

22 Julio 2021

# THE WEEKLY **El Semanario**

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# Las grandes tabacaleras llevan décadas apuntando a las comunidades latinas.

Desde la década de 1970, las compañías tabacaleras han estado comercializando agresivamente productos con sabor a los latinos, ofreciendo descuentos en cigarrillos con sabor, cigarrillos y productos mentolados en los barrios predominantemente latinos para enganchar a nuevos clientes.

**Por desgracia, sus esfuerzos han sido exitosos.**

Hoy en día, el 50% de los fumadores latinos usan cigarrillos mentolados, en comparación con el 29% de los fumadores blancos. Casi 1 de cada 4 estudiantes latinos de secundaria usan productos de tabaco, con preferencia por los cigarrillos electrónicos con sabor. No podemos quedarnos de brazos cruzados mientras las compañías tabacaleras continúan beneficiándose de la salud de los jóvenes latinos de Denver.

**Es por eso por lo que estas organizaciones locales estatales apoyan la acción para poner fin a la venta de productos de tabaco con sabor en Denver:**

Tepeyac Community Health Center  
Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy & Research Organization (CLLARO)  
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)  
Denver Latino Commission  
Latina Initiative  
National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
Servicios de La Raza  
La Raza Youth Leadership Institute

**Es hora de priorizar la salud y la vida de los latinos sobre las ganancias de las grandes tabacaleras.**

Para obtener más información, visite [FlavorsHookKidsDenver.org](https://FlavorsHookKidsDenver.org)

PAGADO POR AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION



Commentary/Comentario

## DACA Ruling: Congress Must Act, Now

Frank Sharry



Photo/Foto: America's Voice

**D**ACA is hanging by a thread. The lives of young immigrants who are American in all but paperwork, are under severe legal threat. It's only a matter of time before the conservative judiciary ends executive actions such as DACA. Only Congress can enact a permanent solution.

This is a break-glass moment. Democrats have to en-

act legislation this year to create pathways to citizenship for Dreamers, TPS holders, farm workers and essential workers. Last week, Senate and House Democrats moved to include just such an immigration component in their Build Back Better plan. Now, it is up to them to get it done.

Millions of lives hang in the balance.

We should be clear who is responsible.

- Republicans have blocked immigration reform with pathways to citizenship for the past 15 years.

- After President Obama, spurred by the courageous organizing by undocumented youth, stepped up to create DACA, Republicans began a relentless campaign of opposition.

- In 2017, President Trump, encouraged by Stephen Miller and

See Sharry on page 16



Democrats, we know you support pathways to citizenship for millions, but it's not enough to simply support such measures. We need a long overdue breakthrough, a concrete result, a piece of legislation signed into law.

## DACA: El Congreso Debe Actuar Ahora

Frank Sharry

**D**ACA pende de un hilo. Las vidas de los jóvenes inmigrantes que son estadounidenses en todo el sentido de la palabra, excepto por los documentos que lo comprueben, están bajo una severa amenaza legal. Es solo cuestión de tiempo antes de que jueces conservadores pongan fin a acciones ejecutivas como la que concedió DACA. Solamente el

Congreso puede aprobar una solución permanente.

Se trata de una emergencia. Los demócratas tienen que aprobar una legislación que conceda una vía a la ciudadanía para los Dreamers, beneficiarios de TPS, trabajadores agrícolas y a trabajadores esenciales.

La semana pasada, demócratas del Senado y de la Cámara Baja incluyeron medidas hacia esos fines en su plan presupuestario denominado Agenda

para una Mejor Reconstrucción. Ahora les corresponde a ellos lograr que se apruebe este año.

Miles de vidas dependen de ello.

Pero tenemos que estar claros sobre quiénes son los responsables:

- Durante los pasados 15 años han sido los republicanos quienes han bloqueado diversas propuestas de reforma migratoria con una vía a la ciudadanía.

- Cuando el presidente Obama giró la orden ejecutiva sobre DACA, impulsado por la presión de los jóvenes indocumentados, los republicanos iniciaron una implacable campaña de oposición al programa.

- El presidente Trump puso fin al programa en 2017 y bloqueó múltiples esfuerzos legislativos bipartidistas para impulsar una reforma.

Vea Sharry/Esp, página 17



Demócratas, sabemos que ustedes apoyan una vía a la ciudadanía para millones, pero no basta con simplemente apoyar esas medidas. Necesitamos un avance largamente esperado, un resultado concreto, una pieza legislativa que se convierta en ley.

## School Leaders Must Come Forward to Help Latino Students

Amanda Fernandez and Feliza Ortiz-Licon

**B**efore the pandemic hit our Latino community, we were making slow but steady progress in closing the equity gaps that prevent Latino students from truly thriving in our education system and workforce.

For decades, courageous Latinos pushed hard to get national, state and district leaders to prioritize the education of Latino students, and it was paying off. Between 1995 and 2018, the percentage of Latinos with a high school diploma rose from 53 percent to 72 percent. And between 1976 and 2017, the Latino propor-

tion of all students enrolled in college rose from 4 to 19 percent.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has set us back several years. A viral photo of two young Latinas sitting outside a Taco Bell in California so they could access Wi-Fi to do their homework crystallized a national problem: Too many students do not have access to the tools they need to participate in distance learning.

Overcoming the digital divide is just one of the many challenges Latino students — who make up 25 percent of all schoolchildren now



Photo: Latinas for Education



Photo: Latinas for Education

and will be more than a third of that population by 2050 — are facing. In

the last year, they lost loved ones and watched family finances dwindle; some even became homeless as the pandemic ravaged Latino communities across the country.

As a result, Latino math and reading scores declined, as did Latino enrollment rates at community colleges. And thousands of English language learners grew further behind.

That's why state and school district recovery plans must equitably and appropriately address the needs of Latino students. The infusion of \$122 billion dollars in federal funds into our education system via the American Rescue Plan is historic, and rightfully so, but we

See Fernandez/Licon on page 16

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**We Speak Your Language**

This Week's Episode  
**Climate Highlights**

This week Conservation Colorado's Nico Delgado and Jenny Gaeng go over climate highlights from Colorado's legislative session and do a deep dive on transportation — Colorado's largest emitting sector.

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## We Are Counting on Congress to Address Impacts of Climate Change

Arcelia Isais-Gastelum

This past year the United States has been challenged in unforeseeable ways. We have been tested by not one, but four converging crises: the public health crisis, economic recession, racial inequalities, and the climate crisis. Our country is in a desperate need for leadership and political will, to guide us through these hard times. Luckily, different initiatives are being carried out from all corners of civil society, including communities of faiths and their spiritual leaders.

After joining New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light this past September, I realized the role re-

ligion can play in climate action. New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light fights for our environment and demonstrates the importance communities of faith play in protecting it. Having grown up Catholic in Arizona, I was committed to contributing to these efforts. As a high school student, I took an AP Environmental Science class that would change the course of my life. I found my passion, and graduated with my Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science in 2017. When the previous administration started reversing environmental protections and abandoning the Paris Agreement, I was inspired to take action. I knew from personal experience that science needed to

be made accessible to BIPOC and especially for fellow Latinos. I started organizing and advocacy work and have not looked back.

In our faith communities, we again look to our religious and spiritual leaders to unite and to lead us forward through bold economic recovery and infrastructure plans that will make a difference in our community and across the nation. We must fulfill our moral obligation to leave a habitable world for future generations. We can do this while providing immediate support to those who need it most. We must work for environmental justice and public health, and address the climate crisis. We have an opportunity to invest in the clean en-



We must fulfill our moral obligation to leave a habitable world for future generations.

ergy future while addressing the injustices of the past.

Low-wealth communities and communities of color are most vulnerable to pollution and the impacts of climate change, suffering from skewed rates of asthma and respiratory ailments as a result. To make matters even worse, these

See [Isais-Gastelum](#) on page 21

## Contamos con el Congreso para Abordar el Cambio Climático

Arcelia Isais-Gastelum

En este pasado año Estados Unidos se ha enfrentado a retos que jamás hubiéramos imaginado. Hemos tenido que afrontar no una, sino cuatro crisis convergentes: la crisis de salud pública, la recesión económica, las desigualdades raciales y la crisis climática. Nuestro país se encuentra en un vacío desesperado de un liderato y de una voluntad política que nos guíe durante estos tiempos difíciles. Afortunadamente se están llevando a cabo distintas iniciativas en todos los rincones de la sociedad civil, incluyendo las co-

munidades de fe y sus líderes espirituales.



Debemos cumplir con nuestra obligación moral para dejar un mundo habitable para las generaciones futuras.

Luego de unirme a New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light el pasado septiembre me di cuenta del papel que puede ocupar la religión en las acciones a favor del clima.

