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Buscando Refugio

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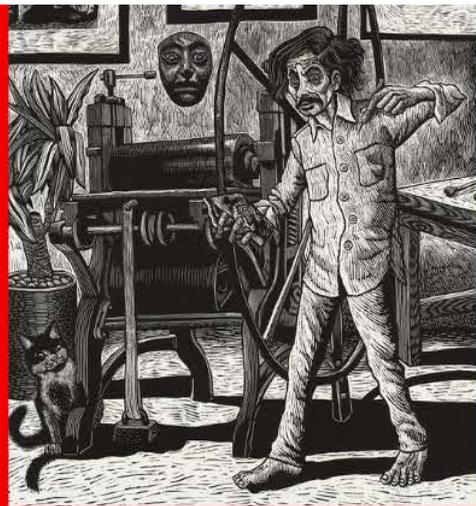
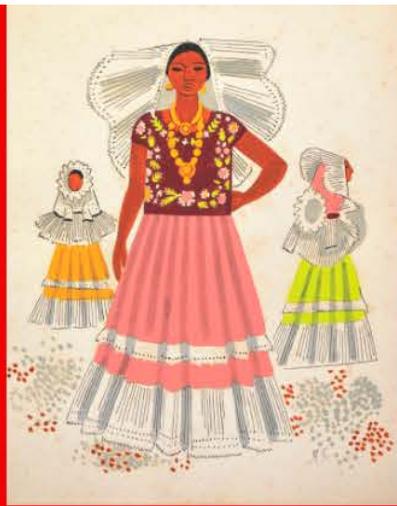


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Table of Contents

TABLA DE CONTENIDOS

- 4 THE NEW OLD SYMPTOMS OF REPUBLICAN INTOLERANCE
- 4 LOS NUEVOS VIEJOS SÍNTOMAS DE LA INTOLERANCIA REPUBLICANA
- 4 MASS ICE DETENTION IS UNNECESSARY — AND WE HAVE PROOF
- 5 RESTORING A HUMANE APPROACH TO ASYLUM IS A MORAL IMPERATIVE
- 5 PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS
- 5 PROTEGIENDO A LOS MIEMBROS DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD
- 6 LOOK BEYOND EDUCATION POLICY TO HELP STUDENTS GO TO COLLEGE
- 7 LABOR DEPT. ISSUES EMERGENCY RULES TO PROTECT HEALTH CARE WORKERS
- 8 SEEKING SHELTER IN A TIME OF GREAT UNCERTAINTY
- 9 BUSCANDO REFUGIO EN TIEMPOS DE GRAN INCERTIDUMBRE
- 10 FARMWORKERS ARE 'ESSENTIAL BUT TREATED AS EXPENDABLE'
- 11 LOS TRABAJADORES AGRÍCOLAS SON 'ESENCIALES, PERO SON TRATADOS COMO PRESCINDIBLES'
- 12 MSU DENVER LAUNCHES SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS
- 12 MSU DE DENVER LANZA PROGRAMA DE APOYO PARA ESTUDIANTES
- 12 NO ONLINE OPTION FOR ADAMS 14 ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
- 14 PARTNERSHIP INVESTS IN RESOURCES FOR ENTREPRENEURS AND WORKERS
- 14 LA ASOCIACIÓN INVIERTE EN RECURSOS PARA EMPRESARIOS Y TRABAJADORES
- 16 LGBTQ+ ACTIVISM AND ACTION HONORS PULSE NIGHTCLUB VICTIMS

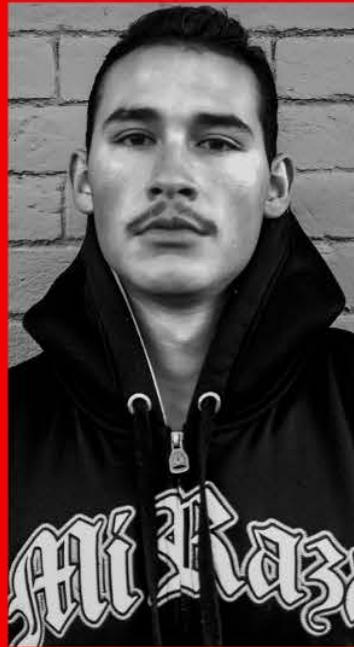



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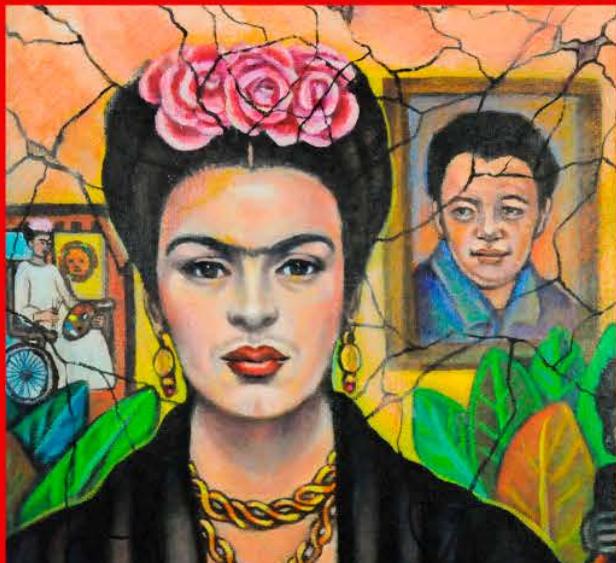
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Commentary/Comentario

The New Old Symptoms of Republican Intolerance

David Torres



Photo/Foto: America's Voice

The way that "Trumpism" has chosen to reemerge after its failure as a socio-political "model" in the United States obligates a nation of immigrants to confront it immediately. Yes, stopping its advance is becoming an urgent matter at this precise moment, when Trump and his allies want to become, once again, a false moral guide of order and national security.

Common sense, however, would counsel ignoring the poi-

son this movement wants to spread among a part of the population that still mistakes intoler-

ance with the "best" way to live in society.

That is, the recommended solution would be to not refer to these prior symptoms of the typical Trump rhetoric in order to keep his ideas from propagating again. But owing to the foolishness and the frequency that various voices from the ignominious and anti-immigrant recent history have been expressing, it is preferable to identify them and stop them in their tracks—at least as a warning to avoid repeating the damage that Trumpism has done to this country,

both multicultural and multiracial, from which it has not fully recovered.

For example, if the idea of constructing a wall at the border became a political and, therefore, an economic disaster during the prior administration, why then do characters like Texas Governor Greg Abbott once again attempt to impose the idea of a border fence, at least at the south of his state, on top of announcing a policy of arresting undocumented

See [Torres](#) on page 17

“One thing is also certain: this absurd racial and anti-immigrant anachronism no longer has a place in a society that is trying to overcome its prejudices and is a witness, right now, to how the immigration issue can be approached in another way, one that is more humane and just.”

Los Nuevos Viejos Síntomas de la Intolerancia Republicana

David Torres

La forma que ha escogido el "trumpismo" para resurgir después de su fracaso como "modelo" político-social de Estados Unidos obliga a una nación de inmigrantes a hacerle frente de manera inmediata. Si, detener su avance se vuelve un asunto urgente desde este preciso momento en que Trump y los suyos se quieren convertir de nuevo en una falsa guía moral

del orden y de la seguridad nacional.

El sentido común, sin embargo, aconsejaría en estos casos obviar los dardos con los que ese movimiento quiere envenenar otra vez a esa parte de la población que aún confunde la intolerancia con el "mejor" modo de vivir en sociedad.

Es decir, la solución indicada sería no referirse a esos primeros síntomas de la típica retórica de Trump para evitar que se prop-

aguen de nuevo sus ideas. Pero dada la necedad y la frecuencia con que se han manifestado diversas voces de ese ignominioso y antiinmigrante pasado reciente, es preferible identificarlas y pararlas en seco. Al menos como una advertencia necesaria para evitar que se repita el daño que el Trumpismo le hizo a este país tan multirracial como multicultural, del cual aún no se repone del todo.

Por ejemplo, si la idea de construir el muro en la frontera resultó

un fracaso político y, por ende, económico durante el gobierno anterior, por qué entonces personajes como el gobernador de Texas, Greg Abbott, vuelven a la carga para impulsar la idea de hacer una valla fronteriza al menos en el sur de su estado, además de anunciar una política de arrestos de inmigrantes indocumentados, en clara confrontación con la administración central.

Vea [Torres/Esp](#), página 16

“Una cosa también es cierta: ese absurdo anacronismo racial y antiinmigrante ya no cabe en una sociedad que trata de superar sus prejuicios y que es testigo hoy mismo de cómo el tema migratorio se puede abordar de otro modo, de una manera más humana y justa.”

Mass ICE Detention is Unnecessary — and We Have Proof

Jessica Bansal

The cruelty of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency was on full display this past year. The agency refused to take vital measures to curb the spread of

COVID-19 in its detention centers, even in the face of its own experts' findings that the crude facilities were "tinderboxes" for the disease.

Detained immigrants — compelled by the specter of illness and death in ICE's jails — brought ICE to court over the inhuman conditions,

with representation from the ACLU and its affiliates throughout California and around the country. Their actions led to findings that ICE was imprisoning medically vulnerable seniors in cramped, over-crowded cells; withholding COVID-19 tests to avoid having to deal with positive results; and retaliating against dissent by various means, including threatening to cut off access to soap.

Judges ruled that the conditions in ICE facilities were "inconsistent

with contemporary standards of human decency." And they ordered ICE to let people go. ([See our timeline.](#))

Before the ACLU's lawsuits were filed, there were more than 42,000 people detained nationwide each day. At its lowest point during the pandemic, this number fell to just over 13,000 people detained nationwide each day. In California, there were more than 3,000 immigrants detained at the Adelanto, Mesa Verde, Yuba, Otay Mesa, and

“Today, the Biden administration is faced with a choice.”

Imperial detention centers. Today, there are fewer than 1,000. And despite baseless outcries by government officials and the for-profit companies that operate the detention centers that drastically reducing the population of the centers would lead to havoc and widespread lawlessness, just the opposite happened.

Released immigrants, many of whom went home to their families, overwhelmingly complied with their court-ordered release conditions. Indeed, these releases offered a blueprint for a new future where instead of languishing in cruel, senseless detention, immigrants could retain their liberty and dignity while their immigration cases move forward.

Their stories are testament to the viability and urgency of a world without unjust immigrant detention. To cite three examples:

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See [Bansal](#) on page 18

Restoring a Humane Approach to Asylum is a Moral Imperative

Peter Simonson

Providing asylum to people fleeing persecution and violence is embedded in our nation's laws and values. Different presidents have upheld this commitment to greater and lesser degrees, but our country has never strayed further from our vow to shelter refugees than it did under Donald Trump. During his presidency, Trump did everything in his power to dismantle protections for the world's most vulner-



able, in violation of U.S. and international law.

President Trump cruelly separated children as young as 9 months from their parents to deter families from seeking safe refuge. He forced more than 70,000 asylum seekers, most of whom were fleeing violence in Central America and Cuba, to wait in dangerous conditions in Mexico while their claims were being processed. He detained people indefinitely in horrid conditions and cruelly removed asylum protection for people fleeing gang and domestic violence. He even exploited a

global pandemic to categorically ban people from seeking asylum by enacting a policy known as Title 42.

During his campaign, President Joe Biden promised to restore a fair and humane approach to asylum. And while he has taken some steps to do that, he has not done enough.

Earlier this year, the Biden administration elected to extend Title 42, allowing the summary

See [Simonson](#) on page 17



It's worth remembering that our commitment to granting asylum to people fleeing persecution and violence was born out of a shameful past — our government's failure to shelter thousands of Jewish people fleeing state-sponsored persecution by the Nazi regime.

Protecting Our Community Members

Editor's Note: Padres & Jóvenes Unidos, American Friends Service Committee, Convivir Colorado, Transform Education Now, Colorado Jobs with Justice, and Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition are releasing a statement of solidarity to alleged survivors of sexual assault allegations against School Board Director Tay Anderson. Director Anderson allegedly targeted undocumented immigrant youth in Denver Public Schools, prompting this response.

The Denver Public School Board of Education has announced that it is aware of new sexual assault allegations against School Board Director Tay Anderson. There are allegedly 62 young people who came forward about a man in a "position of trust," 61 of them are allegedly undocumented or DACAmented students and one recent graduate. In March of this year, a community member with support from Black Lives Matter

5280 came forward with assault allegations as well. These allegations became subject to an ongoing independent investigation. We are deeply committed to defending and protecting our undocumented students and community members from all forms of oppression. Undocumented people already face the fear of family separation and should never have to fear the physical presence of an educator. We believe schools should be a safe

place where all students feel welcomed, valued, and cared for.

We stand in solidarity with all survivors of sexual violence. All survivors should know they have rights regardless of their citizenship status and are legally protected. We work to protect the rights of undocumented families in Denver and stand in solidarity with organizations like Black Lives Matter 5280, and the Blue Bench both of which believe survivors and defend survivors of color.



The safety of undocumented students is not negotiable.

The safety of undocumented students is not negotiable.

See [Community](#) on page 24

Protegiendo a los Miembros de Nuestra Comunidad

Nota de Redactor: Padres & Jóvenes Unidos, American Friends Service Committee, Convivir Colorado, Transform Education Now, Colorado Jobs with Justice, y Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition publicaron una declaración de solidaridad con los presuntos sobrevivientes de las acusaciones de agresión sexual contra el Director de la Junta Escolar Pública de Denver, Tay Anderson. El director Anderson supuestamente atacó a jóvenes inmigrantes indocumentados en las escuelas públicas de Denver, lo que provocó esta respuesta.

