

# OPEN LETTER TO THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

## Dear U.S. Congressional Hispanic Caucus Members,

As leaders of Latino and advocacy groups seeking immigration solutions, we respectfully urge you to represent Latino and immigrant communities in your districts, and safeguarded by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, by fiercely advancing enactment of pathways to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

We remain greatly disappointed that, during the last year, as various interests sought inclusion in President Biden's Build Back Better plan – legislation that was proposed as a budget reconciliation bill that would not require a 60-vote, filibuster-proof majority in the Senate – champions for immigration solutions were few.

Indeed, while your colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus were heroically battling for passage of voting rights legislation, in memory of the great Rep. John Lewis, who also fought for immigrants' rights, we were dismayed by the lack of leadership from most of the 38 members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. At a critical point in the negotiations, specifically when a registry update was included in the bill by the House Judiciary Committee only to be removed, just a few caucus members from the House joined our Hispanic senators in fighting for permanent protections for the seven million immigrants who could, with more political will, benefit within the limits set by the reconciliation process.

Where is your anger over the Senate stalemate? Where is your passion for people you represent as residents of your districts – millions in mixed status households – who will forever be a permanent underclass of Latinos unless Congress acts?

We need your leadership! We need you to represent all of your constituents.

History is on our side of the issue, and so are the facts.

As we've mentioned before, 74% of undocumented workers (compared to 65% of native born workers) have been employed in essential critical infrastructure categories from farming and food, to construction and healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic. Undocumented workers also placed themselves on the frontlines of the pandemic while facing limited access to healthcare and benefits.

Even now, business leaders from across the nation, spanning all industries, are imploring Congress to pass legalization and citizenship for immigrants so that they can fill jobs to ease the labor shortage – an economic condition that is contributing to rising inflation and consumer prices, and also provide relief to their immigrant employees.

We and our allies in your districts stand ready to work with you, inform voters of the consequences if no action is taken, and urge other lawmakers outside of the Hispanic Caucus to join our cause that is supported by a strong majority of voters across battleground states. Action is needed immediately, for the sake of our economy and for keeping immigrant families together to build stronger communities.

We recognize your efforts since the start of the Biden-Harris Administration, but they have not resulted in the passage of any permanent protections. What we now ask is for your fierce leadership to complete action this year on legislation to create pathways to citizenship for the undocumented.

### Signatories:

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**Ana Valdez**  
*ABIC-Action*

**Christine Neumann-Ortiz**  
*Voces de la Frontera*

**Erica Johnson**  
*Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice*

**Fernando Garcia**  
*Border Network for Human Rights*

**Jose Lopez**  
*Make the Road New York*

**Marcela Diaz**  
*Somos un Pueblo Unido*

**Michelle Tremillo**  
*Texas Organizing Project*

**Raul Raymundo**  
*The Resurrection Project*

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*Poder Latinx*

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**Becky Beauchamp**  
*Justice for Our Neighbors Michigan*

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**Erika Andiola**  
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**Greisa Martínez Rosa**  
*United We Dream*

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*Chambers of Commerce and Associations*

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