New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light lucha por nuestro medioambiente y demuestra la importancia que tienen las comunidades de fe en su protección. Crecí en la iglesia Católica en Arizona y por ello me comprometí con contribuir a estos esfuerzos. Cuando era estudiante de la escuela secundaria tomé un curso avanzado de Ciencias Ambientales que cambiaría el rumbo de mi vida. Encontré mi pasión y me gradué de un grado de licenciatura en Ciencias Ambientales en el 2017. Cuando la administración anterior comenzó a revertir protecciones ambientales y decidió abandonar el Acuerdo Climático de París, me

sentí convocada a tomar acción. Conocía de primera mano que la ciencia debía ser accesible a las personas negras, indígenas y de otras comunidades discriminadas, y particularmente a mi comunidad latina. Comencé labores de organización y de defensa del medioambiente y no he dejado de hacerlo.

En nuestras comunidades de fe nuevamente procuramos a nuestros líderes religiosos y espirituales para que nos unan y nos guíen hacia adelante a través de los planes robustos de recuperación económica y de infraestructura que harán una

Vea [Isais-Gastelum/Esp.](#), página 17

## Time for Pro-Choice Men to Break Their Silence

Oren Jacobson

My grandfather was one of the ten percent of Polish Jews to survive World War II. As a Jew, I understand in my bones the dehumanizing impact of a government controlling the most fundamental aspects of your life, and that understanding fuels my work as an advocate for reproductive freedom and justice.

Amid the ongoing, decades-long assault on abortion access in this country, with more than 500 new bills proposed across the country this year alone to further restrict, ban, and criminalize abortion, we often focus on the potential impact of these measures but not their cause. The truth is that people responsible for this grim reality are overwhelmingly anti-choice men in Congress and state legislatures, who have used their power in

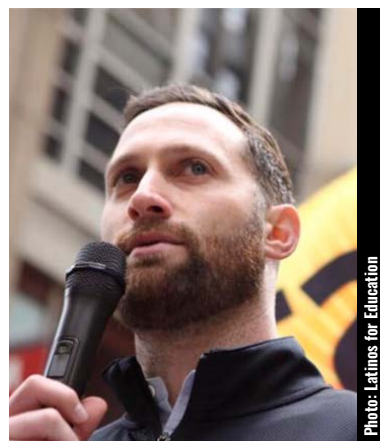


Photo: Latinos for Education

elected office to rob pregnant people of the ability to make their own reproductive decisions.

For decades, women and pregnant people have largely fought the battle to defend reproductive freedom and access to affordable abortion care on their own, while anti-choice men have worked at every step to thwart their efforts. Pro-choice men, on the other

hand, who make up the majority of men in the United States, have mostly remained silent and passive on the sidelines. With the Supreme Court preparing to take up a case that poses a direct threat to *Roe v. Wade*, which could result in at least 24 states moving to quickly to ban and likely criminalize abortion, this deafening silence must end. In order to break the cycle of misogynistic legislation, men who support abortion access must be as vocal in our support for these fundamental rights as anti-choice legislators are in their opposition to them.

Men who support reproductive freedom can start by actively and loudly calling out the BS being perpetuated by anti-choice lawmakers. For example, these lawmakers would love for you to believe that their efforts to restrict abortion is motivated by their interest in the safety of women and families. But



Men who support reproductive freedom can start by actively and loudly calling out the BS being perpetuated by anti-choice lawmakers.

the truth is that abortion restrictions do nothing to improve women's health; in fact, by denying them access to abortion, these politicians are putting people's health and wellbeing at risk. Research shows that when women are denied abortions, they are more likely to experience financial hardship, stay in abusive relationships, and have lower self-esteem—all of which can further abusive men's control over their lives.

See [Jacobson](#) on page 22

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Commentary / Comentario

## Budget Reconciliation Would Bring Hope to Undocumented

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

Reconciling is in style. In Congress, budget reconciliation is at the center of the debate, as a mechanism to advance legislation through a simple majority, rather than with the sixty votes needed to overcome a filibuster in the face of zero Republican collaboration. And, there is a real effort to attach legalization measures for undocumented immigrants to the bill that would be considered under "reconciliation," if

the inclusion of these measures is authorized.

In fact, on July 13, Senate Democrats announced a deal among themselves regarding the reconciliation bill. Although details have not been formally given, it is inferred that it could include the legalization of Dreamers, TPS beneficiaries, farm workers, and possibly other essential workers. On Twitter, [Senator Alex Padilla of California](#) announced that the Democrats took "a big step forward in making major investments in critical infrastructure for the American peo-



Photo: America's Voice



Photo: America's Voice

ple—from climate to childcare to immigration."

Although the process is fluid and nothing is confirmed, Senator Padilla's very words cause the hopes of undocumented immigrants who have waited decade after decade for migration regularization to arise.

For those who question why they would try to include legal-

ization measures in a budget proposal, there are innumerable [data points, studies, and examples](#) that prove not only the financial impact this segment of the population has, right now, through tax payments, including income and sales; buying homes, food, and clothing; opening businesses; or supporting the solvency of a Social Security program they will never get to benefit

from, unless their status is regularized.

In fact, in a recent study, the [Center for American Progress](#) finds that legalizing a group comprised of Dreamers, TPS beneficiaries, and farm workers would result in no less than a \$1.5 trillion increase in the Gross Domestic Product

See [Hastings/Torres](#) on page 17



Another reality to reconcile: that Democrats have to fulfill their campaign promises: the one about advancing immigration reform, which they repeat in every electoral cycle without any concrete result.



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## La Conciliación Presupuestaria Daría Esperanzas a los Indocumentados

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

Conciliar está de moda. En el Congreso, la conciliación presupuestaria está al centro del debate como mecanismo para poder avanzar legislación por mayoría simple y no con los 60 votos requeridos para superar bloqueos en el Senado ante la nula colaboración republicana. Y hay un esfuerzo real para agregar medidas de legalización de indocumentados al proyecto de ley que se consideraría por "conciliación", si es que se autoriza la inclusión de esas medidas.

De hecho, 13 de julio los demócratas del Senado anunciaron un acuerdo entre ellos en torno al proyecto de conciliación. Aunque no se han ofrecido detalles formalmente, se infiere que podría incluir la legalización de los Dreamers, beneficiarios del TPS, trabajadores agrícolas, y posiblemente otros trabajadores esenciales. En Twitter, el [senador Alex Padilla](#), de California, anunció que los demócratas dieron "un gran paso adelante al hacer grandes inversiones en infraestructura crucial para el pueblo estadounidense, desde el clima hasta el cuidado infantil y la inmigración". Ya era hora.



Otra realidad a conciliar: que los demócratas tienen que cumplir sus promesas de campaña, y la de impulsar la reforma migratoria se repite en cada ciclo electoral sin que nunca llegue a concretarse.

Aunque es un proceso fluido y nada está confirmado, es en dicho comentario del senador

Vea [Hastings/Torres-Esp](#), página 21

## GOP's Unrealistic View of Personal Responsibility

Robert Reich

Last Thursday, 39 million American parents began receiving a monthly child allowance (\$300 per child under 6, and \$250 per child from 6 through 17). It's the biggest helping hand to American families in more than 85 years.

They need it. Even before the pandemic, child poverty had reached post-war records. Even non-poor families were in trouble, burdened with deepening debt and missed payments. Most were living paycheck to paycheck—so if they lost a job, they and their kids could be plunged into poverty. It's

estimated that the new monthly child allowance will [cut child poverty by more than half](#).



Every single Republican in both the House and Senate voted against the measure.

But every single Republican in both the House and Senate voted against the measure.

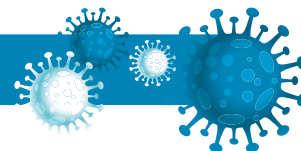
After I posted a tweet reminding people of this indisputable fact, Republican Senator Mike Lee of



Photo: Robert Reich

Utah [responded](#) on July 16, with a perfectly bizarre tweet: "If you're one of the 39 million households

See [Reich](#) on page 18



## A Postal Worker Begged for Stronger COVID-19 Protections

By Maryam Jameel

Last November, just as Minnesota was suffering through a punishing wave of COVID-19, managers at a St. Paul U.S. Postal Service distribution center allowed employees to hold a going-away party in the building.

Alejandra Hernández, a mail handler at that center, was shocked when she saw the gathering: Almost everything about it seemed to violate pandemic safety policies. More than 15 of her colleagues were together in a break room meant for six, chatting, eating and not wearing masks.

That day, she filed her second of three complaints to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. "I hoped that someone would come and make them take this seriously," Hernández recalled.

She wasn't the only one complaining about problems at the facility — another employee had filed a complaint in July, alleging that workers weren't being alerted of potential exposures and the building didn't have proper ventilation. Others filed three more complaints in September alleging that the site's sanitation practices, personal protective equipment and quarantine measures were insufficient.

The limited response to Hernández and her colleagues' appeals for help provides a window into the failures of the Postal Service, one of the country's largest employers, and OSHA, which is supposed to protect workers, in responding to the pandemic. Approximately 55,600 postal workers have tested positive for COVID-19 nationwide, and at least 197 have died.