La Junta de Educación de las Escuelas Públicas de Denver ha anunciado que tiene conocimiento de nuevas acusaciones de agresión sexual contra el Director de la Junta Escolar, Tay Anderson. Se alega que hay 62 jóvenes que acusaron a un hombre en una "posición de confianza". 61 de ellos presuntamente son estudiantes indocumentados o beneficiarios de DACA y un recién graduado. En marzo de este año, un miembro de la comunidad con el apoyo de Black Lives Matter 5280 presentó

estas acusaciones de agresión. Estas acusaciones quedaron sujetas a una investigación independiente en curso. Estamos profundamente comprometidos a defender y proteger a nuestros estudiantes indocumentados y miembros de la comunidad de todas las formas de opresión. Las personas indocumentadas ya enfrentan el miedo a la separación familiar y nunca deberían tener que temer la presen-



La seguridad de los estudiantes indocumentados no es negociable.

cia física de un educador. Creemos que las escuelas deben ser un lugar seguro donde todos los estudiantes se sientan bienvenidos, valorados y cuidados.

Nos solidarizamos con todos los sobrevivientes de violencia sexual. Todos los sobrevivientes deben saber que tienen derechos independientemente de su estado de ciudadanía y que están protegidos

legalmente. Trabajamos para proteger los derechos de las familias indocumentadas en Denver y nos solidarizamos con organizaciones como Black Lives Matter 5280 y Blue Bench, que creen en los sobrevivientes y defienden a los sobrevivientes de color.

La seguridad de los estudiantes indocumentados no es negociable. Nuestras organizaciones no tolerarán ni serán tolerados la agresión y el acoso sexual. Exigimos que DPS sea proactivo en la asignación de los recursos de salud mental apropiados para todos los estudiantes, proteja la información confidencial de todos los sobrevivientes de agresión involucrados y responsabilice a todos los educadores acusados al evitar que tengan contacto con los estudiantes durante las investigaciones en curso.

Mientras las investigaciones están en curso, optamos por creer a las mujeres y deseamos que encuentren sanación. Reconocemos la valentía que se necesita para hablar sobre algo tan doloroso y respetamos a los sobrevivientes que temen por su seguridad y deciden

Vea [Comunidad](#), página 18

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Commentary / Comentario

Look Beyond Education Policy To Help Students Go To College

Dale Mcenany

I turned off my camera, having just recorded my incredulous reaction to the news; my mom and I sat in silence. Neither of us knew what to say or if there was anything worth saying. A few minutes earlier I had discovered that I was admitted into Columbia University. We were in shock. Not because the result was entirely unexpected but because neither of us had prepared ourselves for what came next.

For most of high school, my living situation was complicated. When I wasn't living in Tijuana, México, and commuting across the border every day to attend school in San Diego, California, I was staying at another family's house. I had moved a total of 11 times between San Diego and Tijuana since starting high school in 2016 and had been categorized as homeless for a large portion of the past four years.

From an educator's perspective, it was a miracle that I was going to college at all. From my perspective, I didn't have much of a choice.

Eventually, my mom got up from the floor and hugged me.

"I'm so proud of you," she said.

I muttered a quiet thank you and excused myself to go to the bathroom. I wanted to be alone.

I felt a mix of emotions in the

minutes and months that followed my admission — disbelief, excitement, anxiety — but one prevailing sentiment that lingered could only be described as survivor's guilt. This was the most confusing reaction to me, and I wasn't able to articulate why I felt this way until I took a class at Barnard College

“The path to economic equality and equal educational outcomes must include solutions that fall outside the purview of “education policy.” When it does, América’s most vulnerable students — including those who, like me, grew up in poverty — will have the same opportunities for success that I have been afforded.

about education policy.

In América, there is an overreliance on education to fix systemic problems. Policymakers, educators, and community members view our education system as a tool to fix structural issues, such as poverty, food insecurity, and inequality of all kinds. In some instances — teaching students the

importance of civic engagement, for example — education is an ideal avenue to generate solutions. But with other issues, expecting education to be a magical cure for all societal ills ends up harming the country's most vulnerable people.

I learned that education policy is often seen as a substitute for social welfare policy — a reality that can be traced back to President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society. Those policies, meant to reduce poverty, put a lot of their focus on education through programs like Title I, which gave schools with lots of students from low-income families more money. Later, during the Reagan years, the pervasive conservative dogma that "personal responsibility" was the key to social mobility would truly shift public discourse away from providing direct help to those who needed it.

As for my survivor's guilt, I (and many people in my community) had internalized the message of education being the key to economic prosperity. The vast majority of my high school classmates were not attending university. It is only in retrospect that I recognize this guilt was created by design.

There is no universal definition of homeless youth across U.S. school districts. In some states and municipalities, homeless youth includes situations where

families are doubled up in housing while others don't have a classification for homeless students at all. These various definitions of homelessness make it difficult to create and scale education policies to help homeless students; however, even if states agreed on what constitutes homelessness, the solution will always lie beyond the confines of education policy.

No amount of education reform can teach someone into a home or a stable financial situation. In order to help students who were in my position — who are poor, even homeless — we need to be comfortable with the reality that there are limits to the benefits of education.

Policymakers need to start looking at ways to stimulate economic mobility from sources beyond education policy. Education activists need to reconcile that seemingly separate ongoing crises, such as drastic wealth inequality and lack of affordable housing, are in fact directly related to education policy. By advocating for progressive policy initiatives like the "Homes for ALL Act," which proposes a massive federal investment in new public housing, they will be helping students in my situation.

The path to economic equality and equal educational outcomes must include solutions that fall outside the purview of "education

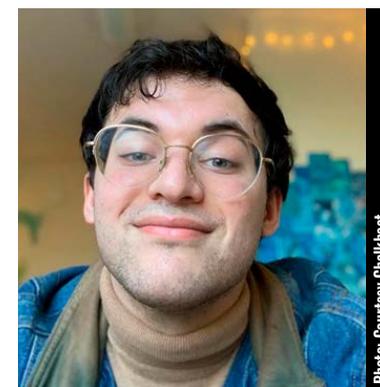


Photo: Courtesy Chalkbeat

policy." When it does, América's most vulnerable students — including those who, like me, grew up in poverty — will have the same opportunities for success that I have been afforded.

Dale Mcenany is a rising sophomore at Columbia University studying sociology and education. He wrote this piece as part of his Educational Foundations course at Barnard College. Originally published at [Chalkbeat](https://www.chalkbeat.com).

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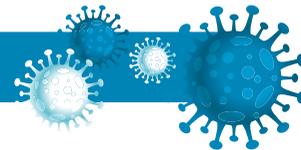
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Labor Dept. Issues Emergency Rules to Protect Health Care Workers

By Christina Jewitt

Labor Department officials last week announced a temporary emergency standard to protect health care workers, saying they face "grave danger" in the workplace from the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The new standard would require employers to remove workers who have covid-19 from the workplace, notify workers of covid exposure at work and strengthen requirements for employers to report worker deaths or hospitalizations to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

"These are the workers who continue to go into work day in and day out to take care of us, to save our lives," said Jim Frederick, acting assistant secretary of Labor for occupational safety and health. "And we must make sure we do everything in our power to return the favor to protect them."

The new rules are set to take effect immediately after publication in the Federal Register and are expected to affect about 10.3 million health care workers nationwide.

The government's statement of reasons for the new rules cites the work of *Kaiser Health News* and *The Guardian* in tallying more than 3,600 health care worker covid deaths through April 8. Journalists documented far more deaths than the limited count by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which through May tallied 1,611 deaths on case-reporting forms that were often incomplete.

The *Lost on the Frontline* project documented early calls for better respiratory protection for health care workers than loose-fitting face masks, noted serious complaints to OSHA from hospital workers that went unaddressed and revealed repeated employer failures to report dozens of worker deaths. It also found that health care employers were often remiss in notifying workers about exposure to the coronavirus on the job.

The new standard would address some of those problems.



The U.S. Department of Labor recently announced a temporary emergency standard to protect health care workers from covid-19.

The rules require workers to wear N95 or elastomeric respirators when in contact with people with either suspected or confirmed covid. They strengthen employer record-keeping requirements, saying employers must document all worker covid cases (regardless of whether they were deemed work-related) and report work-related deaths even if they occur more than 30 days after exposure.

Until now, employers were required to report a hospitalization only if it came within 24 hours of a workplace exposure. Now all work-related covid hospitalizations must be reported. The rules also mandate notification about exposure to a sick colleague, patient or customer if the worker was not wearing a respirator.

There is a lot to like about the new rule except for the timing, according to Barbara Rosen, vice president of the Health Professionals and Allied Employees union in New Jersey.

"It's a little late," she said. "If we had had this in place at the beginning, it would have saved a lot of lives and a lot of suffering that has gone on with health care workers and probably patients in hospitals because of the spread."

She said she was pleased with the requirement that workers be paid when they isolate with covid and that employers formulate a detailed covid plan with the input of non-managers.

The day after he took office, President Joe Biden issued an executive order calling on OSHA to "take swift action to reduce the risk that workers may contract COVID-19 in the workplace." The rule has been criticized for coming late — about which Labor Department officials said on a press call that such standards typically take years, not months, to formulate. It has also been derided for failing to enact requirements on employers outside of health care.

"OSHA's failure to issue a COVID-specific standard in other high-risk industries, like meat and poultry processing, corrections, homeless shelters and retail establishments is disappointing," according to a statement from David Michaels, a former OSHA administrator and professor with the George Washington University School of Public Health. "If exposure is not controlled in these workplaces, they will continue to be important drivers of infections."

The new rule also cites 67,000 worker complaints during the pandemic, with "more complaints about healthcare settings than any other industry." The rule would protect workers from retaliation for staying home when sick with covid, alerting their employer about a covid hazard or exercising their rights under the emergency rule.

Through March 7, about half of health care workers said they had received at least their first dose

of a covid vaccine, according to a KFF-Washington Post poll. About one-third of those polled said they were unsure if they would get a vaccine. The issue has been controversial, especially in Houston, where workers at one hospital staged a protest over their employer's vaccine mandate.

The new rules exempt some office-based health care workplaces where all staff members are vaccinated and measures are taken to screen people with potential illness. The rule summary estimates the measures will prevent 776 deaths and 295,000 infections.

The new rule also says it will "enable OSHA to issue more meaningful penalties for willful or egregious violations, thus facilitating better enforcement and more effective deterrence against employers who intentionally disregard ... employee safety."

Kristin Carbone said the measure came too late for her mother, Barbara Birchenough, 65, a New Jersey hospital nurse who'd asked family members to gather gardening gloves and trash bags to serve as makeshift personal protective equipment before she fell ill and later died on April 15, 2020. Still, she said, it's a necessary step.

"If there is a silver lining," she said, "I'm glad that out of this trag-



"These are the workers who continue to go into work day in and day out to take care of us, to save our lives. And we must make sure we do everything in our power to return the favor to protect them."

Jim Frederick, Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health

edy come positives for the people that are left behind."

Christina Jewett, Senior Correspondent with the Kaiser Health News enterprise team, is writing about health care workers dying of COVID-19 for the Lost on the Frontline project. Kaiser Health News is a nonprofit news service covering health issues. It is an editorially independent program of the Kaiser Family Foundation, which is not affiliated with Kaiser Permanente.

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Cover / Portada

Seeking Shelter in a Time of Great Uncertainty

By Ed Williams

Every afternoon, 23-year old Audrey sits on the couch in the one-bedroom apartment she shares with her mom and her sister, waiting for the creak of footsteps in the hall and the sound of an eviction notice being tacked to their door. More than two months ago, she and her family packed most of their belongings into boxes, which still sit in a haphazard, chin-high stack near the entryway.

"We have to be able to get our stuff into storage quick, so we can find a motel to sleep in," she said, thumbing through a three-ring binder stuffed with late rent notices, eviction warnings and court documents.

"The landlord's only going to give us three days' notice to leave. We don't really have a plan for what comes next."

Since early last year, the family, who asked to be identified by their middle names, has been living in this small unit in a brick complex near Gallup's historic Route 66. Frigid air wafts and bugs crawl through meandering cracks in the walls, doors and window sills. A steady percussive drip rings out from a leaking water line under the sink. On cold nights, unhoused people sometimes force open the building's outside doors and sleep in the stairwells and hallways.

But at \$600 a month, it is a rare find in their price range. And it is also a potentially life-saving refuge from COVID-19, which swept through Gallup and the neighboring Navajo Nation with such force last spring that the governor called in the National Guard to barricade the highway in and out of town and assist with the state's most stringent lockdown.

Over the past year, Gallup's high poverty rate and chronic shortage of safe, affordable rentals have helped fuel one of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks in the country. Even with federal and state protections intended to ease housing instability during the pandemic, many landlords in the community have continued to evict tenants who can't pay rent. Several — including Audrey's — even stepped up their eviction filings, sometimes drastically so.

Those familiar with Gallup's housing crisis are quick to point out that COVID-19 is not the cause; it was gas poured onto an already burning fire. Tenants who were hard-pressed to make rent be-

fore the pandemic have been disproportionately laid off from work. Overcrowding, a longstanding problem in Gallup's low-rent housing, has only gotten more severe as extended families take in relatives who have been evicted, accelerating the spread of the coronavirus among the area's most vulnerable.

"There was already an eviction pandemic before the COVID pandemic started," said Jean Philips, an attorney with New Mexico Legal Aid who represents low-income renters like Audrey.

Evictions have been commonplace throughout New Mexico. An analysis of data by the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty estimates that by the time the federal moratorium on evictions lifts on June 30, up to 105,000 renters could face eviction statewide. But that has a particularly painful context in Gallup and McKinley County, where 80 percent of the population is Native yet a disproportionate share of real estate, including rent-

“Almost everyone who gets served an eviction notice just leaves on their own, because they know if they show up in court without an attorney they’ll probably lose.”
Jean Philips, New Mexico Legal Aid

al units, is owned by white and Hispanic residents. "They call it the Indian capital of the world, but most of us can't manage to actually live here," said Christopher Hudson, a coordinator with the McKinley Community Health Alliance.

