law enforcement  
  - Impractical to deport all undocumented  | - Require or allow local law enforcement to demand documentation when someone is arrested that they suspect of being present illegally  |
| - Employer sanctions: Penalizing employers for knowingly hiring undocumented workers  | - Difficult for employers to verify workers’ status  
  - Errors in records of immigration status  | - Require workers to have special ID’s that cannot be falsified  |