In response to the complaints, OSHA conducted two remote inspections, done via phone calls and emails. It found "incidental deficiencies" that did not merit any fines or corrective action. Its report mentioned in passing a problem that was far from incidental for Hernández and others: Managers weren't always notifying workers about possible exposure.

According to the USPS' official count, about 200 of the St. Paul fa-



Postal workers have routinely sought help from OSHA during the pandemic, but their complaints have had little effect.

cility's 1,500 employees have fallen sick with COVID-19. But state health department records obtained by ProPublica show that the Postal Service often missed or didn't disclose cases. The state tracked clusters of cases linked to the St. Paul building, many of which do not show up in the USPS's count.

Hernández herself became one of those cases in March, when she got COVID-19 and spent six weeks in the hospital. She still struggles to keep her oxygen levels up, and her doctor has instructed her not to stand for more than 15 minutes at a time. She reported her illness to management, but no COVID-19 cases show up in daily case counts sent by management to union officials anytime near the day she got sick. The USPS did not respond to a question about the discrepancy.

That same month, one of Hernández's colleagues at the plant died from the virus. Mary Ellen Moore, 62, had worked at the St. Paul plant for 35 years. According to her family, the USPS hadn't informed her of any possible exposures at work, and she wasn't aware of any cases in the building. But according to state health department records, there was a cluster of at least 11 cases on her side of the building when she got sick. Only three cases appear in the USPS' case report to unions.

In response to detailed questions from ProPublica, the Postal Service said it put comprehensive policies and practices in place at

the start of the pandemic that help ensure the health and well-being of its employees. "We continue to follow the strategies and measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and public health departments," spokesperson David Partenheimer wrote in an email.

Postal workers have routinely sought help from OSHA during the pandemic, but their complaints have had little effect. Since February of last year, USPS employees across the country have filed more than 1,000 complaints alleging COVID-19-related hazards. Following those complaints, OSHA issued citations for four violations, all of which the Postal Service has contested. The USPS hasn't been obligated to make changes or pay penalties for any of the reported safety hazards.

Postal workers weren't alone in seeking help that never came. OSHA has often been absent during the pandemic. *The Wall Street Journal* identified more than 500 COVID-19 outbreaks in workplaces where workers had already warned OSHA of unsafe conditions.

A report earlier this year by the Department of Labor's inspector general criticized OSHA's handling of complaints during the pandemic. The watchdog specifically flagged concerns about remote inspections — the kind the government did at the St. Paul distribution center — in which problems "may

go unidentified and unabated longer, with employees being more vulnerable to hazardous risk exposure."

OSHA is still investigating possible COVID-19 safety lapses at the USPS in 20 open cases, an agency spokesperson said, and it's possible that it will identify more violations. OSHA has also updated its pandemic enforcement plan to prioritize in-person inspections. "Our goal is to investigate every complaint we receive thoroughly, and our updated enforcement approach better ensures that we are doing that," the agency said.

Hernández had access to protections and privileges that many U.S. workers don't: She's a union member, a citizen and a federal employee with access to paid sick leave, and she knows she has a legal right to a safe workplace. She and other colleagues used all the channels available to them.

But by the time she got sick, she said, she had stopped trying.

"The more I kept fighting it, the more it felt like I was just beating a brick wall," Hernández said.

In high school, Hernández was suspended for getting in the middle of fights, trying to help other kids who got picked on. "I'm not going to sit there and watch kids get beat up," she said. Now she's 35, with three kids, and she still can't sit back and not say anything.

Hernández clung to the pandemic guidelines developed by the CDC. They were the closest thing she had to instructions on how to survive a pandemic while working alongside 1,500 colleagues. She was especially afraid that she might take the illness home — her sister had just had open heart surgery, her other sister has asthma, her mother is diabetic.

On March 19, while she was still waiting to hear back from OSHA about her November and December complaints, she took her son to the doctor for an ear infection. The nurse noticed red patches on his skin that Hernández thought were an eczema flare-up, but that can actually be a symptom of COVID-19 in children. Hernández

“

The more I kept fighting it, the more it felt like I was just beating a brick wall.”

Alejandra Hernández

felt like she had a cold. The county health department called the next day — both she and her son had tested positive. She doesn't know how she contracted the virus, but said that, besides her children, no one she spent time with outside of work tested positive.

Hernández called in sick. That weekend, she started hallucinating, a symptom of her fever and lowered oxygen levels. She has no memories of the next few days, but her kids say she was trying to talk to people who weren't actually there. Soon, she was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance. She woke up in diapers, hooked up to an oxygen machine.

Though she called in to the USPS' absence reporting line the day she got her diagnosis, her case does not appear in daily case totals that district management sends to local union leaders. As ProPublica has previously detailed, the USPS hasn't consistently told workers when they've been exposed to sick colleagues, or how many cases have been reported in the buildings where they work.

Six weeks passed before Hernández was released. While she was fighting off COVID-19, her 16-year-old daughter and extended family took over caring for Hernández's 1- and 4-year-old kids. By the time her doctor cleared her for release, she could barely walk half a block without losing her breath.

On May 6, days after she came home, OSHA sent her a letter. The agency was responding to the complaint she filed five months earlier, when she reported that the USPS wasn't always following proper quarantine procedures

See [Protections](#) on page 20

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# Getting Creative to Reach Unvaccinated Latinos in Colorado

By John Daley

**H**orns blared and drums pounded a constant beat as fans of the Mexican national soccer team gathered recently at Empower Field at Mile High in Denver for a high-profile international tournament.

But the sounds were muted inside a mobile medical RV parked near the stadium, and the tone was professional. During halftime of México's game against the U.S., soccer fan Oscar Felipe Sánchez rolled up his sleeve to receive the one-dose covid-19 vaccine.

Sánchez is a house painter in Colorado Springs. After getting sick with covid a few months ago, he thought he should get the vaccine. But because of the illness, he was advised to wait a few weeks before getting the shot. Asked if he's glad he got it, Sánchez answered through a translator: "Yes! He's more trusting to go out."

Bringing the mobile vaccine program to an international soccer match was the latest effort by the state of Colorado and its local partners to meet unvaccinated residents wherever they are, rather

er than ask them to find the vaccine themselves.

Long gone are the days in early spring when vaccine appointments were snatched up the instant they became available, and health care workers worried about making sure patients were eligible under state and federal criteria for age and health status.

“I think that it is critical that we improve vaccine uptake in our most marginalized groups, including those who are undocumented and those who are Spanish-language dominant... This past year, I think we have seen stark health inequities in the Latino community.”  
Dr. Lilia Cervantes, Denver Health

Colorado, and most of the nation, has now moved into a new phase involving targeted efforts and individual interactions and us-

ing trusted community influencers to persuade the hesitant to get jabbed.

With about half of Colorado's 5.78 million people now fully immunized, the challenge cuts across all demographic groups. According to the state's vaccination dashboard, men are slightly more hesitant than women and rural residents are more hesitant than urban dwellers. Younger Coloradans have been less likely than their elders to prioritize the shots.

But perhaps no group has been harder to get vaccinated than Coloradans who identify as Hispanic. Despite Hispanics making up more than 20% of the state population, only about 10% of the state's doses have gone to Hispanic residents, according to the [state's vaccination dashboard](#).

The gap is not as wide nationally: Hispanics, or Latinos, make up 17.2% of the U.S. population, and 15.8% of people who have gotten at least one dose — and whose race/ethnicity is known — are Hispanic.

At first, the gap in Colorado seemed to be an issue of inadequate access to health care. Nearly 16% of Hispanic Coloradans are uninsured, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) report. That's more than double the rate for white Coloradans. That disparity may play a role, even though the vaccine itself is free, with no insurance requirement.

Denver has hit the [70% threshold](#) for resident vaccination, but some Latino neighborhoods are getting vaccinated at much lower rates, according to Dr. Lilia Cervantes, an associate professor in the department of medicine at Denver Health.

"There are some very high-risk neighborhoods where most of the community are first-generation or



During halftime at a México-USA match in Denver, Oscar Felipe Sánchez receives the Johnson & Johnson covid-19 vaccination inside a mobile health clinic parked outside Empower Field at Mile High. / Durante el medio tiempo en un partido México-Estados Unidos en Denver, Oscar Felipe Sánchez recibe la vacuna de Johnson & Johnson contra covid-19 dentro de una clínica de salud móvil estacionada fuera de Empower Field en Mile High.

foreign-born individuals," said Cervantes. "And that is where we're seeing the highest disparities."

According to data from Denver's health agencies, about 40% of Latinos older than 12 are vaccinated in Denver County — that's far below the roughly 75% rate for whites.

Latinos make up 29% of the Denver population but represent nearly half of cases and hospitalizations.

If the state hopes to reach broad levels of protection from the virus, Cervantes said, "I think that it is critical that we improve vaccine uptake in our most marginalized groups, including those who are undocumented and those who are Spanish-language dominant." Cervantes added she's concerned the state will keep seeing a higher covid positivity rate in those marginalized groups, who make up much of the essential workforce. "This past year, I think we have seen stark health inequities in the Latino community."