As the first cases of COVID-19 landed in the U.S. in early 2020, Audrey and her family watched the headlines from their temporary home in the El Capitan, one of a string of motels on Route 66 decked with neon lights and marquee advertising cheap weekly rates aimed at locals with nowhere else to stay. They had just returned to Gallup from a years-long, cross-country search for Audrey's sister, one of the thousands of Indigenous women and girls reported missing each year.

"I knew how this thing was going to play out," Audrey's mother recalled. "I knew it was going to be bad. We had to find somewhere to ride it out."



Audrey and her sister Stephanie put on makeshift face masks fashioned from water bottles. / Audrey y su hermana Stephanie se ponen máscaras improvisadas hechas con botellas de agua.

Photo/foto: Don J. Usner/Searchlight New Mexico

With the pandemic closing in around them, they scoured the classifieds and Craigslist for apartment listings. The family was on a tight budget, and Gallup is short more than 2,000 affordable rentals, compared with demand.

Making matters worse, federally subsidized housing, which must meet strict livability requirements, makes up a small fraction of affordable rentals in Gallup. Roughly one-third of renters in town survive on an income of less than \$15,000 a year, and wait lists for subsidized rentals can run up to 18 months. Attorneys and housing advocates say this lack of safe, affordable rentals has pushed people into "unprotected affordable housing" — low-cost units where tenants are subject to the whims of landlords.

In February, Audrey learned of an opening at a small complex just a stone's throw away from the historic district, a string of western-themed hotels, restaurants and tourist shops selling Navajo wares. She knew the place well. The family had rented from the same property management company years ago, in another complex across the street.

"Things were pretty bad there with gangs and drugs before," Audrey said.

But the place was decent enough now — the graffiti had been scrubbed from the walls, and utilities were included. Most importantly, it was affordable. They signed a lease as quickly as they could.

Shortly after, infection rates in Gallup and the surrounding Navajo Nation exploded, overwhelming hospitals and upending the local economy.

As the coronavirus swept through Audrey's complex, her family set out to seal off their apartment. With the sound of coughs

coming through the walls, they covered every crack with duct tape and plastic sheeting, even building a plastic-boxed portal in the entryway to block air from the hallway when the door was open. Her mother, who is in her mid-fifties and advocates for missing and murdered Indigenous women, stayed locked inside for six full weeks. When Audrey and her sister had to venture out, they would don makeshift plastic face masks fashioned from clear one-gallon water bottles, shuffle quickly through the hall, and dash out the side door.

Over the course of the outbreak, they watched as tenant after tenant moved in only to leave a short time later. "Pretty much the whole building has turned over" since they moved in last February, Audrey's sister Stephanie said, counting the families no longer there on her fingers. "Four in the last three months."

They managed to avoid catching the virus, but not the collateral damage the pandemic wrought. In March 2020, Audrey was laid off from her job as a victim advocate at the local domestic-violence shelter — a job she relied on to support her family. When rent came due the next month, she was \$200 short.

A few days later, she woke to find an eviction warning taped to the door. That same day, her landlord, a local attorney named David Jordan, filed eviction cases against two of Audrey's neighbors.

Jordan did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Court records show that since January 2020, Jordan's property-management company has been one of Gallup's most prolific filers of eviction cases, submitting 13 claims against his tenants, nearly

Buscando Refugio en Tiempos de Gran Incertidumbre

Por Ed Williams

Todas las tardes, Audrey, de 23 años, se sienta en el sofá del apartamento de una habitación que comparte con su madre y su hermana, esperando el crujido de los pasos en el pasillo y el sonido de un aviso de desahucio pegado en la puerta. Hace más de dos meses, ella y su familia empaquetaron la mayoría de sus pertenencias en cajas, que todavía están apiladas de forma desordenada y a la altura de la barbilla cerca de la entrada.

"Tenemos que ser capaces de llevar nuestras cosas al almacén rápidamente, para poder encontrar un motel en el que dormir", dijo, hojeando una carpeta de tres anillos llena de avisos de alquiler atrasado, advertencias de desahucio y documentos judiciales.

"El propietario sólo nos va a dar tres días de preaviso para que nos vayamos. Realmente no tenemos un plan para lo que viene después".

Desde principios del año pasado, la familia, que pidió ser identificada por sus segundos nombres, ha estado viviendo en esta pequeña unidad en un complejo de ladrillos cerca de la histórica Ruta 66 de Gallup. El aire gélido flota y los insectos se arrastran a través de las grietas de las paredes, las puertas y los marcos de las ventanas. Un goteo constante y percusivo suena desde una tubería de agua que gotea bajo el fregadero. En las noches frías, la gente que no está alojada abre a veces las puertas exteriores del edificio y duerme en las escaleras y los pasillos.

Pero a 600 dólares al mes, es un hallazgo raro en su rango de precios. Y también es un refugio que puede salvar vidas del COVID-19, que arrasó Gallup y la vecina Nación Navajo con tanta fuerza la pasada primavera que el gobernador llamó a la Guardia Nacional para que pusiera barricadas en la carretera de entrada y salida de la ciudad y ayudara con el cierre más estricto del estado.

En el último año, la elevada tasa de pobreza de Gallup y la escasez crónica de alquileres seguros y asequibles han contribuido a alimentar uno de los peores brotes de COVID-19 del país. Incluso con las protecciones federales y estatales destinadas a aliviar la inestabilidad de la vivienda durante la pandemia, muchos propietarios de la comunidad han seguido desalojando a los inquilinos que no pueden pagar el alquiler. Varios



Audrey camina por el callejón detrás del edificio de apartamentos, perteneciente a Jordan, donde viven ella, su hermana y su madre. / Audrey walks in the alley behind the apartment building, belonging to Jordan, where she and her sister and mother live.

-incluido el de Audrey- incluso han aumentado sus solicitudes de desahucio, a veces de forma drástica.

Quienes conocen la crisis de la vivienda en Gallup se apresuran a señalar que el COVID-19 no es la causa, sino que se trata de gas echado a un fuego ya encendido. Los inquilinos que tenían dificultades para pagar el alquiler antes de la pandemia se han quedado sin trabajo de forma desproporcionada. El hacinamiento, un problema de larga data en las viviendas de renta baja de Gallup, no ha hecho más que agravarse a medida que las familias extensas acogen a parientes que han sido desalojados, acelerando la propagación del coronavirus entre los más vulnerables de la zona.

"Ya existía una pandemia de desahucios antes de que empezara la pandemia del COVID", afirma Jean Philips, abogada de New Mexico Legal Aid que representa a inquilinos con bajos ingresos como Audrey.

Los desalojos han sido habituales en todo Nuevo México. Un análisis de datos realizado por el Centro de Derecho y Pobreza de Nuevo México estima que para cuando se levante la moratoria federal sobre los desalojos el 30 de junio, hasta 105,000 inquilinos podrían enfrentarse al desalojo en todo el estado. Pero esto tiene un contexto particularmente doloroso en Gallup y el condado de McKinley, donde el 80 por ciento de la población es nativa y, sin embargo, una parte desproporcionada de los bienes inmuebles, incluidas las unidades de alquiler, es propiedad de residentes blancos e hispanos. "La llaman la capital india del mundo, pero la mayoría de nosotros no podemos vivir aquí", dijo Christopher Hudson, coordinador de la Alianza de Salud Comunitaria de McKinley.

Cuando los primeros casos de COVID-19 llegaron a Estados Unidos a principios de 2020, Audrey y su familia vieron los titulares desde su casa temporal en El Capitán, uno de los moteles de la Ruta 66 adornados con luces de neón y marquesinas que anunciaban tarifas semanales baratas dirigidas a los lugareños que no tenían otro lugar donde alojarse. Acababan de regresar a Gallup después de buscar durante años a la hermana de Audrey, una de las miles de mujeres y niñas indígenas desaparecidas cada año.

"Sabía cómo se iba a desarrollar todo esto", recuerda la madre de Audrey. "Sabía que iba a ser malo. Teníamos que encontrar un lugar donde aguantar".

Con la pandemia cerrándose a su alrededor, buscaron en los anuncios clasificados y en Craigslist listados de apartamentos. La familia tenía un presupuesto ajustado, y en Gallup faltan más de 2.000 alquileres asequibles, en comparación con la demanda.

Para empeorar las cosas, las viviendas subvencionadas por el gobierno federal, que deben cumplir estrictos requisitos de habitabilidad, constituyen una pequeña fracción de los alquileres asequibles en Gallup. Aproximadamente un tercio de los inquilinos de la ciudad sobreviven con unos ingresos inferiores a 15,000 dólares al año, y las listas de espera para los alquileres subvencionados pueden durar hasta 18 meses. Los abogados y los defensores de la vivienda dicen que esta falta de alquileres seguros y asequibles ha empujado a la gente a "viviendas asequibles sin protección", unidades de bajo coste en las que los inquilinos están sujetos a los caprichos de los propietarios.

En febrero, Audrey se enteró de la apertura de un pequeño com-

plejo a un tiro de piedra del distrito histórico, una cadena de hoteles con temática del oeste, restaurantes y tiendas para turistas que venden productos navajos. Conocía bien el lugar. La familia había alquilado a la misma empresa de gestión inmobiliaria hace años, en otro complejo al otro lado de la calle.

“

Casi todos los que reciben una notificación de desahucio se van por su cuenta, porque saben que si se presentan en el tribunal sin un abogado probablemente perderán".

Jean Philips, New México Legal Aid.

"Antes las cosas estaban bastante mal con las bandas y las drogas", dijo Audrey.

Pero el lugar era bastante decente ahora: los grafitis se habían borrado de las paredes y los servicios estaban incluidos. Y lo que es más importante, era asequible. Firmaron un contrato de alquiler tan pronto como pudieron.

Poco después, las tasas de infección en Gallup y la Nación Navajo circundante se dispararon, desbordando los hospitales y poniendo en peligro la economía local.

Cuando el coronavirus se extendió por el complejo de Audrey, su familia se dispuso a sellar su apartamento. Con el sonido de la tos a través de las paredes, cubrieron todas las grietas con cinta adhesiva y láminas de plástico, e incluso construyeron un portal con caja de plástico en la entrada para bloquear el aire del pasillo cuando la puerta estaba abierta. Su madre, de unos cincuenta años y defensora de las mujeres indígenas desaparecidas y asesinadas, permaneció encerrada durante seis semanas. Cuando Audrey y su hermana tenían que aventurarse a salir, se ponían máscaras de plástico improvisadas hechas con botellas de agua transparentes de un galón, se arrastraban rápidamente por el pasillo y salían corriendo por la puerta lateral.

En el transcurso del brote, vieron cómo un inquilino tras otro se instalaba en el edificio para

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Farmworkers Are 'Essential But Treated as Expendable'

COLORADO

By Esther Honig and Rae Ellen Bichell

A woman with pregnancy complications needed permission from her boss to visit a doctor. Community health volunteers were turned away from delivering food and covid information to worker housing. A farmworker had a serious allergic reaction but was afraid to seek treatment.

To Nicole Civita, policy director with Colorado advocacy group Project Protect Food Systems Workers, such stories encapsulate an entrenched power dynamic that covid-19 has brought into focus: Farmworkers are "essential but



Photo/Foto: Esther Honig/Kaiser Health News

Located in the San Luis Valley, Center, Colorado, is a town of about 2,200 people, many of whom work on farms growing high-altitude crops of potatoes, lettuce and spinach. The region also has the worst health outcomes in the state, and one-third of children there, live in poverty. / Situado en el Valle de San Luis, Center, en Colorado, es un pueblo de unos 2,200 habitantes, muchos de los cuales trabajan en granjas que cultivan papas, lechugas y espinacas a gran altura. La región también tiene los peores resultados sanitarios del estado, y un tercio de los niños de la zona viven en situación de pobreza.

treated as expendable," including when it comes to accessing health care.

Her organization is one of many that supported Colorado legislation dubbed the Farmworker Bill

of Rights. Among its provisions is a requirement that the more than 3,000 Colorado farmworkers who live in employer-provided housing be able to visit, or be visited by, medical professionals and community health workers. Employers must also provide transportation to medical visits for those without vehicles. The bill passed the legislature on June 8 Tuesday and is now off to the governor.

States including Florida, Maryland, Oregon and Wisconsin have guaranteed farmworkers the right to see health care providers where they live. The pandemic spurred North Carolina to reiterate that employers cannot bar health care providers from visiting farmworkers living on their property.

Augusto Basterrechea, who does outreach to farmworkers for the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment in the San Luis Valley, an agricultural hub, said that in his eight years in the role he had never heard of a farmworker being unable to get medical care, even during the pandemic.

But former farmworker Anita Rodríguez clearly remembers a call she received at 2 a.m. in September, when the harvest was in full swing in the region bordered by snow-capped mountains and known for its high-altitude crops of potatoes, lettuce and spinach. It was from a man working on a farm. "He was freaking out."

His body was covered in large red hives and his face was swollen. He could barely open his eyes. He wanted medical attention, she said, but was worried about being caught sneaking out of his employer-provided housing, which is surrounded by tall chain-link fencing, much of it topped with razor wire. A foreman watched over the camp and allowed just three or four workers to leave each day, he told Rodríguez, who volunteers as a community outreach worker and recounted the story to lawmakers in March.

Amy Kunugi, general manager of Southern Colorado Farms, said that the razor wire is intended to deter break-ins during the off-season and that the farm has never policed employees' comings and goings. However, covid protocols had banned visitors unless approved by managers and limited the number of employees who could leave for essential trips at a given time.

