**TIMES IN PLAIN ENGLISH – November 21, 2014**

3-5

**PRESIDENT HELPS UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS**

Source: USA TODAY Novermber 21, 2014. Edited for ESL 3-5

President Obama has done what he said he wanted to do. He gave about five million unauthorized migrants a chance to stay in the U.S. The **executive order** is good news for a large number of immigrants. It also cause some political problems.

**What is in the order?**

The order covers the undocumented parents of children who are American citizens or who are here legally. The parent must:

* be in the U.S. more than five years,
* register with the government,
* pass a criminal background check,
* pay taxes.

Another part of the order adds young people to the program whose unauthorized parents brought them here between 2007 and 2010. The president said, “You will be able to apply to stay in this country temporarily, without fear of deportation.”

Millions will get work permits. They will not be able to get Medicaid. They will get social security cards. Permission to stay is good for three years. They will have to go to the back of the line to apply for citizenship. The order will make life easier for immigrants who are skilled workers to change jobs.

Cries from political opponents of the order will range from:

* calls for impeachment (putting the president on trial in the Senate);
* going to the courts to stop the president,
* holding up presidential appointments (e.g., a new attorney-general),

It will take some time to put the new rules in effect. Republicans take over the Congress on January 1, 2015. They will have the power to make life very hard for the president. Many supporters of reform do not agree that the executive order was the right way to go. They hoped the changes would be made by law.

QUESTIONS

1. The president used his authority to change immigration rules. What is this authorization called?
2. Which immigrants does this order benefit?
3. What government services and documentation will these immigrants be able to benefit from? And which will they not be able to obtain?
4. What must undocumented parents of American citizens do to be eligible?
5. Who long will newly approved immigrants be able to stay in the US and will they be able to work legally in the US?
6. Does this order mean they can be “fast-tracked ” to becoming US citizens?
7. Do you think this action by the president is fair? Discuss with your classmates.