All this portends a more uneven pandemic, said Dr. Fernando Holguin, a pulmonologist and critical care doctor at the [Latino Research](#)

[& Policy Center at the Colorado School of Public Health](#).

He worries cases, hospitalizations and deaths will keep flaring up in less vaccinated communities, especially predominantly Hispanic populations in parts of Colorado or other states where overall vaccination rates are poor. "They're at risk, especially moving into the fall of seeing increasing waves of infections. I think it is really critical that people really become vaccinated," Holguin said. Even as parts of Colorado and parts of the U.S. — like the Northeast — are getting vaccinated at high rates, for the mostly unvaccinated "covid infections in certain communities still will be devastating for them," he said.

He's especially concerned about migrant farmworkers, who often have poor access to the internet and may struggle to find good information about the vaccine and avoiding the virus. "So overcoming those access, cultural, language barriers is important," he said.

When asked what the state has done to reach out to Latino Coloradans, a health department spokesperson pointed to over 1,500 "vaccine equity clinics" in 56 counties; the [Workplace Vaccination Program](#), which partners with businesses and organizations to provide vaccine clinics at worksites; and a Spanish-language Facebook page and covid website. She said the state's "Power the Comeback" campaign is available in English and Spanish and aims to reach disproportionately affected populations with [awareness ads](#), [testimonial videos](#) and [animated videos](#).

About a third of all adults in the U.S. are unvaccinated, a "shrinking pool" that skews younger and includes people more likely to

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## Estrategias Creativas para Vacunar a los Latinos en Colorado

Por John Daley

Los tambores se escuchaban sin parar mientras los fanáticos de la selección mexicana de fútbol se reunían en Empower Field, en Mile High, para un partido de fútbol internacional.

Pero dentro de una casa rodante médica móvil estacionada cerca del estadio, había silencio y el tono era profesional. Durante el medio tiempo del partido de México contra Estados Unidos, el aficionado Oscar Felipe Sánchez se arremangó para recibir la vacuna contra covid-19 de una sola dosis.

Sánchez es pintor de casas en Colorado Springs. Después de enfermarse de covid hace unos meses, pensó que debería vacunarse. Pero debido a la enfermedad, se le aconsejó que esperara unas semanas. Cuando se le preguntó si estaba contento de haberse vacunado, Sánchez respondió a través de un traductor: "¡Sí! Tiene más confianza para salir".

Llevar el programa móvil de vacunas a un partido de fútbol internacional fue uno de los esfuerzos más recientes del estado de Colorado y de sus socios locales para llegar a los residentes no vacunados donde sea que estén, en lugar de pedirles que busquen la vacuna ellos mismos.

Atrás quedaron los días a principios de la primavera cuando las citas para vacunarse desaparecían al instante en que estaban disponibles, y los trabajadores de salud estaban preocupados por asegurarse de que los pacientes fueran elegibles según los criterios estatales y federales de edad y estado de salud.

Colorado, y la mayor parte de la nación, han entrado ahora en una nueva fase que involucra esfuerzos específicos e interacciones individuales, y el uso de personas influyentes y de confianza en la comunidad para persuadir a los que todavía dudan.

Con aproximadamente la mitad de los 5,78 millones de personas de Colorado completamente inmunizadas, el desafío atraviesa todos los grupos demográficos. Según el registro de vacunación del estado, los hombres son un poco más indecisos que las mujeres y los residentes rurales lo son más que los urbanos. Los habitantes de Colorado más jóvenes han tenido menos probabilidades que sus mayores de priorizar las vacunas.

Pero quizás ningún grupo ha sido más difícil de vacunar que el de aquéllos que se identifican



Karimme Quintana, promotora de salud comunitaria, trabaja con la población latina del vecindario Westwood de Denver. También estuvo en el estadio promoviendo la vacunación. / Karimme Quintana, a community health advocate known as a promotora, works with the Latino population of Denver's Westwood neighborhood.

como hispanos. A pesar de que los hispanos representan más del 20% de la población del estado, solo alrededor del 10% de las dosis del estado han sido para estos residentes, según el registro estatal.

La brecha no es tan amplia a nivel nacional: los hispanos o latinos constituyen el 17.2% de la población de los Estados Unidos, y el 15.8% de las personas que han recibido al menos una dosis, y cuya raza/etnia se ha registrado, son hispanos.

Al principio, la brecha en Colorado parecía ser un problema de acceso inadecuado a la atención médica. Casi el 16% de los hispanos de Colorado no tienen seguro, según un informe de KFF. Eso es más del doble de la tasa de los habitantes de Colorado blancos no hispanos. Esa disparidad puede influir, a pesar de que la vacuna en sí es gratuita y no se requiere seguro.

Denver ha alcanzado el umbral del 70% para la vacunación de los residentes, pero algunos vecindarios latinos se están vacunando a tasas mucho más bajas, según la doctora Lilia Cervantes, profesora asociada en el departamento de medicina de Denver Health.

"Hay algunos vecindarios de muy alto riesgo donde la mayoría de la comunidad son personas de primera generación o nacidas en el extranjero", dijo Cervantes. "Y ahí es donde estamos viendo las mayores disparidades".

Según datos de las agencias de salud de Denver, alrededor del 40% de los latinos mayores de 12 años están vacunados en el condado de Denver, lo que está muy por debajo de la tasa de aproximadamente el 75% para los blancos no hispanos.

Los latinos constituyen el 29% de la población de Denver, pero

representan casi la mitad de los casos y hospitalizaciones.

Cervantes dijo que si el estado espera alcanzar amplios niveles de protección contra el virus, "creo que es fundamental que mejoremos la aceptación de la vacuna en nuestros grupos más marginados, incluidos los indocumentados y los que solo hablan español".



"Creo que es fundamental que mejoremos la aceptación de la vacuna en nuestros grupos más marginados, incluidos los indocumentados y los que solo hablan español. El año pasado, creo que hemos visto grandes desigualdades en salud en la comunidad latina".

Lilia Cervantes, Denver Health

Agregó que le preocupa que el estado siga viendo una tasa de casos positivos de covid más alta en esos grupos marginados, que constituyen gran parte de la fuerza laboral esencial. "El año pasado, creo que hemos visto grandes desigualdades en salud en la comunidad latina".

Todo esto presagia un escenario más desigual, dijo el doctor Fernando Holguín, neumonólogo y médico de cuidados intensivos del Latino Research & Policy Center de la Escuela de Salud Pública de Colorado.

Le preocupa que los casos, las hospitalizaciones y las muertes sigan aumentando en las comunidades menos vacunadas, especialmente en las poblaciones predominantemente hispanas en

partes de Colorado u otros estados donde las tasas generales de vacunación son bajas.

"Están en riesgo, especialmente al acercarse el otoño y al ver olas crecientes de infecciones. Creo que es realmente muy importante que la gente se vacune", dijo Holguín. Incluso cuando partes de Colorado y del país, como el noroeste, se están vacunando a tasas elevadas, para la mayoría de las personas no vacunadas, "las infecciones por covid en ciertas comunidades seguirán siendo devastadoras", dijo.

Está especialmente preocupado por los trabajadores agrícolas migrantes, que a menudo tienen un acceso deficiente a Internet y pueden tener dificultades para encontrar buena información sobre la vacuna y sobre cómo evitar el virus. "Así que es importante superar esas barreras de acceso, culturales e idiomáticas", enfatizó.

Cuando se le preguntó qué ha hecho el estado para llegar a los latinos de Colorado, un vocero del departamento de salud señaló más de 1,500 "clínicas de equidad de vacunas" en 56 condados; el programa de vacunación en el lugar de trabajo, que se asocia con empresas y organizaciones; y una página de Facebook y un sitio web de covid en español.

Dijo que la campaña estatal "Power the Comeback" está disponible en inglés y español, y tiene como meta llegar a las poblaciones afectadas de manera desproporcionada con anuncios de concientización, videos testimoniales y animaciones.

Aproximadamente un tercio de todos los adultos en los Estados Unidos no están vacunados, un "grupo cada vez menor" que se inclina hacia los más jóvenes e incluye personas más propensas a identificarse como republicanos o de tendencia republicana, según un informe del monitor de vacunación de KFF.

También tienden a ser más pobres, menos educados y más propensos a no tener seguro. El informe de KFF encontró que el 19% de los adultos no vacunados son hispanos; de ese grupo, el 20% dijo que "esperarán y verán" para vacunarse, y el 11% dijo que "definitivamente no" recibirían la vacuna.

Tanto Cervantes como Holguín dan crédito a los grupos locales, estatales y comunitarios por buscar agresivamente aumentar las tasas de vacunación entre los

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State News / Noticias del Estado

# Community is Monitoring Suncor Refinery's Air Pollution

COLORADO

This past weekend, hundreds of community members and dozens of organizations gathered near the Suncor refinery in Fairfax Park to kick off and learn how to participate in community air monitoring of pollution from the Suncor refinery, how to call for denial of Suncor's Title V pollution permit, and to learn more about the community's vision for healing and a just transition.