"I'm just kind of gobsmacked," said Kunugi, who first learned of the story at the March legislative

hearing on the bill. She said she hasn't found any employees who are familiar with the story. "We always would transport people if they needed health care."

Linda Rossi with Fresh Harvest, the company that recruits farmworkers for Kunugi's farm, added: "There is no way this allegation has any merit, and if anyone so much as said they had the hiccups last year, we responded."



"The companies are going to do everything possible to fight. They don't care if you have problems, if you're sick or if a parent has died. They're only interested in the work."

Farmworker

Still, Rodríguez said, this man having a medical emergency on his day off felt scared enough about seeking urgent care that he hatched a plan with her: They waited until later that morning, when he was sure he could sneak out unnoticed. They met at the dollar store down the street, and Rodríguez drove him to an urgent care clinic in the next town over.

"He was afraid to get caught because he didn't want to lose his visa," she said. "That's how he supports his family."

After the man received treatment for his severe allergic reaction, she said, they drove back toward the worker housing. He slunk down in his seat and asked that Rodríguez drive by slowly, so that he could make sure the foreman's car was not outside. Then, she said, he "jumped out of my car like a bat out of hell" and sprinted back inside.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates the nation has 3.2 million farmworkers, with more than 36,700 in Colorado. Nationally, according to the Department of Labor's National Agricultural Workers Survey of 2015-16, about 15% of crop workers lived in employer-provided housing, and a little under half said they had health insurance. While about 40% of respondents said they had not used health care services in the U.S. in the previous couple of years, around 87% said they'd needed it.

See [Farmworkers](#) on page 22

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Los Trabajadores Agrícolas son 'Esenciales, Pero Son Tratados Como Prescindibles'

COLORADO

Por Esther Honig y Rae Ellen Bichell

Una mujer con complicaciones en el embarazo necesitaba el permiso de su jefe para visitar al médico. A los voluntarios de salud de la comunidad se les negó la posibilidad de entregar alimentos e información sobre covid en las viviendas de los trabajadores. Una trabajadora agrícola tuvo una reacción alérgica grave, pero tuvo miedo de buscar tratamiento.

Para Nicole Civita, directora de políticas del grupo de defensa de Colorado, Project Protect Food Systems Workers, estas historias encapsulan una arraigada dinámica de poder que covid-19 ha puesto de manifiesto: los trabajadores agrícolas son "esenciales, pero son tratados como prescindibles", incluso cuando se trata de acceder a la atención médica.

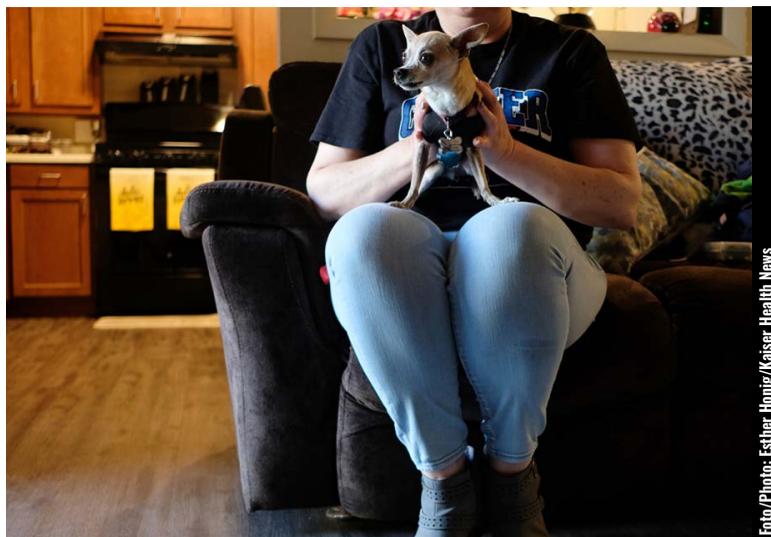
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"Las empresas van a hacer todo lo posible para oponerse. No les importa si tienes problemas, si estás enfermo o si un padre ha muerto. Sólo les interesa el trabajo".

Trabajadora Agrícola

Su organización es una de las muchas que han apoyado la legislación de Colorado denominada Carta de Derechos de los Trabajadores Agrícolas. Entre sus disposiciones se encuentra el requisito de que los más de 3,000 trabajadores agrícolas de Colorado, que viven en viviendas proporcionadas por el empleador, puedan visitar, o ser visitados, por profesionales médicos y trabajadores sanitarios de la comunidad. Los empleadores también deben proporcionar transporte a las visitas médicas, para aquellos que no tienen vehículos. El proyecto de ley fue aprobado recientemente por la asamblea legislativa y ahora está en manos del gobernador.

Estados como Florida, Maryland, Oregon y Wisconsin han garantizado a los trabajadores agrícolas el derecho a ver a proveedores de atención médica en su lugar de residencia. La pandemia ha llevado a Carolina del Norte a reiterar



Una trabajadora agrícola indocumentada, que pidió permanecer en el anonimato, dice que como vivía en una vivienda proporcionada por el empleador en una granja de papas de Colorado y supervisaba el sistema de riego de la granja, tuvo que pedir permiso para ir a cada cita con el médico cuando empezó a tener complicaciones con su embarazo. / An undocumented farmworker, who asked to remain anonymous, says that because she lived in employer-provided housing on a Colorado potato farm and monitored the farm's irrigation system she had to ask for permission to go to every doctor's appointment when she started having complications with her pregnancy.

que los empleadores no pueden prohibir a los proveedores de atención médica que visiten a los trabajadores agrícolas que viven en sus propiedades.

Augusto Basterrechea, que se encarga de la asistencia a los trabajadores agrícolas del Departamento de Trabajo y Empleo de Colorado en el Valle de San Luis, un centro agrícola, dijo que en sus ocho años de trabajo nunca había oído hablar de un trabajador agrícola que no pudiera recibir atención médica, ni siquiera durante la pandemia.

Pero la ex trabajadora agrícola Anita Rodríguez recuerda con claridad una llamada que recibió a las 2 de la madrugada en septiembre, cuando la cosecha estaba en pleno apogeo en la región bordeada por montañas nevadas y conocida por sus cultivos de papas, lechugas y espinacas a gran altitud. Era de un hombre que trabajaba en una granja. "Estaba fuera de sí".

Tenía el cuerpo cubierto de grandes ronchas rojas y la cara hinchada. Apenas podía abrir los ojos. Quería atención médica, dijo, pero le preocupaba que lo vieran saliendo a escondidas de la vivienda que le proporcionaba su empleador, que está rodeada por una cerca alta, gran parte de ella coronada con alambre de púas. Un capataz vigilaba el campamento y sólo permitía que salieran tres o cuatro trabajadores al día, según contó a Rodríguez, que trabaja como voluntaria en la comunidad y que contó la historia a los legisladores en marzo.

Amy Kunugi, directora general de Southern Colorado Farms, dijo que el alambrado tiene por objeto disuadir de los robos du-

rante la temporada baja, y que la granja nunca ha vigilado las entradas y salidas de los empleados. Sin embargo, los protocolos de covid habían prohibido las visitas a menos que fueran aprobadas por los gerentes, y habían limitado el número de empleados que podían salir para viajes esenciales en un momento dado.

"Estoy sorprendida", dijo Kunugi, que se enteró de la historia en la audiencia legislativa sobre el proyecto de ley en marzo. Dice que no ha encontrado ningún empleado que conozca la historia. "Siempre llevaríamos a la gente si necesitara atención sanitaria".

Linda Rossi, de Fresh Harvest, la empresa que recluta trabajadores agrícolas para la granja de Kunugi, añadió: "Es imposible que esta acusación sea cierta, ya que, el año pasado, si alguien llegaba a decir que tenía hipo, lo atendíamos".

Sin embargo, según Rodríguez, este hombre que tenía una urgencia médica en su día libre se sintió lo suficientemente asustado como para buscar atención urgente y urdió un plan con ella: esperaron hasta más tarde esa mañana, cuando él estaba seguro de que podría salir sin ser visto. Se encontraron en una tienda de todo por un peso cercana, y Rodríguez lo llevó a una clínica de atención urgente en el pueblo vecino.

"Tenía miedo de que lo descubrieran porque no quería perder su visado", comenta. "Así es como mantiene a su familia".

Después que el hombre recibiera el tratamiento para su grave reacción alérgica, dijo, regresaron al alojamiento de los trabajadores. El hombre se escondió en su asiento y le pidió a Rodríguez que pasara despacio, para asegurarse que el coche del capataz no estaba fuera. Entonces, dijo, "saltó de mi coche casi volando" y volvió a entrar corriendo.

El Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos estima que la nación tiene 3.2 millones de trabajadores agrícolas, con más de 36,700 en Colorado. A nivel nacional, según la Encuesta Nacional de Trabajadores Agrícolas del Departamento de Trabajo de 2015-16, alrededor del 15% de los trabajadores agrícolas vivían en una vivienda proporcionada por el empleador, y un poco menos de la mitad dijo que tenía seguro de salud. Mientras que alrededor del 40% de los trabajadores encuestados dijeron que no habían utilizado los servicios de atención médica en los Estados Unidos en los dos años anteriores, alrededor del 87% dijo que lo había necesitado.

Veá **Trabajadores**, página 24

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State News / Noticias del Estado

MSU Denver Launches Support Program for Students

COLORADO

By Eric Galatas

Metropolitan State University of Denver is taking applications for a pilot program designed to help its lowest-income students access food, housing, child care, transportation and other supports to help students stay enrolled and complete degrees.

Will Simpkins, the university's vice president for student affairs, said the HOPES program can help prevent the single biggest reason

students drop out of school: unanticipated financial obligations.

"Could be an unanticipated transportation bill, fixing a car," said Simpkins. "But it can be as little as an unanticipated \$50 bill is enough, some national research says, to get a student off track."

The pilot program will be modest, working with 70 students that qualify for public assistance, but Simpkins noted that more than half of the school's 19,000-plus students could be eligible.

Case managers will help students navigate multiple layers of

red tape to ensure that they can access and maintain benefits as they pursue their degrees. Students also will receive dedicated academic and career coaching.

Simpkins said ensuring that students' basic needs are met is essential for their success in the classroom and beyond; it's hard to focus on course material when you don't know where your next meal is coming from or where you will sleep that night.

He also pointed to research showing that people receiving

See Students on page 18



Once a student has been accepted into the Metropolitan State University of Denver HOPES Program, they will be able to remain in the program throughout their time working toward a degree. / Una vez que un estudiante ha sido aceptado en el programa MSU Denver HOPES, podrá permanecer en el programa durante todo el tiempo que esté trabajando para obtener un título.

MSU de Denver Lanza Programa de Apoyo para Estudiantes

COLORADO

Por Eric Galatas

La Universidad Estatal Metropolitana de Denver está aceptando solicitudes para un programa piloto diseñado para ayudar a los estudiantes de más bajos ingresos a acceder a alimentos, vivienda, cuidado infantil, transporte y otros apoyos para ayudarlos a

permanecer inscritos y completar sus títulos.

Will Simpkins, vicepresidente de asuntos estudiantiles de la universidad, dice que el programa HOPES puede ayudar a prevenir la principal razón por la que los estudiantes abandonan la escuela: las obligaciones financieras imprevistas.

"Podría ser una factura de transporte no anticipada, arreglar un automóvil," dice Simpkins.

"Puede ser tan poco como un billete de \$50 no anticipado, según algunas investigaciones nacionales esto es suficiente para desviar a un estudiante."

El programa piloto será modesto, trabajará con 70 estudiantes que califican para asistencia pública, pero Simpkins señala que más de la mitad de los más de 19 mil estudiantes de la escuela podrían ser elegibles.

Los administradores de casos

ayudarán a los estudiantes a navegar por múltiples niveles de burocracia para garantizar que puedan acceder y mantener los beneficios mientras obtienen sus títulos. Los estudiantes también recibirán entrenamiento de académicos y profesionales.

Simpkins dice que asegurarse de que los estudiantes se satisfacen de sus necesidades básicas, es esencial para el éxito en el aula y más allá; es difícil concentrarse

en el material del curso cuando no sabe de dónde vendrá su próxima comida o dónde dormirá esa noche.

También señala investigaciones que muestran que las personas que reciben asistencia del gobierno y obtienen un título universitario tienen menos probabilidades de necesitar asistencia pública en el futuro.

Vea Estudiantes, página 18

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No Online Option for Adams 14 Elementary Students

COLORADO

By Yesenia Robles

Costing costs and logistical problems, and after seeing the slow student progress online learners made compared with their peers, Adams 14 officials will limit remote learning next year.

Elementary students all will have to return to full-time in-person learning.

Students in middle and high school may sign up for one of 300 spots to learn remotely through Colorado Online Learning Solutions, the company running the district's online program next school year. But that learning will only be asynchronous, meaning it won't have live teacher instruction, so likely may not be right for many students, officials said.

The decision to limit online learning makes Adams 14 an outlier among Denver metro area districts, many of which plan to offer a robust virtual option with live instruction next year. The

district is taking this approach even though families opted for remote instruction this year at higher rates than in neighboring districts.

“

“I'll have to think it over, but it does concern me. My husband is older and at higher risk so I'll have to think about when everyone starts getting sick again in November what consequences that might have for us.”

