

## Shot clock coming to NJ high school basketball after surprising vote

SPORTS, 1B

# Daily Record

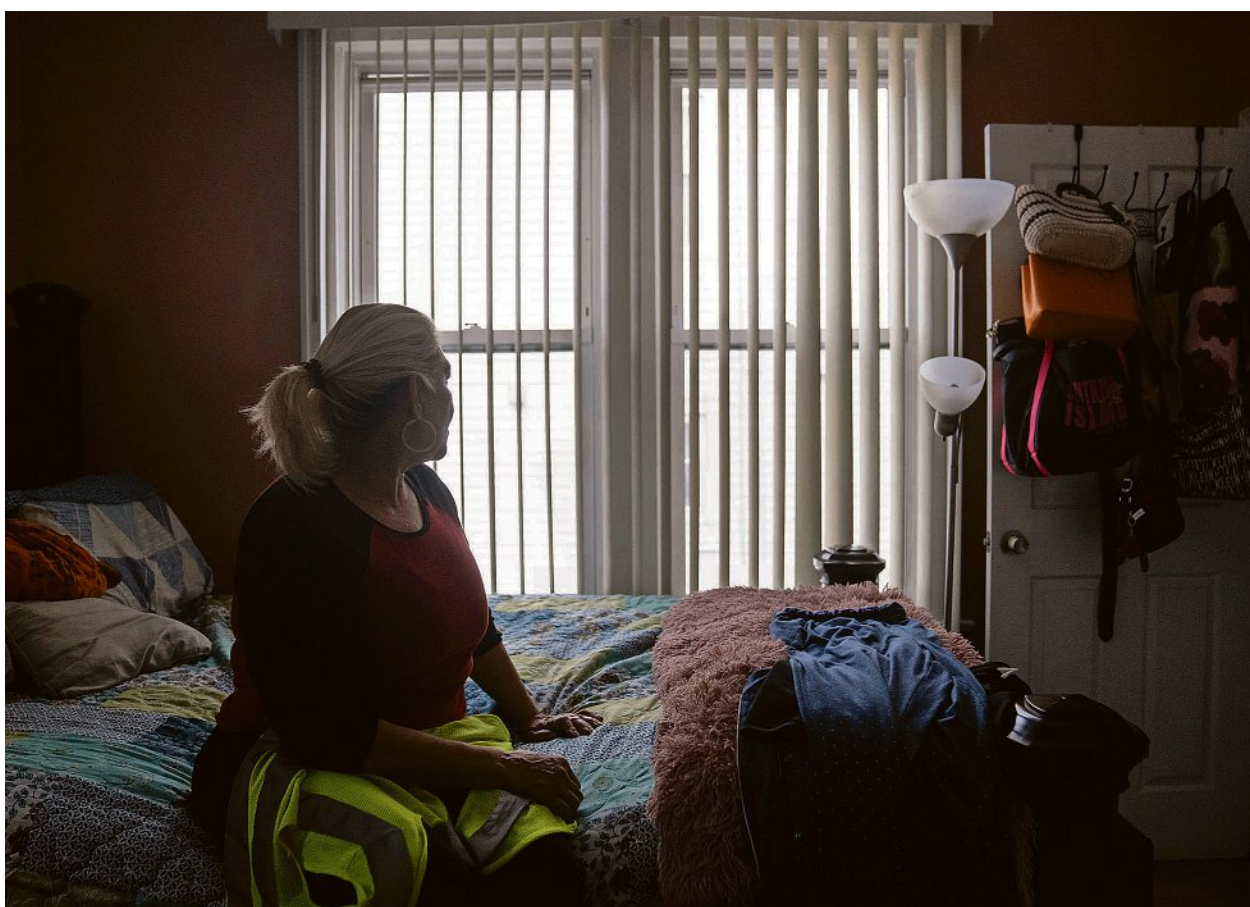
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Looking for the light: Making sense of care, connection and daily life in today's world

## Working policies continue to shift



Maribel Urbina, an immigrant from Honduras, sits on her bed with her vest she used to wear as a school bus driver on March 31. Urbina, who was a school bus driver for 21 years, lost her Temporary Protected Status and work authorization when the Trump Administration ended the program for Hondurans. Over concerns for her privacy, Urbina did not want her face published. PHOTOS BY JULIAN LESHAY GUADALUPE/NORTHJERSEY.COM

### Lost immigration status leads to job losses, hardships

Hannan Adely

NorthJersey.com | USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

For 21 years, Maribel Urbina drove a 54-passenger school bus.

She navigated New York City streets and suburban roads. She ferried students to and from Dwight-Englewood School. She shuttled them on school trips, to theaters and zoos.

She loved her job.

It helped her feel secure in her life in Englewood, where she raised four children in her two-bedroom home.

Then, last fall, she lost her immigration status — and her ability to work legally in the United States.