"Justice is not charity - after nearly a century of environmental injustices, impacted frontline communities finally have a voice," said one of the event planners, community organizer Luz "Lucy" Molina. "This is only the beginning."

The Suncor oil refinery—in Commerce City, Colorado—is a primary contributor to the 80216 zip code being the most polluted in the U.S. The residents of this working class, primarily community of color suffer health impacts from the frequent pollution violations from the refinery.

"The Air Pollution Control Division must reject Suncor's Title V permit to pollute," said local resident Shaina Oliver, with Moms



Hundreds gathered near the Suncor refinery in Fairfax Park, to learn how to participate in community air monitoring of pollution from the Commerce City refinery. / Cientos de personas se reunieron cerca de la refinería Suncor, en Fairfax Park, para aprender a participar en la vigilancia comunitaria de la contaminación del aire procedente de la refinería de Commerce City.

Clean Air Force and Eco-Madres. "Communities have been burdened enough with cancer, heart disease, asthma, nosebleeds, migraines, birth defects and who knows what else. Kids of this community deserve a safe environment free from emissions that cause cancer and exacerbate climate change. Like with what we're seeing in the heat waves, 120 degree weather and droughts. We must change our way of living."

Community members celebrat-

ed the kickoff of Cultivando's community-led environmental justice project that will include the continuous monitoring of Suncor's air pollution and an evaluation of the health risks to the community. The community and allied groups are working together toward a safer, healthier, and more just environment.

"For the first time, community members will know what is coming out of the refinery at all times and as it is happening," said Olga

González, Cultivando Executive Director. "The Cultivando *promotoras*, both from Commerce City and Globeville, Elyria and Swansea, will help to get the information to the public. A bilingual website that reports the data in real time will be available to everyone. You won't have to wait for an alert from Suncor to protect your children."

The EcoFiesta included speakers from local organizations leading environmental justice efforts, free food, kids' activities, live music by Brothers of Brass, dance performances by a local Baile Folklorico group and Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Company and educational tables by environmental and community nonprofit organizations. Community members signed up to get involved in Cultivando's air monitoring program and other efforts to protect the community's health and shared their vision for a transition beyond Suncor to a safe, healthy, just environment.

"Impacted communities must be at the forefront of identifying solutions to the problems that they face and that have been created by Suncor and systems that grant permits without consideration for our health," added González. "It is



"For the first time, community members will know what is coming out of the refinery at all times and as it is happening."

Olga González, Cultivando

time to let the community have an opportunity to solve this issue! Equity also requires real investments of funding and resources in our community. Suncor claims they want to be a good neighbor - well here is their opportunity to make good on that intention."

The event was sponsored by 350 Colorado, Be the Change, Black Parents United Foundation, Clean Energy Action, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, Colorado Coalition for a Livable Climate (comprised of over 33 nonprofit groups), Colorado Latino Forum, Cultivando, Desmog Denver, EcoMadres, Friends of the Earth US, The Green House Connection Center & Gallery, GreenLatinos, Moms Clean Air Force Colorado Chapter, North Range Concerned Citizens, Sierra Club, Spirit of the Sun, Sustainable Resilient Longmont, The Green House, Waste No More and Wild Earth Guardians.

For more information, visit [www.cultivando.org](http://www.cultivando.org).

For More Colorado News: [ELSEMANARIO.US](http://ELSEMANARIO.US)

Please contact COLOR about upcoming community forums on the "Know Your Rights" training for immigrant families and the "What's At Stake?" information sessions regarding your health care coverage.

Contacta las oficinas de COLOR para obtener información de los próximos foros comunitarios sobre inmigración y el taller Conozca Sus Derechos. En los foros puedes saber más sobre como puede verse afectada tu cobertura médica mediante el taller ¿Qué está en juego?



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## La Comunidad Vigila la Contaminación Atmosférica de la Refinería Suncor

### COLORADO

Este fin de semana pasado, cientos de miembros de la comunidad y docenas de organizaciones se reunieron cerca de la refinería Suncor en Fairfax Park para iniciar y aprender cómo participar en el monitoreo comunitario de la contaminación del aire de la refinería Suncor, cómo pedir la denegación del permiso de contaminación del Título V de Suncor, y para aprender más sobre la visión de la comunidad para la curación y una transición justa.

"La justicia no es caridad: después de casi un siglo de injusticias medioambientales, las comunidades de primera línea afectadas tienen por fin voz", dijo una de las organizadoras del evento, la organizadora comunitaria Luz "Lucy" Molina. "Esto es sólo el principio".

La refinería de petróleo Suncor -en Commerce City, Colorado- es una de las principales responsables de que el código postal 80216 sea el más contaminado de EE.UU. Los residentes de esta comunidad de clase trabajadora, principalmente de color, sufren los efectos sobre la salud de las frecuentes infracciones por contaminación de la refinería.

"La División de Control de la Contaminación Atmosférica debe rechazar el permiso del Título V de Suncor para contaminar", dijo



La comunidad y los grupos aliados están trabajando juntos para conseguir un entorno más seguro, más sano y más justo. / Community and allied groups are working together toward a safer, healthier, and more just environment

la residente local Shaina Oliver, de Moms Clean Air Force y EcoMadres. "Las comunidades ya se han visto suficientemente agobiadas por el cáncer, las enfermedades cardíacas, el asma, las hemorragias nasales, las migrañas, los defectos de nacimiento y quién sabe qué más. Los niños de esta comunidad merecen un entorno seguro y libre de emisiones que causan cáncer y agravan el cambio climático. Como con lo que estamos viendo en las olas de calor, los 120 grados y las sequías. Debemos cambiar nuestro modo de vida".

Los miembros de la comunidad celebraron el inicio del proyecto de justicia medioambiental de Cultivando, que incluirá el seguimiento

continuo de la contaminación atmosférica de Suncor y una evaluación de los riesgos para la salud de la comunidad. La comunidad y los grupos aliados están trabajando juntos para conseguir un entorno más seguro, más sano y más justo.

"Por primera vez, los miembros de la comunidad sabrán lo que sale de la refinería en todo momento y en el momento en que se produce", dijo Olga González, Directora Ejecutiva de Cultivando. "Las promotoras de Cultivando, tanto de Commerce City como de Globeville, Elyria y Swansea, ayudarán a hacer llegar la información al público. Un sitio web bilingüe que informa de los datos en tiempo real estará a disposición de todos. No tendrán

que esperar a una alerta de Suncor para proteger a sus hijos".

La EcoFiesta incluyó oradores de organizaciones locales que lideran esfuerzos de justicia ambiental, comida gratis, actividades para niños, música en vivo de Brothers of Brass, presentaciones de baile de un grupo local de Baile Folclórico y de la Compañía de Danza Cleo Parker Robinson y mesas educativas de organizaciones ambientales y comunitarias sin fines de lucro. Los miembros de la comunidad se inscribieron para participar en el programa de control del aire de Cultivando y en otros esfuerzos para proteger la salud de la comunidad y compartieron su visión de una transición más allá de Suncor hacia un entorno seguro, saludable y justo.

"Las comunidades afectadas deben estar al frente de la identificación de soluciones a los problemas que enfrentan y que han sido creados por Suncor y los sistemas que otorgan permisos sin tener en cuenta nuestra salud", agregó González. "¡Es hora de que la comunidad tenga la oportunidad de resolver este problema! La equidad también requiere inversiones reales de fondos y recursos en nuestra comunidad. Suncor afirma que quiere ser un buen vecino; pues bien, aquí tienen la oportunidad de cumplir esa intención".

El acto fue patrocinado por 350 Colorado, Be the Change, Black

“

"Por primera vez, los miembros de la comunidad sabrán lo que sale de la refinería, en todo momento y en el momento en que se produce".

Olga González,  
Cultivando

Parents United Foundation, Clean Energy Action, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, Colorado Coalition for a Livable Climate (compuesta por más de 33 grupos sin ánimo de lucro), Colorado Latino Forum, Cultivando, Desmog Denver, EcoMadres, Friends of the Earth US, The Green House Connection Center & Gallery, GreenLatinos, Moms Clean Air Force Colorado Chapter, North Range Concerned Citizens, Sierra Club, Spirit of the Sun, Sustainable Resilient Longmont, The Green House, Waste No More y Wild Earth Guardians.

Para más información, visite [www.cultivando.org](http://www.cultivando.org).

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

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State News / Noticias del Estado

# Dreamers and Their Families are a Vital Part of Our Community

COLORADO

Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) continues to support DACA-mented Coloradans. DACA recipients and DACA eligible young people are here to stay and RMIAN stands in solidarity with the community after Judge Hanen's devastating ruling last week halting initial DACA applications.

Long before and well beyond the inception of DACA in 2012, DACA eligible young people, DACA recipients and their families have been and will be part of Colorado's fabric. By their side, for nearly the past decade, RMIAN assisted Coloradans in applying for DACA. We bore witness to our clients' new possibilities and successes. When Trump attempted to end DACA, we



Dreamers and their families are a vital part of our community and deserve to live in peace with hope for the future. / Los soñadores y sus familias son una parte vital de nuestra comunidad y merecen vivir en paz con esperanza para el futuro.

modeled our clients' endurance. We rejoiced with them when DACA was fully reinstated. Since then, RMIAN has maintained our commitment to supporting Dreamers

to file for DACA for the first time or renew their existing status.