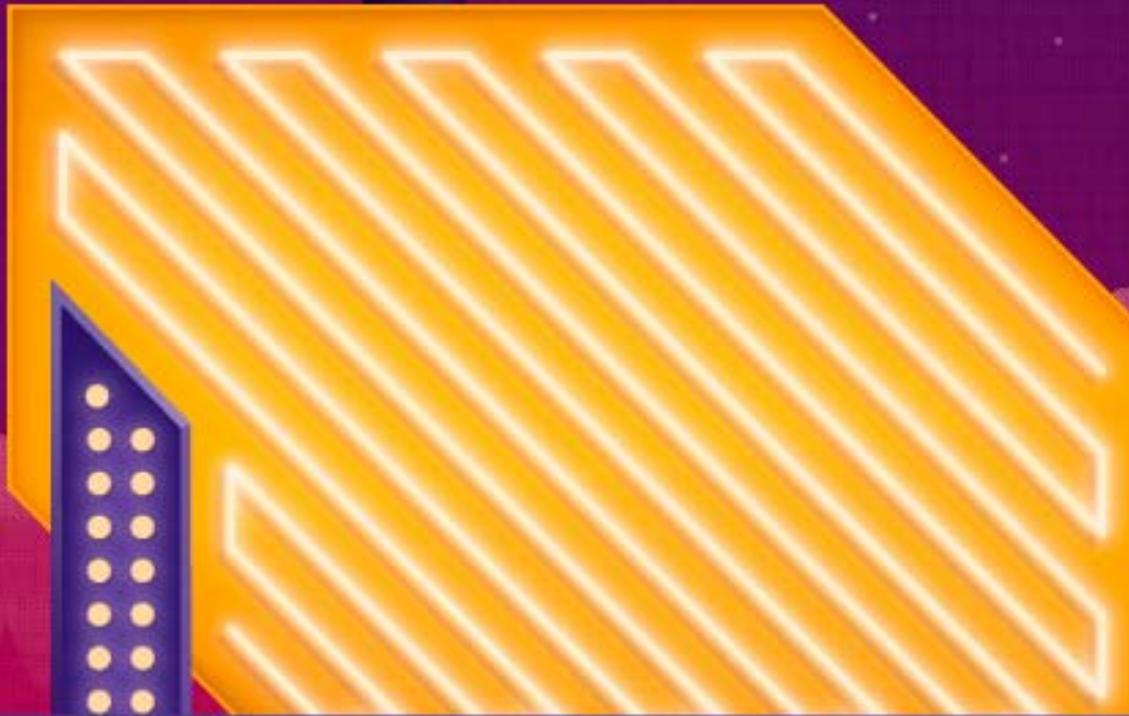
María, Rodríguez,
Parent

In Adams 14, more than half of all students initially choose to stay in remote learning when the district started offering in-person opportunities this spring. By the end of the school year, about

See Adams 14 on page 23

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State News / Noticias del Estado

Partnership Invests in Resources for Entrepreneurs and Workers

NEW MEXICO

Job Training Albuquerque (JTA), first established as a partnership between the City of Albuquerque's workforce development program and Central New Mexico Community College (CNM), is expanding its course listings this summer. The program is now offering high-demand skills training through The University of New Mexico's Anderson School of Management and WESST, a non-profit that supports entrepreneurs in New Mexico.

Launched in January 2020 and maintained during the pandemic, JTA offers free job skills courses through funding provided by the City of Albuquerque's Economic Development Department (EDD), in partnership with CNM. Since its inception, JTA has helped 72 organizations and 117 employees build high-demand workforce skills like Coding, Accounting, Project Management, Commercial Driver's License Training, and more.

"The success of JTA in its first year shows that this investment is working on both ends by helping workers learn new skills and businesses create new jobs," said Mayor Tim Keller.



Job Training Albuquerque is expanding its course listings this summer. / Job Training Albuquerque está ampliando su lista de cursos este verano.

or Tim Keller. "These new partnerships with UNM and WESST are part of our economic development strategy to push Albuquerque into the recovery."

A core objective of this plan—Increment of One—is creating jobs one, two, and three at a time by supporting business expansion and workforce development locally. By participating in JTA, employers agree to add one job to their operation within two years, thereby spurring small business growth through job creation, and building a deeper pool of workforce talent for

existing and potential companies.

Kyërstin O'Neal is a JTA participant who completed the Activate New Mexico program, a CNM Ingenuity business accelerator that helps early-stage, software-enabled startups with the goal of expanding the New Mexico tech landscape.

"Thanks to the JTA funding, I was able to take a big step forward," O'Neal said. "ActivateNM was hugely rewarding for my business, and the networking and mentorship opportunities were really powerful."

The UNM Anderson School of Management is a world-class business school with award-winning faculty, and programs that offer a wide array of degree programs for a diverse student population.

It will be offering the following Career and Professional Development (CPD) programs through JTA: Fundamentals of Human Resources; Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Exam Prep; and Mediation Certification.

"We are excited about the opportunity to serve the community and to provide professional development programs that are of value to community members and will impact the economic development of our state," said Gina Urias-Sandoval, executive director at the Anderson School of Management.

WESST is a New Mexico non-profit that has been developing and delivering small business training curriculum for over 30 years. Their mission is to help entrepreneurs start and grow businesses using the latest tools and technology to enhance their core processes. WESST is adding its Power Tools for Planning and Growing Your Business During COVID curriculum to the JTA lineup. The course helps

“These new partnerships with UNM and WESST are part of our economic development strategy to push Albuquerque into the recovery.**”**
Mayor Tim Keller

improve participants' financial business acumen and business operation.

The program will be available in Spanish, and is the first Spanish-language offering for JTA.

"There is incredible entrepreneurial talent in Albuquerque and we welcome the opportunity to provide our Power Tools Training for interested students," said Agnes Noonan, president of WESST.

"We're thrilled to announce these vital new partnerships with UNM and WESST as a part of our efforts to boost training opportunities for Albuquerque's workforce," said Synthia R. Jaramillo, Director of Economic Development. "Empowering individuals through continued

See Resources on page 18

La Asociación Invierte en Recursos para Empresarios y Trabajadores

NEW MEXICO

Job Training Albuquerque (JTA), establecido por primera vez como una asociación entre el programa de desarrollo de la fuerza laboral de la ciudad de Albuquerque y el Central New México Community College (CNM), está ampliando su lista de cursos este verano. El programa ofrece ahora capacitación en habilidades de alta demanda a través de la Escuela de Administración Anderson de la Universidad de Nuevo México y WESST, una organización sin fines de lucro que apoya a los empresarios en Nuevo México.

Lanzado en enero de 2020 y mantenido durante la pandemia, JTA ofrece cursos gratuitos de habilidades laborales a través de la financiación proporcionada por el Departamento de Desarrollo Económico de la Ciudad de Albuquerque (EDD), en asociación con CNM. Desde su creación, la JTA ha ayudado a 72 organizaciones y 117 empleados a adquirir habilidades de alta demanda de mano de obra

como codificación, contabilidad, gestión de proyectos, formación para la licencia de conducir comercial, y más.

“Estas nuevas asociaciones con la UNM y WESST son parte de nuestra estrategia de desarrollo económico para impulsar a Albuquerque en la recuperación.**”**
Alcalde Tim Keller

"El éxito de la JTA en su primer año demuestra que esta inversión está funcionando en ambos extremos, ayudando a los trabajadores a aprender nuevas habilidades y a las empresas a crear nuevos puestos de trabajo", dijo el alcalde Tim

Vea Recursos, página 25

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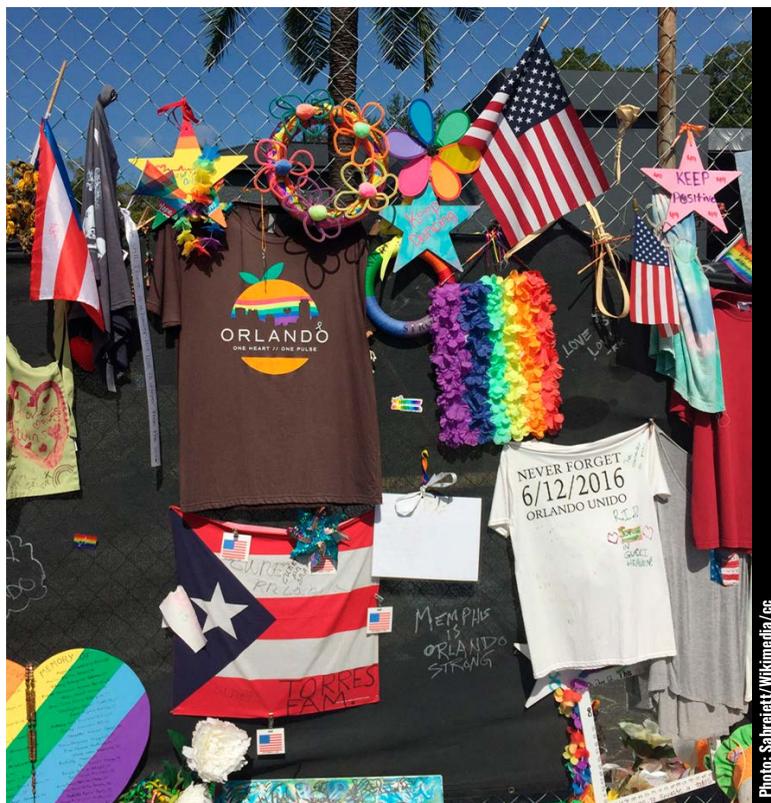
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National News/Noticias Nacionales

LGBTQ+ Activism and Action Honors Pulse Nightclub Victims

As our nation remembers the 49 lives taken in the horrific shooting at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando five years ago on June 12, Hispanic Federation is standing with their families, the survivors, and Latinx and LGBTQ+ communities against hate by calling for policy changes to prevent such massacres from happening again.

"From the Pulse massacre to the mass shooting in El Paso targeting Mexicans and immigrants, gun violence and hate crimes against historically oppressed groups, including Latino/x and LGBTQ+ communities, continues to be a major concern. In 2019, Latinos accounted for nearly half of all hate-motivated killings as the overall numbers reached an eleven-year high. At the same time, the Southern Poverty Law Center found that the number of anti-LGBTQ hate groups increased by 43 percent in 2019. Yet today, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis continues to callously push hateful anti-LGBTQ+ legislation through the state. We must unite and call out this behavior for what it is, a green light for those who wish to harm our diverse and rich commu-



Pulse Nightclub memorial in Orlando, Florida, June 2016.

nities. As we pause to remember the lives that were taken at Pulse, we must commit to working together to pass sensible gun legislation, fight legislation intended to pro-

mote intolerance and legalize discrimination, and make Florida and our nation a safer place for all," said Frankie Miranda, president and CEO of Hispanic Federation.

The FBI's annual Hate Crimes Statistics report found that hate crimes against Latinos soared 21 percent in 2018. In addition to being victims of hate crimes, according to the CDC, Latinos are twice as likely to be killed in a gun homicide as white people. Hate crimes against LGBTQ+ people are also on the rise according to the FBI. However, these crimes remain severely underreported for a host of reasons. Still, they are no less devastating.

Approximately 90 percent of those killed and injured in the Pulse tragedy were of Latinx descent and LGBTQ+, and half of them were Puerto Rican.

"As an organization with Latinx LGBTQ+ staff including at the highest levels of leadership who have spent years fighting against discrimination and advocating for the visibility and rights of both communities, we want to remember the multi-dimensional character of the victims - including the needs of the survivors and the impact of the collective trauma visited on our communities. Upon marking the five-year remembrance of this tragedy, we insist on acknowledging

the victims' intersectional identities, stories, and histories as queer folks, Latinos, immigrants, and people of color, and that many had their lives cut short by gun violence," said Laura Esquivel, vice president for federal policy and advocacy at Hispanic Federation.

In addition to ongoing advocacy for civil rights and protections from discrimination, following the Pulse tragedy, Hispanic Federation created *FuerzaFest*, an annual multidisciplinary arts festival focused on Latinx LGBTQ+ stories with the goal of inspiring recognition, visibility, and respect for the community's intersectional identities. To address those intersectionalities and provide much-needed culturally competent services to the families and survivors of those impacted by the Pulse shooting, Hispanic Federation immediately launched *Proyecto Somos Orlando* which provided multi-year, wrap-around housing, employment, and mental health services to the victims of the Pulse tragedy and their families.

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Torres/Esp

La respuesta es obvia: el mandatario estatal prepara el terreno político para elecciones venideras, con el fin de captar la atención de quienes aún piensan de ese modo, identificando al "otro", al inmigrante, como el enemigo a vencer.

Pero incluso ha sido peor la propuesta de la nuera del anterior mandatario, Lara Trump, quien durante una entrevista de televisión se atrevió a decir que es mejor que la gente que vive en la frontera se prepare y tome las armas, pues "tal

vez tenga que tomar el asunto en sus propias manos".

¿A qué "asunto" se refiere Lara Trump? Evidentemente al tema del asilo y sus consecuencias en la frontera, un fenómeno internacional mucho más complejo de lo que su limitada visión del mundo supone. Para empezar, es un derecho legítimo que no se puede suprimir a punta de balazos.

Esa y otras barbaridades por el estilo se empezarán a escuchar de nuevo, conforme avancen los

tiempos políticos y se vayan acomodando los discursos en los que la xenofobia y el racismo serán parte esencial de todas sus estrategias. Ello, a pesar de los diversos y fatales ataques perpetrados contra las minorías de color durante el gobierno más antiinmigrante que haya existido en la historia estadounidense, como la masacre en El Paso en 2019 que se cobró la vida de 23 personas; o la separación de familias en la frontera, cuyo mayor daño sufrieron miles

de niños arrancados de los brazos de sus padres para ser confinados en centros de detención para inmigrantes durante largo tiempo.

