



Statistics Tell Our Story: New Numbers Compiled for U.S. Citizens Highlight Erosion of Rights, Family Separation

American Families United estimates nearly **2 million** American families are caught up in the immigration debate.

1,857,000

Roughly **1.3 million** spouses of U.S. citizens live in the United States without authorization.

Source: Migration Policy Institute Immigration Data Hub

1,247,000

We estimate at least **340,000** legal immigration applications of spouses of U.S. citizens have been refused without resolution since 1997.*

Based on: Department of State Reports of the Visa Office

340,000

We estimate **270,000** spouses of U.S. citizens have been removed since 1997.*

Based on: Removal data from ICE ERO Reports and Migration Policy Institute Data Hub

270,000

*The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 eliminated long-standing due process mechanisms that balanced refusals and removals against the rights of U.S. citizens. The refusal and removal numbers above capture the cumulative impact of this change in law.

WHO WE ARE

American Families United represents the highest numerical priority for legal immigration, and an often neglected constituency of the immigration debate: U.S. citizens whose families are caught up in our immigration law's failures.

from America. These laws do not reflect our values. They erode the rights of U.S. citizens, forcing a choice between marriage and country. Lifetime sentences are applied without due process mechanisms that balance the facts of inadmissibility cases against the rights of U.S. citizens.

Now, using official and other respected sources, we have estimated the other side of the same coin: the number of American families who have already been separated by refusals or removals. **340,000** legal immigration applications of spouses of U.S. citizens have been refused. **270,000** spouses of U.S. citizens have been removed.

THE PROBLEM

For too long, too many U.S. citizens and their husbands, wives or children have been trapped in the unthinking and counterproductive web of inadmissibilities that separate them from each other or

THE SCOPE

The Migration Policy Institute Data Hub, widely accepted as the definitive source for the number of spouses of U.S. citizens who live in the United States without authorization, previously captured the number of U.S. citizens who face the prospect of family separation.

With an average American family size of 3.14 persons (per the U.S. Census), **the American families who have directly experienced the prospect or reality of family separation would make up the 20th largest state in the nation.**