Judge Hanen's decision is both morally reprehensible and wrong on the law. We have been, and

we continue to be, adamantly opposed to any termination or reduction of the program.

"DACA is an essential part of U.S. immigration law. It is based on long-standing principles of humane discretion in enforcement, and it is well within the President's authority to make sure that immigration laws are administered even-handedly. And DACA recipients have, for nine years, made tremendous contributions to this country. It's imperative that the Biden administration take all steps to preserve and strengthen DACA, and even more importantly, that Congress act to give DACA recipients a clear path to lawful permanent residence and citizenship," says RMIAN Board Member and UCLA Law Professor Hiroshi Motomura.



"It's imperative that the Biden administration take all steps to preserve and strengthen DACA, and even more importantly, that Congress act to give DACA recipients a clear path to lawful permanent residence and citizenship."

Hiroshi Motomura, RMIAN Board Member

RMIAN is dedicated to providing accurate and timely legal information to those impacted. Judge Hanen's ruling affects those who have not yet filed for DACA. While

See Dreamers on page 18

# Los Soñadores y sus Familias son una Parte Vital de Nuestra Comunidad

COLORADO

Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) sigue apoyando a la comunidad de personas con DACA en Colorado. Los beneficia-

rios de DACA y los jóvenes elegibles de DACA están aquí para quedarse y RMIAN se solidariza con la comunidad después del devastador fallo del juez Hanen que detuvo las solicitudes iniciales de DACA.

Mucho antes y mucho más allá del inicio de DACA en 2012, los jóvenes elegibles para DACA, los beneficiarios de DACA y sus familias han sido y serán parte del tejido de Colorado. A su lado, durante casi la última década, RMIAN

ayudó a los habitantes de Colorado a solicitar DACA. Fuimos testigos de las nuevas posibilidades y éxitos de nuestros clientes. Cuando Trump intentó poner fin a DACA, modelamos la fuerza y resistencia de nuestros clientes. Gozamos con ellos cuando DACA fue completamente restablecido. Desde entonces, RMIAN ha mantenido nuestro compromiso de apoyar a los Dreamers a solicitar DACA por primera vez o renovar su estatus existente.

La decisión del juez Hanen no solo es moralmente condenable sino, también, incorrecto desde el punto de vista de la ley. Nos hemos opuesto, y seguimos oponiéndonos firmemente, a cualquier terminación o reducción del programa.

"DACA es una parte esencial de la ley de inmigración de los Estados Unidos. Se basa en principios duraderos de discreción humana en la aplicación, y está dentro de la autoridad del Presidente asegurarse que las leyes de inmigración se administren de manera imparcial. Y los beneficiarios de DACA, durante nueve años, han hecho enormes contribuciones a este país. Es imperativo que la administración de Biden tome todas las medidas para preservar y fortalecer DACA, y aún más importante, que el Congreso actúe para dar a los beneficiarios de DACA un camino claro hacia la residencia permanente legal y la ciudadanía", dice Hiroshi Motomura, miembro de la junta directiva de RMIAN y profesor de derecho de UCLA.



"Es imperativo que la administración de Biden tome todas las medidas para preservar y fortalecer DACA, y aún más importante, que el Congreso actúe para dar a los beneficiarios de DACA un camino claro hacia la residencia permanente legal y la ciudadanía."

Hiroshi Motomura, Miembro de la Junta Directiva de RMIAN

RMIAN se dedica a proporcionar información legal precisa y oportuna a los afectados. El fallo del juez Hanen afecta a aquellos que aún no han presentado una solicitud de DACA. Aunque el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional ya no puede aprobar las solicitudes iniciales de DACA, el Servicio de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de los Estados Unidos ("USCIS") todavía está aceptando solicitudes presentadas después de la decisión del juez Hanen. Estas aplicaciones se pondrán "en espera". Dependiendo de los hechos particulares del caso de una persona, una solicitud de DACA "en espera" puede ser beneficiosa o riesgosa.

La decisión del juez Hanen actualmente no afecta la capacidad de los beneficiarios de DACA para renovar su estatus de DACA. Los

Vea Soñadores, página 16



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State News / Noticias del Estado

Face Coverings Still Required on RTD



Photo/Foto: RTD

The Regional Transportation District (RTD) wants to remind the public that masks remain required on public transit through Sept. 13, per federal mandate. / El Distrito de Transporte Regional (RTD) quiere recordar al público que las máscaras siguen siendo necesarias en el transporte público hasta el 13 de septiembre, por mandato federal.

COLORADO

While most businesses in the Denver metro area and Colorado have lifted the mask mandate, the Regional Transportation District (RTD) wants to remind the public that masks remain required on public transit through Sept. 13, per federal mandate.

RTD requires its customers and operators to wear masks while riding on the agency's system and in its facilities. This has been the case since the state mask order was issued in spring 2020, near the start of the COVID-19 global pandemic. Since then, RTD has asked its

customers to be partners in safety since staying safe is everyone's responsibility. On June 10, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that it will be amending its Face Masks Order to not require people to wear a mask in outdoor areas of conveyances or while outdoors at transportation hubs.

"Safety is RTD's core value and that's why we remain focused on employee and customer safety and continue to adhere to the Transportation Security Administration mandate," said RTD Chief Safety Officer Mike Mead-

See RTD on page 18

Sigue Siendo Obligatorio el Uso de Mascarillas en RTD

COLORADO

Mientras que la mayoría de las empresas en el área metropolitana de Denver y Colorado han levantado el mandato de la máscara, el Distrito Regional de Transporte (RTD) quiere recordar al público que las máscaras siguen siendo necesarias en el transporte público hasta el 13 de septiembre, por mandato federal.

RTD exige a sus clientes y operadores que lleven máscaras mientras viajan en el sistema de la agencia y en sus instalaciones. Este ha sido el caso desde que se emitió la orden estatal

de máscaras en la primavera de 2020, cerca del comienzo de la pandemia mundial de COVID-19. Desde entonces, RTD ha pedido a sus clientes que sean socios en la seguridad, ya que mantenerse a salvo es responsabilidad de todos. El 10 de junio, los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) anunciaron que modificarán su orden de mascarillas para no exigir a las personas que lleven una mascarilla en las zonas exteriores de los medios de transporte o mientras estén al aire libre en los centros de transporte.

Vea RTD/Esp, página 20

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State News / Noticias del Estado

## NM Announces Back-To-School Pharmacy Partnership

NEW MEXICO

The New México Department of Health and Public Education Department recently announced a partnership with local pharmacies to provide back-to-school COVID-19 vaccinations for students 12 years and older.

Participating pharmacies have committed to giving free COVID vaccines without appointments through Aug. 15.

"New México schools are eager to welcome students back for a safe, healthy new school year. To that end, it's critical that children get all their required and recommended immunizations well ahead of time, and that includes the COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 12 and up,"



Photo/Foto: Adaha Stock

A new partnership will provide back-to-school COVID-19 vaccinations for students 12 years and older. / Una nueva asociación proporcionará las vacunas COVID-19 de vuelta al colegio para los estudiantes de 12 años o más.

Public Education Secretary Ryan Stewart said. "We are so grateful to New México pharmacies for making this as easy as possible for parents and families with

convenient walk-in hours for COVID shots."

"New México has led the nation in adult vaccinations, and now we encourage parents to get their

children vaccinated as quickly as possible," said DOH Cabinet Secretary Dr. Tracie Collins. "Every New Mexican who gets vaccinated is taking a step to protect themselves and their loved ones — and helping prevent the virus from doing further damage."

Depending on the pharmacy, the walk-in hours vary: 2-7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, or 2-5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday 9 a.m.-noon.

Here is a [list](#) of participating pharmacies around the state and their walk-in hours.

Please note: CVS and Walgreens will service walk-in patients anytime their pharmacies are open. We would also like to encourage parents to have their child's confirmation code from the DOH portal –

“Every New Mexican who gets vaccinated is taking a step to protect themselves and their loved ones — and helping prevent the virus from doing further damage.”  
Dr. Tracie Collins, New México Department of Health

[vaccineNM.org](https://vaccineNM.org) – ready when they arrive at a pharmacy.

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit [cv.nmhealth.org](https://cv.nmhealth.org).

For More New México News: [ELSEMANARIO.US](https://ELSEMANARIO.US)

## NM Anuncia una Asociación para la Vuelta al Colegio de las Farmacias

NEW MEXICO

El Departamento de Salud y Educación Pública de Nuevo México anunció una asociación con farmacias locales para proporcionar vacunas covid-19 para el regreso a la escuela para estudiantes de 12 años o más.

Las farmacias participantes se han comprometido a administrar vacunas COVID gratuitas sin cita previa del 15 de julio al 15 de agosto.