Sin embargo, una cosa también es cierta: ese absurdo anacronismo racial y antiinmigrante ya no cabe en una sociedad que trata de superar sus prejuicios y que es testigo hoy mismo de cómo el tema migratorio se puede abordar de otro modo, de una manera más humana y justa; sobre todo en un momento en que se ha aceptado el carácter esencial de la mano de obra indocumentada y cuyo futuro depende del debate legislativo en una sociedad democrática que ha reconocido su importancia social, económica, cultural y demográfica.

Lamentablemente, así como hay bocas que se han dedicado a propagar discursos incendiarios contra los inmigrantes, también hay oídos que aún prefieren escuchar el "canto de las sirenas" para adherirse como simpatizantes, sin importar lo poco informados que se encuentren.

De tal modo que la conciencia social debe poner todo de su parte para evitar que se concrete dicho resurgimiento del trumpismo, con su carga violenta y xenófoba.

Y evitar con acciones en favor de los inmigrantes que se diseminen esas ideas del expresidente entre quienes no tienen idea alguna sobre la cuestión migratoria, ni sobre por qué esos mismos antiinmigrantes se encuentran en una posición mucho más privilegiada en este mundo o por qué otros —millones de personas— sufren las consecuencias de un sistema económico internacional completamente desequilibrado. Es decir, no es un asunto de oportunidades o de méritos, sino de distribución a la que no tienen acceso precisamente esos millones de seres humanos que se han visto forzados a migrar históricamente. Tan simple como eso.

Ante la barbarie que representó el trumpismo para Estados Unidos y para el mundo, la civilidad democrática vuelve a ser el mejor antídoto. De eso, por fortuna, se encarga ya una parte de la sociedad que ha madurado y que no desea ser identificada de nuevo con la intolerancia.

David Torres es Asesor en Español de América's Voice.

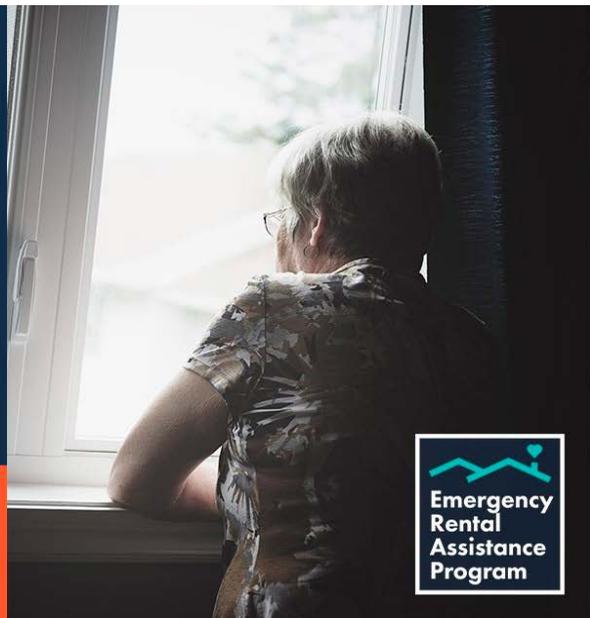
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immigrants—in clear confrontation with the central government.

The response is obvious: state leadership is laying political ground for the coming elections, with the goal of capturing the attention of those who still think this way, identifying the “other,” the immigrant, as an enemy to destroy.

But even worse is the proposal from the daughter-in-law of the former president, Lara Trump, who during a TV interview dared to say that the people who live on the border should prepare themselves to take up arms, because “maybe they’ll have to take matters into their own hands.”

What “matter” is Lara Trump referring to? Evidently the issue of asylum and its consequences at the border, an international phenomenon far more complex than what her limited vision of the world supposes. To begin with, it’s a legal right that cannot be taken at gunpoint.

This and other barbarities like it will begin to be heard again, as political times advance and continue to accommodate the utterances of those for whom xenophobia and racism are essential parts of their strategies. This despite the various and deadly attacks perpetrated against people of color during the most anti-immigrant administration in U.S. history, like the El Paso massacre in 2019, which claimed the lives of twenty-three people; or the separation of families at the border, the worst damage suffered by thousands of children ripped from their parents’ arms and confined, for a long time, in migrant detention centers.

However, one thing is also certain: this absurd racial and anti-immigrant anachronism no longer has a place in a society that is trying to overcome its prejudices and is a witness, right now, to how the immigration issue can be approached in another way, one that is more hu-

mane and just; especially not at a time when the essential nature of the undocumented immigrants’ labor has been accepted and whose future depends on the legislative debate, in a democratic society that has recognized their social, economic, cultural, and demographic importance.

Unfortunately, just as there are mouths who have dedicated themselves to spreading incendiary statements against immigrants, there are also ears that still prefer to listen to the “siren call” and show up as supporters, without caring about how uninformed they really are.

The socially conscious must do everything they can to keep said resurgence of Trumpism, with its violent and xenophobic nature, from concretizing. Do this with actions in immigrants’ favor that undermine the ideas of the former president—among those who know nothing about the immigration issue, nor why these same anti-immigrant characters find themselves in such a privileged position in this world or why others—millions of people—suffer the consequences of a completely unequal international economic system. That is, it’s not a matter of opportunities nor merit, but the distribution of exactly what these millions of human beings who historically have been forced to migrate don’t have. It’s as simple as that.

Against the barbarity that Trumpism represented for the United States and much of the world, democratic civility is once again the best antidote. Fortunately, this is being taken up by a faction of society that has matured and does not want to be identified with intolerance again.

David Torres is a Spanish-language Advisor at [América’s Voice](#).

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expulsion of all unauthorized border crossers, including asylum seekers, and denying them any opportunity to make their case for staying in the country before an immigration judge. And while the administration has held off on expelling unaccompanied minors, reports of severe overcrowding in shelters and a lack of infrastructure in place for safely welcoming children are signs that they are already struggling to implement a truly fair and humane approach.

One thing is certain: the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is prepared to hold the Biden administration to its promises. Knowing that the new administration would face enormous challenges in dismantling Trump’s brutal anti-immigrant regime, the four ACLU southwest border affiliates united with leaders in our New York and D.C. offices to organize a sustained campaign to repair the asylum process and bring greater accountability to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Regarding asylum, our early demands of the administration are these:

- Rescind Trump’s anti-asylum policies/practices, including Title 42, the Remain-in-Mexico policy, and restore a fairer, more humane approach.

- Enable people excluded by Trump’s policies a renewed opportunity to seek protection, beginning with the prompt processing of people unlawfully subject to the Remain-in-Mexico policy.

- End CBP’s role in asylum processing by ending expedited removal or at minimum returning responsibility for Credible Fear Interviews to asylum officers.

We are also asking the administration to limit harms of detention at the border by:

- Strictly limiting the duration of CBP detention to the minimum time necessary for processing, followed by the immediate release of migrants to their networks of care in the US.

- Ensuring humane conditions for anyone detained.

- Expanding alternatives to detention, allowing migrants to await their asylum hearings in the community.

It’s worth remembering that our commitment to granting asylum to people fleeing persecution and violence was born out of a shameful past – our government’s failure to shelter thousands of Jewish people fleeing state-sponsored persecution by the Nazi regime. The Biden administration is cut from a differ-

ent cloth than the Trump administration. But officials shouldn’t make the mistake of claiming their hands are tied and then later hanging their heads in shame at sending thousands of people back to violence and death.

In the coming months, we will begin engaging ACLU supporters to join us in a campaign to ensure that the Biden administration does not ignore the sweeping changes necessary to restore a fair and humane process for migrant families to seek refuge in our country. We must stop seeing our commitment to asylum as a zero-sum game requiring us to sacrifice in order to live up to our ideals. By welcoming families fleeing persecution while also investing in neighboring countries, we can strengthen our own economy while charting our common future together.

Are you ready to join? [Add your name](#) to tell the Biden Administration to hold to their promises on asylum.

Peter Simonson is the Executive Director for the American Civil Liberties Union New México.

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Adrián Rodríguez Alcantara and his partner Yasmani Osorio Reyna are Cuban asylum seekers who first arrived in the U.S. in January 2020. The couple fled Cuba — where Adrián coordinated overseas medical mission trips and Yasmani worked at a radio and television agency — in search of the right to love each other freely. They were detained in the Otay Mesa Detention Center in San Diego for three months during the beginning of the pandemic while they waited for their asylum claims to be heard. As an individual with HIV, Adrián lived in constant stress and fear that he would contract COVID-19 and not make it out of Otay Mesa alive. Adrián and Yasmani were released on April 30, 2020, after filing a [class action lawsuit](#) seeking their release and the release of others in the facility. Their courage protected not only themselves, but nearly one hundred other medically vulnerable individuals whose releases were secured through the lawsuit.

• Sithy Bin was born in a Cambodian refugee camp and arrived in the U.S. as a toddler. Following the completion of 15 years on a 40-years-to-life sentence, after which a judge determined his ex-

emplary conduct in prison had earned him a second chance, he was transferred to ICE custody at the Mesa Verde ICE Processing Facility in Bakersfield. There, he was closely confined with other men in his unit, none of whom received COVID-19 tests during his time in. Since his release he has become a program administrator at Inglewood Wrapping Arms Around the Community, a nonprofit that offers community services and re-entry programs for marginalized people. He does social media work for a church ministry and attends Pacific Oaks College where he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in human development.

• Alejandro Jeronimo Osorio, originally from México, has lived in the U.S. for nearly 30 years. He has diabetes, hypertension, and asthma, conditions that put him at heightened risk of serious illness or death from COVID-19. He was released by court order in September 2020, with the judge finding that Alejandro, who had completed extensive rehabilitation programs following misdemeanor convictions, posed neither a danger nor a flight risk, and that his continued detention during the pandemic was likely

unconstitutional. Two weeks after his release, Alejandro was granted custody of his three children, including a son who has a serious heart condition that recently required surgery. Alejandro was relieved he was able to be there to care for his son, as well as provide support for all his children.

Today, the Biden administration is faced with a choice. It can follow in the footsteps of the Trump administration and refill the now-empty jail cells. Or it can acknowledge what government studies have shown for years and what the experience of the past year has proven beyond doubt — that in the vast majority of cases, detention is not only cruel, but unnecessary to ensure immigrants' presence at civil immigration proceedings. Humane, community-based alternatives to detention are more than capable of securing their presence while preserving individual liberty and dignity, and keeping families together.

So far, however, the signs from Washington are not good. Immigration detention numbers are rising, and the Biden administration persists in defending ICE's cruelty in court. The government has yet to commit to protect people who

were released due to COVID-19 from re-detention. It is not too late, but we need to act now.

Those of us who believe in a world without unjust immigrant detention must raise our voices and [call on Department of Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas](#) to shut down ICE facilities immediately, before their cruelty wreaks havoc on yet another generation.

Jessica Karp Bansal is a Senior Staff Attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California.

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education is essential to economic recovery and will lead to improved career outcomes for our city."

JTA is a partnership between the City of Albuquerque and Central New Mexico Community College. Program funding is provided by the City of Albuquerque Economic Development Department and the program is administered by CNM Ingenuity, a workforce training arm of the college.

JTA is currently accepting applications for 2021 courses. A full listing of courses, how to apply, and more can be found at <https://job-trainingabq.org/>.

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Comunidad

no presentarse nunca. En última instancia, todos los niños y sus familias merecen una comunidad escolar en la que encuentren consuelo, confianza y se sientan cuidados y valorados por sus compañeros, maestros y administradores. Esperamos que todas las personas involucradas elijan a nuestros estudiantes primero y pongan su seguridad primero en su lista de prioridades.

Si usted o un ser querido se ha visto afectado por esta noticia y necesita apoyo emocional, puede comunicarse con The Blue Bench, una línea directa de agresión sex-

ual para obtener apoyo anónimo y confidencial las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana al 303-322-7273 (inglés) y al 303-329-0031 (español) o el Denver Children's Advocacy Center al 303-825-3850 (tanto en inglés como en español).

Padres & Jóvenes Unidos; American Friends Service Committee; Convivir Colorado; Transform Education Now; Colorado Jobs with Justice; y Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition.

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Students

government assistance who complete a college degree are much less likely to need public assistance later in life.

"In fact, there is a greater percentage of entire families moving out of generational poverty when that first generation gets that college degree," said Simpkins. "So that's what we're shooting for."

As the state's only open-access university, the goal is to expand the program to help more eligible

students enroll, stay enrolled and earn college degrees.

Simpkins said students in far-off rural areas would also be able to participate, thanks in part to robust online learning programs developed during the pandemic.

Eric Galatas is a Producer with Public News Service.

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Estudiantes

"De hecho, hay un mayor porcentaje de familias enteras que salen de la pobreza generacional cuando esa primera generación obtiene ese título universitario. Así que eso es lo que buscamos", enfatiza Simpkins.

Como la única universidad de acceso abierto del estado, el objetivo es expandir el programa para ayudar a que más estudiantes elegibles se inscriban, permanezcan inscritos y obtengan títulos universitarios.

Simpkins dice que los estudiantes de áreas rurales lejanas también podrían participar, gracias en parte a los sólidos programas de aprendizaje en línea desarrollados durante la pandemia.

