
Supreme Court clears Trump bid to end migrant protections



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WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court on May 30 allowed the Trump administration to revoke temporary legal protections for over 500,000 migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. The decision, issued without explanation, permits the administration to proceed while legal challenges are still underway.

Two liberal justices, Ketanji Brown Jackson and Sonia Sotomayor, dissented. Jackson criticized

the ruling, stating that it failed to account for the severe harm to migrants, calling it a “botched assessment” that could upend lives and livelihoods.

The program in question offers a two-year safe haven to migrants fleeing political, economic, and humanitarian crises. The Trump administration argues that the presence of these migrants is “against the national interest” and that courts should not interfere in executive immigration decisions.

Migrant advocates warn that the ruling could lead to the largest mass “illegalization” in modern U.S. history. Labor unions say many migrants under the program fill critical roles in industries such as healthcare and manufacturing. One auto parts manufacturer employs nearly 20% of its workforce under this status.

A federal judge in Massachusetts had previously blocked the administration’s efforts, ruling that early termination of protections required individualized review. That decision was upheld by a panel of the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, with all judges appointed by Democratic presidents. The Justice Department contends that the courts are interfering with immigration policies that were central to the Trump campaign. The Biden administration had hoped the program would discourage illegal border crossings, but the Trump administration insists it failed as a deterrent and complicates enforcement.

The legal battle over the future of these protections is ongoing.