"Las escuelas de Nuevo México están ansiosas por dar la bienvenida a los estudiantes de vuelta para un nuevo año escolar seguro

y saludable. Con ese fin, es fundamental que los niños reciban todas las aplicaciones de inmunización requeridos y recomendados con mucha anticipación, y eso incluye la vacuna contra el COVID-19 para niños de 12 años en adelante", dijo el secretario de Educación Pública, Ryan Stewart. "Estamos muy agradecidos con las farmacias de Nuevo México por hacer que esto sea lo más fácil posible para los padres y las familias con horas de atención sin cita previa para las vacunas contra COVID".

"Nuevo México ha liderado en la nación en vacunas para adul-

tos, y ahora alentamos a los padres a vacunar a sus hijos lo más rápido posible", dijo la Secretaria del Gabinete del Departamento de Salud, la Dra. Tracie Collins. "Cada nuevo mexicano que recibe su vacuna está tomando una medida para protegerse a sí mismos y a sus seres queridos, y ayudar a evitar que el virus haga más daño".

Dependiendo de la farmacia, el horario sin cita previa será de 2-7 p.m. De lunes a viernes y de 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sábados y domingos, o 2-5:30 p.m. de lunes a viernes y sábados de 9 a.m. hasta al medio día.

Aquí hay una [lista](#) de farmacias participantes en todo el estado que proporcionarán la vacuna de Pfizer. La lista incluye las horas sin cita previa para cada lugar.

Tenga en cuenta: CVS y Walgreens atenderán a pacientes sin cita previa en cualquier momento en que sus farmacias estén abiertas. También nos gustaría alentar a los padres a tener el código de confirmación de su hijo del portal del Departamento de Salud – [vaccinenm.org](https://vaccinenm.org) - listo cuando lleguen a una farmacia.

Para más información de la vacuna de COVID-19, visite [cv.nmhealth.org/](https://cv.nmhealth.org/).

"Cada nuevo mexicano que recibe su vacuna está tomando una medida para protegerse a sí mismos y a sus seres queridos, y ayudar a evitar que el virus haga más daño".  
Dra. Tracie Collins, Departamento de Salud de Nuevo México

Para Más Noticias de New México: [ELSEMANARIO.US](https://ELSEMANARIO.US)

## Gallup Intertribal Ceremonial Will Premiere Exclusively on KOB TV

NEW MEXICO

The Intertribal Ceremonial Office, which oversees the administration of the Gallup Intertribal Ceremonial, is announcing an exclusive partnership with KOB TV to produce a 1-hour TV special entitled "Spirit of The Ceremonial."

The "Spirit of the Ceremonial", currently in production and sponsored by the City of Gallup, will feature an enchanting presentation of the 99-year-old New Mexico Native American festival and will be televised at 9:00 pm (MST) Thursday, August 19th on KOB TV. The event is typically held every August at the Red Rock Park in Gallup, N.M. In 2020, the event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Considered a New México destination experience, the Gallup Intertribal Ceremonial is known for attracting an international audience, and this year's version of the event will hope to reach an even larger international audience through television and online broadcasts. The 2021 "Spirit of The Ceremonial" broadcast will include performances and featurettes of the event's main attractions, such as Native American dance group highlights, extraordinary award-winning art, the Miss Gallup Intertribal Ceremonial Queen program and historical milestones. There will also be spotlight mentions on the ever-popular parade, rodeo, powwow, artisans and famous Indian arts & craft traders.

"Cultural celebrations like the Gallup Intertribal Ceremonial are

essential for what makes New México True," Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said. "I invite New Mexicans to tune in on August 19 so we can all share in the traditions, presentations and celebrations of our tribal communities with the rest of the world."

"We're excited to work with local partners and tribal communities to bring the Gallup Intertribal Ceremonial to a global audience," ICO Executive Director Melissa Sánchez said. "This exclusive partnership with KOB TV is the perfect opportunity to showcase one of New México's signature cultural events to a global audience this year while preparing to promote next year's centennial celebration of the event."

ICO recently unveiled a [new website](#) for the office and the



Photo: TalkTourismNM

The "Spirit of the Ceremonial" will feature an enchanting presentation of the 99-year-old New México Native American festival and will be televised on KOB TV.

event. The website provides details of the "Spirit of the Ceremonial" special television event, travel information, mail list sign-up and calls for pageant

contestants, artists and volunteers.

For More New México News: [ELSEMANARIO.US](https://ELSEMANARIO.US)

## Report Documents PFAS Use in Fracking in New México

### NEW MEXICO

By Hannah Grover

A report indicating that PFAS chemicals have been used in hydraulic fracturing operations in New México “emphasizes how important it is for regulators to know what is in the industrial wastewater,” Maddy Hayden, a spokesperson for the New México Environment Department told *NM Political Report* in an email.

Physicians for Social Responsibility released a report last week that found PFAS chemicals, also known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or chemicals that could break down into PFAS have been used in fracking operations in 1,200 wells in half a dozen states, including New México.

PFAS chemicals have a broad range of applications and can be found in household objects including non-stick cookware. In recent years, there has been growing concern about the potential health impacts of these “forever chemicals,” which do not break down under normal environmental conditions.

“Ongoing research into uses of PFAS and the prevalence of these persistent chemicals in the environment is essential to support strong regulatory responses at the federal and state levels,” Hayden said.

New Mexico has petitioned the EPA to list PFAS as a hazardous waste under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

“We need a comprehensive regulatory umbrella to ensure that the creation, use, and ultimate disposal of PFAS is done in a safe and controlled manner with clear authority for the state to hold polluters accountable,” Hayden said.

PFAS has contaminated groundwater near Clovis and Alamogordo in connection to activities at Cannon and Holloman Air Force bases. These two bases were used in a fire suppressant foam containing PFAS in training exercises.

New México has since sued the U.S. Department of Defense for the contamination and the litigation is ongoing.

New México is currently limited in what it can do to regulate the use of PFAS in oil and gas operations. For example, Hayden said NMED doesn’t have the authority to regulate chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing.

While the environment department does not have the authori-



An oil well is pictured, Thursday, March 25, 2021, in Riverside Park in Aztec.

ty to regulate what chemicals are used in fracking, companies are required to report what fluids are used, according to Robert McEntyre, a spokesperson for New Mexico Oil and Gas Association. In an email to *NM Political Report*, McEntyre said NMOGA pushed for rules requiring fracking fluid disclosure in 2011 that were ultimately adopted by the state’s Oil Conservation Commission.

Outside of the oil and gas industry, NMED can regulate discharges to groundwater for three types of PFAS chemicals: PFOA, PFOS and PFHxS, Hayden said.

Physicians for Social Responsibility started with a Freedom of Information Act request looking at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s discussions about three chemicals that could break down into a type of PFAS known as PFOA. Despite concerns about health impacts, the regulators approved the use of those chemicals in fracking.

Physicians for Social Responsibility further looked at the FracFocus database to gauge the use of those chemicals. While the group did not find records of the three chemicals being used in fracking — which is something that McEntyre noted in his email — it did find chemicals with related names that had been injected into more than 1,200 wells in six states including New México. After discussing these chemicals with experts, Physicians for Social Responsibility determined that they are either PFAS or can break down into PFAS.

Those chemicals included fluorinated benzoic salts, fluoroalkyl alcohol substituted polyethylene glycol, fluorosurfactants, meta-perfluoromethylcyclohexane and nonionic fluorosurfactant, which was the most commonly listed.

Physicians for Social Responsibility found evidence of two companies with wells in New México

using nonionic fluorosurfactant, but McEntyre argued that Physicians for Social Responsibility did not provide any evidence that his chemical was misused by oil and gas operations. A third company used fluoroalkyl alcohol substituted polyethylene glycol in wells in New México.

“The evidence that people could be unknowingly exposed to these extremely toxic chemicals through oil and gas operations is disturbing,” said Dusty Horwitt, the report’s author, in a press release. “Considering the terrible history of pollution associated with PFAS, EPA and state governments need to move quickly to ensure that the public knows where these chemicals have been used and is protected from their impacts.”

McEntyre called the Physicians for Social Responsibility report “another activist tactic light on science and heavy on feigned hysteria.”

McEntyre said oil and gas companies have been fracking in New Mexico for decades and hydraulic fracturing has been used thousands of times in the state without a single documented case of groundwater contamination.

While industry groups like NMOGA often say there are not documented cases of groundwater contamination from fracking in New México, there have been cases documented in other states such as Wyoming.

“Oil and natural gas producers are committed to safe, science-based practices to ensure the protection of the environment



“The American people have a right to know what chemicals are used in oil and gas production.”

U.S. Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández

and the integrity of wells and other production facilities,” McEntyre said. “Every well that is constructed in New México that uses the fracking method is required to have multiple layers of steel and cement and is drilled thousands of feet beneath the surface to protect from leakage or contamination. Wells are also pressure tested before production begins to ensure every well is secure, and continuous around-the-clock monitoring notifies qualified maintenance and operations personnel so that any potential issues can be quickly addressed.”