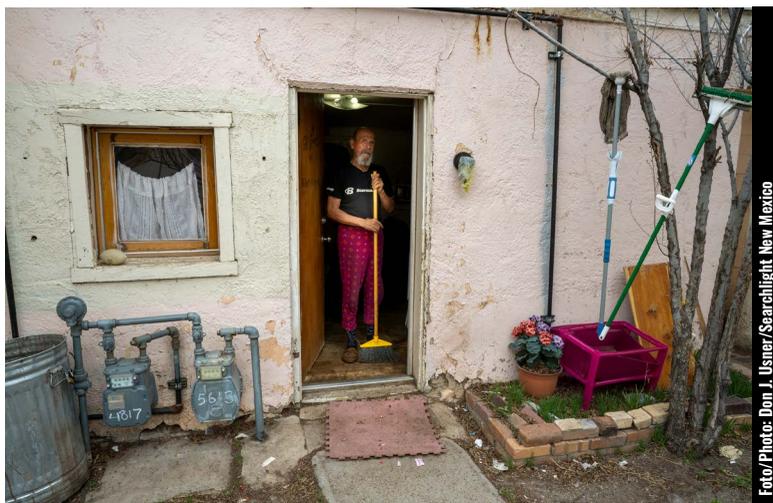
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Foto/Photo: Don J. Usner/Searchlight New Mexico

Robert Brown se encuentra en la puerta de su vivienda de alquiler en Gallup, New Mexico. / Robert Brown stands in the doorway of his rental unit in Gallup, New Mexico.

abandonarlo poco después. Desde que se mudaron el pasado mes de febrero, "prácticamente todo el edificio se ha dado la vuelta", dijo Stephanie, la hermana de Audrey, contando con los dedos las familias que ya no están allí. "Cuatro en los últimos tres meses".

Consiguieron evitar contagiarse del virus, pero no los daños colaterales que la pandemia provocó. En marzo de 2020, Audrey fue despedida de su trabajo como defensora de las víctimas en el refugio local contra la violencia doméstica, un trabajo del que dependía para mantener a su familia. Al llegar el alquiler del mes siguiente, le faltaban 200 dólares.

Unos días más tarde, se despertó y encontró un aviso de desahucio pegado en la puerta. Ese mismo día, su casero, un abogado local llamado David Jordan, presentó demandas de desahucio contra dos vecinos de Audrey.

Jordan no respondió a las múltiples solicitudes de comentarios.

Los registros judiciales muestran que desde enero de 2020, la empresa de gestión de propiedades de Jordan ha sido una de las que más ha presentado casos de desahucio en Gallup, presentando 13 demandas contra sus inquilinos, casi todas ellas por impago del alquiler. Otra empresa de administración de propiedades, Century 21 Action Realty de Gallup, presentó 17 casos desde 2020, la mayoría de ellos a principios de 2021, en medio de la devastadora segunda ola de COVID-19 de la ciudad.

Audrey y su familia describen un patrón de negligencia peligrosa en el edificio de Jordan. En noviembre de 2020, mientras los casos de COVID-19 aumentaban en Gallup, un quemador defectuoso en su estufa estalló en llamas, casi incendiando su apartamento, al que le faltaban las alarmas de humo legalmente requeridas. Jordan no sustituyó el aparato durante más de dos meses, según los expedientes judiciales. Varios meses

después, cortó la electricidad del apartamento durante dos días, dejándolos sin calefacción a temperaturas bajo cero.

Después de que se defendieran, presentó una segunda notificación de desahucio.

"Por eso necesitamos un conjunto de políticas sólidas para proteger a los inquilinos, y también para educar a la gente sobre sus derechos en materia de vivienda", dijo Christopher Hudson, de la McKinley Community Health Alliance. Su organización se ha pasado la pandemia tratando de hacer llegar los recursos a las personas con mayor riesgo de desahucio. Pero, dijo, "cuando nos enteramos, por lo general ya se han ido".

Durante la sesión legislativa de 2020, los demócratas de la Cámara de Representantes presentaron un proyecto de ley para reforzar drásticamente los derechos de los inquilinos. El proyecto de ley incluía disposiciones para proteger a los inquilinos de las represalias de los propietarios y obligar a los propietarios a renovar los contratos de arrendamiento durante las emergencias de salud pública, una importante laguna en la moratoria que, según los defensores de la vivienda, ha dado lugar a miles de desalojos de facto.

El proyecto de ley contaba con la oposición de la mayoría de los republicanos, así como de los grupos del sector inmobiliario. Nunca llegó a aprobarse.

En ausencia de legislación, la Corte Suprema de Nuevo México en marzo de 2020 proporcionó un alivio temporal para los inquilinos que se enfrentaron al desalojo debido a la pérdida de ingresos de COVID-19. Si bien esa orden ha salvado a muchos residentes del desalojo, requiere que los inquilinos demuestren sus dificultades en audiencias judiciales virtuales. Eso ha sido especialmente difícil para los residentes de Gallup, donde muchos carecen de acceso a Internet.

La autoridad local de la vivienda se ha opuesto a la ampliación de las viviendas subvencionadas como solución a largo plazo.

El presidente de la Autoridad de la Vivienda de Gallup, Richard Kontz, publica con frecuencia anuncios y columnas en el periódico local en los que implora a los inquilinos de bajos ingresos que tomen mejores decisiones. Dijo a los investigadores de salud pública que añadir más viviendas asequibles podría dañar la imagen de la ciudad al convertirla en un centro de "gente pobre" que busca alquileres de bajo coste.

"Desgraciadamente, muchos residentes de las viviendas públicas no tienen ningún deseo real de 'subir de categoría'. De hecho, muchos quieren seguir siendo pobres para poder obtener un alquiler mínimo de 50 dólares al mes", escribió Kontz en uno de los muchos anuncios publicados. "Que hayas nacido en la pobreza no significa que tengas que vivir allí el resto de tu vida. ... La elección es tuya".

Kontz no respondió a las peticiones de ser entrevistado para este reportaje.

Hoy, Audrey y su familia permanecen en su apartamento de una habitación en Gallup, con las cajas aún empaquetadas y esperando, a pesar de los dos casos de desahucio presentados contra ellos. Se quedan sólo porque pudieron presentar una contrademanda haciendo valer sus derechos en virtud de la moratoria. Desde entonces, han podido pagar el alquiler gracias en parte a sus cheques de estímulo federal.

El mes pasado, Audrey llevó a casa al bebé recién nacido de su hermana, que había pasado semanas en la UCIN tras un parto complicado. Días después, un trabajador de mantenimiento les quitó la estufa, dejando a la familia sin poder hervir agua para la leche de fórmula del bebé ni cocinar.

"No tenemos absolutamente nada", dijo tras perder la cocina por segunda vez. "Estoy un poco en shock porque las cosas siguen empeorando".

"No vamos a ir a ninguna parte", dijo su madre. "Conocemos nuestros derechos".

Su situación es inusual. La mayoría de las personas que se enfrentan a un desahucio no luchan con tanta tenacidad para mantener su vivienda, un proceso judicial desalentador y a menudo prolongado, sin garantías de éxito.

"Casi todos los que reciben una notificación de desahucio se van por su cuenta, porque saben que si se presentan en el tribunal sin

un abogado probablemente perderán", dice Jean Philips, la abogada de New México Legal Aid.

Philips dice que a menudo ve a inquilinos "autodesahuciarse" sólo para mudarse a cobertizos Tuff sin aislamiento, un tipo de cobertizo de almacenamiento que se vende por menos de 3.000 dólares en el Home Depot local. Los cobertizos, que están repartidos por terrenos tribales y privados en las afueras de Gallup, no tienen tuberías ni electricidad. Aun así, los que viven en ellos no tienen que pagar alquiler ni preocuparse por ser desalojados.

Pero la próxima vez que Audrey y su familia se queden sin dinero

para el alquiler, puede que no tengan la misma suerte. La moratoria federal que les mantuvo un techo durante la pandemia expira el 30 de junio.

Ed Williams es redactor de Searchlight New Mexico, una organización de noticias no partidista y sin fines de lucro dedicada al reportaje de investigación en Nuevo México.

Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe-The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

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A worker camp in Center, Colorado, where a community health worker says a farmworker feared retaliation for seeking medical attention for a severe allergic reaction in September. / Un campamento de trabajadores en Center, Colorado, donde un profesional sanitario de la comunidad dice que un trabajador agrícola temía represalias por buscar atención médica para una reacción alérgica grave en septiembre.

About half of crop workers in that survey were undocumented, leaving them vulnerable to abuse and intimidation by their employers. Even those with agricultural work visas can find their movements restricted: The international migrant rights organization Centro de los Derechos del Migrante found that more than a third of 100 workers surveyed in 2019 reported that their employer determined when they could leave their housing or job site.

Jenifer Rodríguez, managing attorney with the nonprofit Colorado Legal Services (no relation to Anita Rodríguez), said that, in

addition to barriers like lack of health insurance and the cost of treatment, farmworkers are vulnerable to employer retaliation. In her 14 years representing farmworkers in Colorado, she's spoken to, among others, a shepherd whose employer wouldn't give him a ride to a doctor for what turned out to be a brain tumor, and health care providers prevented from entering farm property to visit workers even when they were off the clock. "There are a lot of employers that deny them access to do that," she said.

Growers balked at the Farmworker Bill of Rights, primarily

over its requirement to provide overtime pay. "The way it was introduced, it probably would have put the majority of the industry out of business. Literally," said Marilyn Bay Drake, executive director of the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association.

Drake said members also worry that the medical access provisions could interfere with growers' ability to follow the federal Food Safety Modernization Act, which includes requirements meant to prevent visitors from introducing foodborne illness to farms.

At the state Senate hearing in March, some farmers testified they were "embarrassed" and "shaken" to hear stories of worker mistreatment. Potato farmer Harry Strohauser repeated a common refrain: "There may be a few bad apples in our group, but I don't see it. None of us have seen it. We believe that we do a good job. We believe we take care of our people."

Civita, with Project Protect, finds that argument problematic. "So often we get stuck, when we're trying to dismantle structural racism in the law, on who's a good employer and who's a bad employer," she said. "But even the

ones who stack up as good compared to others are really used to maintaining pretty significant power gaps."

Civita said those power gaps were institutionalized in the 1930s with two federal laws, the National Labor Relations Act and Fair Labor Standards Act, that promised workers a minimum wage, overtime pay and the right to organize. According to research from Loyola University Chicago, while the measures originally included all workers, a group of Southern congressmen pushed to exclude domestic workers and farmworkers — positions primarily held then by African Americans.

Nearly a century later, farmworkers in 40 states, including Colorado, still have no right to organize and no more than a handful of states guarantee them overtime pay. Only half of states, including Colorado, require employers to provide workers' compensation for job injuries. Farmworkers are also excluded from several federal safety standards — such as ladder safety and falling protections — even though they work in an industry the U.S. Labor Department considers among the most hazardous.

Rodríguez, the lawyer with Colorado Legal Services, points to an undocumented Colorado dairy worker who recently died when the tractor he was driving fell into a manure pit that reportedly had no guardrails. Rodríguez hopes the right to organize would help workers advocate for health and safety measures to prevent such tragedies. "People just aren't willing to step up and do it because, you know, fear of losing their job."

A farmworker who asked to remain anonymous because she's undocumented and fears deportation if her identity is revealed told Kaiser Health News (KHN) she had been working for a potato producer in the San Luis Valley for 10 years when she became pregnant.

"That's when everything changed," she said in Spanish. "They were annoyed."

Because she lived in employer-provided housing, she said, she had to ask for permission to go to every doctor's appointment, even when she started having complications with the pregnancy. "It wasn't fair, but we relied on our jobs because we were living in farm housing," she said.

On a winter morning, she went into labor. As her husband drove her to the hospital, he called his supervisor, who told him he was expected at work by noon. "Obviously he couldn't," she said. "I was in labor for 12 hours."

When her husband reported back the following workday, he was scolded for missing work. Within a week, they were both fired.

"We were left without work, and we were left without a home with a newborn baby," she said.

She doubts the new bill would change conditions for workers like her.

"The companies are going to do everything possible to fight," she said. "They don't care if you have problems, if you're sick or if a parent has died. They're only interested in the work."

Esther Honig, Kaiser Health News and Rae Ellen Bichell is a Colorado Correspondent for Kaiser Health News, based in Longmont, Colorado. Kaiser Health News is a nonprofit news service covering health issues. It is an editorially independent program of the Kaiser Family Foundation, which is not affiliated with Kaiser Permanente.

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El Semanario THE WEEKLY ISSUE
Our Community Our Partners

40% of students, including more than half of the district's Black students, were still learning online. Despite not having recently surveyed parent perceptions, district officials are confident families will return in the fall.

"We believe we're able to provide an environment that minimizes the risks," said Shelagh Burke, the district's chief academic affairs officer. "We firmly believe that our students are better served in person. Our youngest of learners really need to be inside the classroom."

Most Adams 14 parents who talked to Chalkbeat weren't aware of the district's plans for next year. Some want to send their children back to in-person learning, but others aren't so sure.

One mother said she thinks the worst of the pandemic is over and is ready to have her son back in person. Another mother said if other activities are opening up, schools should too.

JoLeen Deaguero, who has two high school students who have attended in person since it was offered, said she's glad students will be in person.

María Rodríguez said that she had not heard details about next year's plan even though she recently registered her children for next year, as the district kept insisting that she do it soon to help its planning.

Burke said that the district is collecting feedback informally through those school registrations, and that it has not heard any objections to plans for next year.

But when Rodríguez learned that her children would have to attend in person full time, she said she was not sure if she's comfortable with that. Her children have been participating in sports and she's seen people no longer wearing masks or social distancing, and she worries that the relaxation of guidelines wasn't created with families like hers in mind. Her younger children aren't vaccinated, and although the older family members are, she still considers at least one at high risk.

"I'll have to think it over, but it does concern me," Rodríguez said. "My husband is older and at higher risk so I'll have to think about when everyone starts getting sick again in November what consequences that might have for us."

Burke said students with a doctor's note that says they need to stay home could still get ac-

commodations, such as home-bound services, just as they did before the pandemic.

"We would look at, not the wants [of parents], but what is the medical professional saying," Burke said.

Besides her health concerns, Rodríguez said she has to balance worries that her children have not learned as much being online.

"My kids got all As, maybe one B, and I was told they didn't miss any work," Rodríguez said. "But for me there were doubts. I asked several times for explanations of how their grades were calculated."