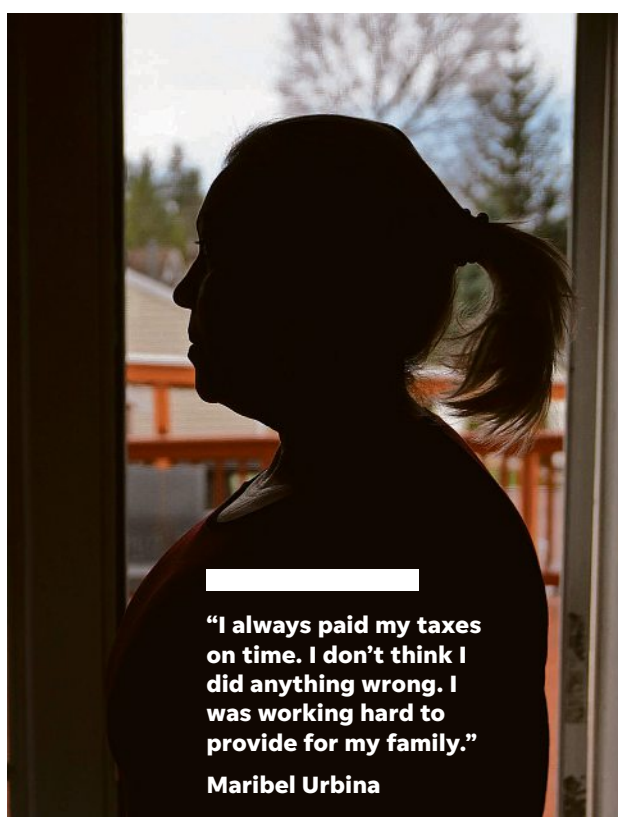
“Every day, I was happy knowing I had a job, that I could drive,” Urbina said through tears. “Now I wake up and I can’t do that. This is really upsetting to me.”

Urbina is among a growing number of immigrants who have lost the ability to work as the Trump administration moves to dismantle or scale back immigration programs and tighten work authorization rules.

The changes — including shorter work permit durations and new restrictions on eligibility — have abruptly cut off livelihoods, pushing families toward financial crisis. As enforcement expands and policies continue to shift, employers are increasingly reluctant to hire or retain workers whose status could be upended.

Advocates say the policies undercut longstanding federal guidance aimed at preventing immigrants from becoming a “public charge,” or primarily dependent on government support, by stripping them of the means to support themselves. Nonprofits that once helped newcomers build stable careers are now scrambling to provide emergency aid as more families struggle to cover basic expenses.

“We are trying to pull together funds to help people, so they don’t become homeless. There is no other way around it,” said Courtney Madsen, a program director at Church World Service, a leading refugee resettlement agency. “We’re not just focused on self-sufficiency. We’re trying to make sure people are surviving.”



“I always paid my taxes on time. I don’t think I did anything wrong. I was working hard to provide for my family.”

Maribel Urbina

Maribel Urbina, an immigrant from Honduras, stands in her kitchen on March 31.

Urbina, who came to the United States from Honduras, has applied to become a permanent resident. In the meantime, her adult children help her husband cover the mortgage.

“I always paid my taxes on time,” she said. “I don’t think I did anything wrong. I was working hard to provide for my family.”

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CEO Kris Kolluri, left, said NJ Transit ticket prices were reduced “through private sponsors and other sources.” NORTHJERSEY.COM STAFF FILE

## NJ Transit drops controversial World Cup price

Colleen Wilson

NorthJersey.com | USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

NJ Transit is dropping the price of its round-trip ticket to eight World Cup matches taking place at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford to \$105, from \$150, the agency said on Thursday, May 7.

The disputed \$150 ticket price announced in April received both praise and vitriol, sparking reaction around the world.

Normally, the round trip costs \$12.90 — a heavily subsidized rate — to shuttle people to MetLife for events, but officials said that because of the added security, labor and operations costs to host World Cup matches, the price was decided based on the cost of running the service.

“Since the beginning, [Gov. Mikie Sherrill] has said that commuters in New Jersey, taxpayers, would

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## Mom gets life-saving gift — her daughter’s kidney

Scott Fallon

NorthJersey.com | USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

After 20 years of living with one kidney and seven days a week of grueling dialysis, Curlean Phillips and her doctors decided in 2025 that she needed a transplant.

She had also decided that her daughter Chanda Cason was not going to be the donor. But mom doesn’t always get her way.

“Yeah, I wasn’t listening to her on this one,” Chanda said, laughing. “I had already signed up.”

As moms are celebrated across New Jersey and the world on Mother’s Day this Sunday, May 10, Curlean will be celebrating a new lease on life a month after receiving Chanda’s right kidney.

“You can’t ask for a better gift,” Curlean said.

Curlean, 70, had weak-functioning kidneys for at least 30 years. About two decades ago, her left kidney stopped working.

“It basically shriveled up and died,” Curlean said.

Her right kidney began doing the work of two. For

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