She said she got an explanation but wasn't convinced the grading was rigorous.

District test data shows that students who stayed online all year didn't make as much progress as those learning in person. For instance, online third grade students had an average reading growth score of 27, compared with a growth score of 45 for those who went back to in-person learning. Gaps in math were similar.

Ninth grade students who stayed online, however, did make more progress than did their in-person peers. In reading, ninth graders who were online had

an average growth score of 46, compared with 43 for students learning in person.

District officials attribute that exception to additional support for ninth grade students including help from math fellows provided by the nonprofit firm Blueprint. The district is expanding its contract with the company to more grade levels next year.

Across the country, district and school leaders have had to balance the desire to get more students into the classroom where they are more likely to learn more, with the desire of some parents to continue remote learning, whether for health concerns, or because they found the model might suit them better. Colorado additionally has open enrollment, which means students can enroll in other districts or programs if their own district doesn't have something they like.

Burke said Adams 14 officials aren't worried about more families leaving the district.

Mapleton, Adams 12, 27J, and Westminster, four nearby districts that some Adams 14 families choose to attend, will offer online options for their students. Some are open for students from other districts, and some are not.

Aurora, another neighboring district, will offer three options,

including a fully online program, fully in-person, or a flex option just for the first semester of next school year. In the flex option students will connect remotely to live in-person classes part of the week and do independent remote work for the rest of the week.

The Jeffco school district also announced earlier that it was creating a one-year program for online learning, in addition to its existing virtual school which is mostly for students able to do more independent learning. In the new online program, remote teachers will provide live, virtual instruction.

Burke said Adams 14 considered several other options but ran into challenges. Its teachers and their union said that they no longer wanted to do double duty, teaching both in person and online students.

But Adams 14 said it didn't want to hire new teachers to exclusively run the online program, because even if it used COVID relief funds, it would not be able to sustain those employees in the long run. And dividing current teachers into some who taught exclusively online and others exclusively in-person could hurt class sizes and course offerings, Burke said.

Contracting with Colorado Online Learning Solutions per course and per student, the district estimates it will spend \$630,000 for the 2021-22 school year. The alternatives would cost more, officials told the school board.

Deborah Figueroa, a co-president of the Adams 14 teachers union, said teachers weren't opposed to having an online offering, and that some teachers are comfortable being in person, and others aren't.

"It's about quality instruction," Figueroa said. "When you're doing two different classes, physically and logistically, people don't understand what it takes for the implementation. Teachers do feel their hands tied."

But she said teachers believe families will want an online option next year that includes some live instruction.

"We could do it well, if we were organized," Figueroa said. "I really think the online option is going to be something they're going to need to look at again in the future."

Yesenia Robles is a Reporter with Chalkbeat Colorado.

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FINANCIAMOS LA EDUCACIÓN PREESCOLAR DE CALIDAD EN DENVER

Cerca de la mitad de los trabajadores agrícolas de esa encuesta eran indocumentados, lo que les hace vulnerables a los abusos e intimidaciones de sus empleadores. Incluso los que tienen visados de trabajo agrícola pueden ver sus movimientos restringidos: La organización internacional de derechos de los migrantes Centro de los Derechos del Migrante descubrió que más de un tercio de los 100 trabajadores encuestados en 2019 informaron que su empleador determinaba cuándo podían salir de su vivienda o lugar de trabajo.

Jenifer Rodríguez, abogada gerente de la organización sin fines de lucro Colorado Legal Services (sin relación con Anita Rodríguez), dijo que, además de las barreras como la falta de seguro médico y el costo del tratamiento, los trabajadores agrícolas son vulnerables a las represalias del empleador.

En los 14 años que lleva representando a trabajadores agrícolas en Colorado, ha hablado, entre otros, de un pastor de rebaño cuyo empleador no lo llevó al médico por lo que resultó ser un tumor cerebral, y de proveedores de atención médica a los que se les impidió entrar en la propiedad de la granja para visitar a los trabajadores, incluso cuando estaban fuera del horario de trabajo. "Hay muchos empleadores que les niegan las visitas", dijo.

Los agricultores se opusieron a la Ley de Derechos de los Trabajadores Agrícolas, principalmente por su exigencia de pagar horas extra. "La forma en que se presentó, probablemente habría

dejado a la mayoría de la industria fuera del negocio. Literalmente", dijo Marilyn Bay Drake, directora ejecutiva de la Asociación de Productores de Frutas y Verduras de Colorado.

Drake dijo que los miembros también se preocupan de que las disposiciones de acceso médico podrían interferir con la capacidad de los productores para seguir la Food Safety Modernization Act (Ley Federal de Modernización de la Seguridad Alimentaria), que incluye requisitos destinados a evitar que los visitantes introduzcan enfermedades transmitidas por alimentos en las granjas.

En la audiencia del Senado estatal celebrada en marzo, algunos agricultores declararon sentirse "avergonzados" y "conmovidos" al escuchar las historias de maltrato a los trabajadores. Harry Strohauser, quien cultiva papas, repitió un estribillo común: "Puede que haya algunas manzanas podridas en nuestro grupo, pero yo no lo veo. Ninguno de nosotros lo ha visto. Creemos que hacemos un buen trabajo. Creemos que cuidamos de nuestra gente".

Civita, del Proyecto Protect, considera que ese argumento es problemático. "A menudo nos quedamos atascados, cuando tratamos de dismantelar el racismo estructural en la ley, en quién es un buen empleador y quién es un mal empleador", dijo. "Pero incluso los que se consideran buenos en comparación con los demás están realmente acostumbrados a mantener brechas de poder bastante significativas".

Civita dijo que esas brechas de poder se institucionalizaron en la década de 1930 con dos leyes federales, la Ley Nacional de Relaciones Laborales y la Ley de Normas Laborales Justas, que prometieron a los trabajadores un salario mínimo, el pago de horas extra y el derecho a organizarse.

Según una investigación de la Universidad Loyola de Chicago, aunque las medidas incluían originalmente a todos los trabajadores, un grupo de congresistas del Sur presionó para que se excluyeran a las trabajadoras domésticas y a los trabajadores agrícolas, puestos ocupados entonces principalmente por afroamericanos.

Casi un siglo después, los trabajadores agrícolas de 40 estados, incluido Colorado, siguen sin tener derecho a organizarse y sólo un puñado de ellos les garantizan el pago de horas extras. Sólo la mitad de los estados, incluido Colorado, exigen a los empleadores que proporcionen una compensación a los trabajadores por lesiones laborales. Los trabajadores agrícolas también están excluidos de varias normas federales de seguridad -como la seguridad en las escaleras y las protecciones contra caídas- a pesar de que trabajan en un sector que el Departamento de Trabajo considera entre los más peligrosos.

Rodríguez, abogado de los Servicios Legales de Colorado, señala a un trabajador lácteo indocumentado de Colorado que murió recientemente cuando el tractor que conducía cayó en un pozo de estiércol que, al parecer, no tenía barandas. Rodríguez espera que el derecho a organizarse ayude a los trabajadores a abogar por medidas de salud y seguridad para prevenir tales tragedias. "La gente no está dispuesta a dar un paso adelante y hacerlo porque, ya sabes, tienen miedo de perder su trabajo".

Una trabajadora agrícola, que pidió permanecer en el anonimato porque es indocumentada y teme ser deportada si se revela su identidad, dijo a Kaiser Health News KHN que llevaba 10 años trabajando para un productor de papas en el Valle de San Luis cuando quedó embarazada.

"Fue entonces cuando todo cambió. Estaban enojados", dijo en español.

Como vivía en una vivienda proporcionada por el empleador, dijo que tenía que pedir permiso para ir a cada cita médica, incluso cuando empezó a tener complicaciones con el embarazo. "No era justo, pero dependíamos de nuestros trabajos porque vivíamos en una vivienda de la granja", dijo.

Una mañana de invierno, comenzó el trabajo de parto. Mientras su marido la llevaba al

hospital, llamó a su supervisor, que le dijo que la esperaba en el trabajo al mediodía. "Obviamente no pudo. Estuve 12 horas de parto", se lamentó ella.

Cuando su marido se presentó al día siguiente, lo regañaron por faltar al trabajo. Al cabo de una semana, ambos fueron despedidos. "Nos quedamos sin trabajo, y nos quedamos sin casa con un bebé recién nacido", contó.

Duda que el nuevo proyecto de ley cambie las condiciones de trabajadores como ella. "Las empresas van a hacer todo lo posible para oponerse. No les importa si tienes problemas, si estás enfermo o si un padre ha muerto. Sólo les interesa el trabajo".

Esther Honig, Kaiser Health News y Rae Ellen Bichell es una coresponsal de Kaiser Health News, en Longmont, Colorado. KHN (Kaiser Health News) es la redacción de KFF (Kaiser Family Foundation), que produce periodismo en profundidad sobre temas de salud. Junto con Análisis de Políticas y Encuestas, KHN es uno de los tres principales programas de KFF. KFF es una organización sin fines de lucro que brinda información sobre temas de salud a la nación.

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Community

Sexual assault and harassment are not and will not be tolerated by our organizations. We demand that DPS be proactive in allocating the appropriate mental health resources for all students, protect the confidential information of all the assault survivors involved, and hold all accused educators accountable by removing them from having contact with students during ongoing investigations.

While the investigations are underway, we choose to believe women, and wish them healing. We recognize the courage it takes to speak out about something so painful and respect survivors who fear for their safety and decide never to come forward. Ultimately, all children and their families deserve a school community in which they find comfort, trust, and feel cared for and valued by their peers, teachers, and admin-

istrators. We hope that all people involved will choose our students first and put their safety at the top of their priority list.

If you or someone you love has been impacted by this news, and you need emotional support, you can contact The Blue Bench, a sexual assault hotline for anonymous, confidential 24/7 support at 303-322-7273 (English) and 303-329-0031 (Spanish) or the Denver Children's Advocacy Center at (303)-825-3850 (Both English and Spanish).

Padres & Jóvenes Unidos; American Friends Service Committee; Convivir Colorado; Transform Education Now; Colorado Jobs with Justice; and Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition.

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Keller. "Estas nuevas asociaciones con la UNM y WESST son parte de nuestra estrategia de desarrollo económico para impulsar a Albuquerque en la recuperación".

Un objetivo central de este plan -Incremento de Uno- es crear puestos de trabajo uno, dos y tres a la vez, apoyando la expansión de las empresas y el desarrollo de la fuerza de trabajo a nivel local. Al participar en el JTA, los empleadores se comprometen a añadir un puesto de trabajo a sus operaciones en un plazo de dos años, estimulando así el crecimiento de las pequeñas empresas a través de la creación de puestos de trabajo, y construyendo una reserva más profunda de talento laboral para las empresas existentes y potenciales.

Kyërstin O'Neal es un participante de la JTA que completó el programa Activate New México, un acelerador de negocios de CNM Ingenuity que ayuda a las empresas emergentes de software en etapa temprana con el objetivo de expandir el panorama tecnológico de Nuevo México.

"Gracias a la financiación de la JTA, pude dar un gran paso ad-

elante", dijo O'Neal. "ActivateNM fue enormemente gratificante para mi negocio, y las oportunidades de establecer contactos y mentores fueron realmente poderosas".

La Anderson School of Management de la UNM es una escuela de negocios de categoría mundial con un profesorado galardonado y programas que ofrecen una amplia gama de titulaciones para una población estudiantil diversa.

Ofrecerá los siguientes programas de Desarrollo Profesional (CPD) a través de la JTA: Fundamentos de los Recursos Humanos; Preparación del Examen de la Sociedad para la Gestión de los Recursos Humanos (SHRM); y Certificación en Mediación.

"Estamos entusiasmados con la oportunidad de servir a la comunidad y de ofrecer programas de desarrollo profesional que sean valiosos para los miembros de la comunidad y que tengan un impacto en el desarrollo económico de nuestro estado", dijo Gina Urias-Sandoval, directora ejecutiva de la Anderson School of Management.

WESST es una organización sin ánimo de lucro de Nue-

vo México que lleva más de 30 años desarrollando e impartiendo programas de formación para pequeñas empresas. Su misión es ayudar a los empresarios a poner en marcha y hacer crecer sus negocios utilizando las últimas herramientas y tecnologías para mejorar sus procesos básicos. WESST añade su plan de estudios Power Tools for Planning and Growing Your Business During COVID a la línea de la JTA. El curso ayuda a mejorar la perspicacia financiera de los participantes y el funcionamiento del negocio.

El programa estará disponible en español, y es la primera oferta en español de la JTA.

"Hay un increíble talento empresarial en Albuquerque y agradecemos la oportunidad de ofrecer nuestra formación en herramientas de poder a los estudiantes interesados", dijo Agnes Noonan, presidenta de WESST.

"Estamos encantados de anunciar estas nuevas asociaciones vitales con UNM y WESST como parte de nuestros esfuerzos para impulsar las oportunidades de formación para la mano de obra de Albuquerque", dijo Synthia R. Jaramillo, Direc-

tora de Desarrollo Económico. "Capacitar a los individuos a través de la educación continua es esencial para la recuperación económica y conducirá a mejores resultados de carrera para nuestra ciudad".

La JTA es una asociación entre la ciudad de Albuquerque y el Central New México Community College. La financiación del programa es proporcionada por el Departamento de Desarrollo Económico de la Ciudad de Albuquerque y el programa es administrado por CNM Ingenui-

ty, una rama de formación de la fuerza de trabajo de la universidad.

La JTA está aceptando actualmente solicitudes para los cursos de 2021. La lista completa de cursos, la forma de solicitarlos y mucho más se puede encontrar en <https://jobtrainingabq.org/>.

Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe-The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

Para Más Noticias de New México: ELSEMANARIO.US

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