U.S. Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency must immediately consider the findings of the Physicians for Social Responsibility report and “take action to ensure the health of our communities.”

“New México communities know firsthand how devastating PFAS contamination can be,” Fernández, a Democrat, said in a statement to *NM Political Report*. “PFAS contamination in New México has already ruined farms,

See **PFAS** on page 20

## Summer Food Programs

Free meal programs for children and youth are resuming at more than **700** locations statewide this summer!

Find a meal site near you at:

**SummerFoodNM.org**



[www.nmeccd.org](http://www.nmeccd.org)

National News/Noticias Nacionales

# DACA Ruling: 'This Case Should Never Have Been Filed'

A federal judge in Texas on July 16, ruled that Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is unlawful, but allowed it to continue for current recipients. U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen's ruling permits the continued processing of DACA renewals but does not allow for any new applications to be granted.

In Judge Hanen's 77-page ruling, he concludes that DACA violates the Administrative Procedure Act. His ruling comes in response to a Texas-led, multi-state challenge to the legality of DACA. The case is known as *Texas v. United States*. MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund)

and co-counsel at Ropes & Gray represent 22 DACA recipients who intervened in the case because the Trump administration would never adequately defend the 2012 initiative in court.

MALDEF attorneys argued that the states failed to show injury from DACA's implementation and that the initiative is a lawful exercise of presidential discretion.

"This case should never have been filed, and should never have progressed beyond its filing," stated Thomas A. Saenz, MALDEF President and General Counsel. "Current DACA recipients remain fully protected, but the decision threatens hundreds of thousands

of others who should also be protected as they continue to contribute to the betterment of our nation. The decision was plainly determined by the judge's views of many years ago, and the decision fails to reconcile important recent developments in the law of standing and of presidential authority; it therefore presents numerous grounds for potentially successful appeal."

"Judge Hanen ruled that DACA will continue for current recipients, and he took special note of DACA recipients' reliance for almost a decade on this policy. It's now up to Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform so that

DREAMers can continue to build their lives in the U.S.," said Nina Perales, MALDEF Vice President of Litigation.

Douglas H. Hallward-Driemeier, pro bono counsel, Ropes & Gray LLP, stated: "While there was much about the court's substantive analysis with which we disagree, we are heartened that Judge Hanen recognized the significant reliant interest of DACA recipients and accepted our request that in his order setting aside DACA, he stayed for current DACA recipients so they can continue to benefit from DACA, and so that their families and communities can continue to benefit from all that they contribute."



It's now up to Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform so that DREAMers can continue to build their lives in the U.S."

Nina Perales, MALDEF

To learn more about the case: read the order [here](#), read a Q&A on *Texas v. United States* [here](#). Read a Timeline of *Texas v. United States* [here](#).

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Fernandez/Lincon

know that this one-time funding could easily be spent without making a real dent in disparities if it is not targeted for students of color, especially Latino students.

Here's how school districts can ensure they spend that money effectively.

First, school leaders must meaningfully engage with students and parents — and truly incorporate their voices in the recovery plans they develop. This work could include parent surveys as well as interviews and town halls to elicit Latino parents' perspectives.

Second, school leaders should accelerate learning — not just remediation — for students with unfinished learning by investing in high-dose tutoring and summer enrichment programs, mental health services and other research-based approaches proven to break down barriers and improve learning opportunities for

Latinos. Those include early college programs that allow students to earn college credits while still in high school.



A viral photo of two young Latinas sitting outside a Taco Bell in California, so they could access Wi-Fi to do their homework crystallized a national problem: Too many students do not have access to the tools they need to participate in distance learning.

Above all, we cannot simply use this funding to "return to normal," because the status quo wasn't working for many Latino students,

even after so many of us worked so hard to improve the education system to serve them better.

State and district leaders have difficult and important decisions to make about how to spend the billions of one-time dollars that will be at their disposal. The path forward should be clear: Equity must be at the center of all decisions.

School districts must engage families, accelerate learning, invest in English learners, recruit Latino educators and innovate rather than uphold the status quo. The purpose behind all of this is to set up our students — all students — for success.

**Amanda Fernandez is CEO and founder of Latinos for Education; Dr. Feliza Ortiz-Licon is chief policy and advocacy officer.**

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Sharry

then AG Jeff Sessions, ended DACA. He then blocked multiple bipartisan proposals to legislate a permanent solution. Only a series of decisions, including a Supreme Court ruling on procedural grounds, kept the program alive.

The DACA litigation ruled on July 16, was brought by Republican state Attorneys General, led by Texas AG Ken Paxton, who himself is under indictment and under investigation for corruption. He and his co-conspirators from other states should be shamed for trying to drive out our young people who grew up saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Many now work as healthcare professionals, first responders and teachers.

Republican appointee Judge Andrew Hanen has, once again, shown his [hostility to immigrants](#). Previously, he thwarted relief for millions by ruling against DAPA

and the extended DACA program. Now he's ruled against DACA.

Democrats, we know you support pathways to citizenship for millions, but it's not enough to simply support such measures. We need a long overdue breakthrough, a concrete result, a piece of legislation signed into law.

You have the majority and we plead with you to use every ounce of your power to formally recognize Dreamers, TPS holders, farm workers and other essential workers as the Americans they already are. You've created the vehicle, now drive it across the finish line.

It's up to you. Failure is not an option.

**Frank Sharry is the Executive Director of America's Voice.**

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**BACK TO SCHOOL | COVID-19 |**

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

NCIRD 21/07/09 103

Soñadores

beneficiarios actuales de DACA mantienen el estatus de DACA, la capacidad de trabajar y la capacidad de renovar si continúan cumpliendo con los requisitos de DACA.

RMIAN tiene y continúa brindando consultas gratuitas a aquellos que piensan que pueden ser elegibles para DACA, individuos con DACA que buscan renovaciones, así como individuos interesados en otros beneficios o alivio de inmigración. Si tiene preguntas sobre DACA, o está interesado/a en aprender más sobre sus opciones de inmigración, llame al (303) 433-2812 para programar su consulta gratuita.

Los soñadores y sus familias son una parte vital de nuestra co-

munidad y merecen vivir en paz con esperanza para el futuro. RMIAN implora a la Administración Biden y al Congreso que garanticen un camino hacia la ciudadanía para todos los Dreamers, proporcionando la solución permanente que nuestros clientes y la comunidad de DACA merecen. Cualquiera cosa menos despoja a nuestro sistema de inmigración de justicia y equidad.

RMIAN reafirma su compromiso de hacer que nuestro sistema de inmigración sea más justo y equitativo para los Dreamers y todos los inmigrantes en Colorado.

**Para Noticias de Colorado:**  
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## Hastings/Torres

(GDP), on top of creating some 400,800 new jobs in the coming decade.

That's not all, of course, since those who are able to legalize will see a \$4,300 salary increase in five years, a number that rises to \$13,500 in ten years. In general, an increase in yearly salary for all U.S. Americans would be around \$600.

And, that is without mentioning that undocumented immigrants already pay an average of \$13 billion for Social Security each year and more than \$3 billion for Medicare, according to data from [New American Economy](#).

Basically, this would be a great opportunity to, once and for all, reconcile various realities: that undocumented immigrants already hold up the economy and legalizing them would be an even bigger national economic boon. And that despite the fact that Republican politicians exploit the topic, leaving out the true benefits of legalization, the American people, Democratic and Republican, according to various surveys, support a path to citizenship. They see it more pragmatically than politically.

In essence, a majority in the United States already realizes that what this is about is fortalizing the system that governs us, diversifying its achievements, making it function for future generations, guaranteeing its solvency, and injecting a bit of humanity into its constant economic evolution. To sum up all those pieces of the survival mechanism of the current United States: undocumented immigrants have been, are, and will be essential, much more than those Republicans who, due to their fanaticism, prefer to close their eyes to the reality that overwhelms and screams at them to

open, now; otherwise, history will devour them.

Another reality to reconcile: that Democrats have to fulfill their campaign promises: the one about advancing immigration reform, which they repeat in every electoral cycle without any concrete result.

From there we see the importance of the reconciliation process, used since 1974 to advance budgetary measures in an expedited fashion and through a simple majority if it is determined that, in fact, such measures affect the revenues and expenses of the federal government.

Measures are only eligible for the budget reconciliation process if they comply with guidelines laid out in the so-called "Byrd Rule," in honor of the late Democratic Senator from West Virginia, Robert Byrd, who advanced this to ensure that budget reconciliation bills are not plagued with unrelated measures.

In recent history, budget reconciliation was used by the majority-Democratic Senate in 2010 to approve the Affordable Care Act, better known as Obamacare and, in 2017, the majority-Republican Senate employed it to approve the Trump tax cuts.

The details and the outcome of a reconciliation bill with immigration measures on it are still unknown. But at least hope is emerging to legalize the sectors that are both fundamental and essential in the functioning of this complex and historic social experiment.

*Maribel Hastings is a Senior Advisor to [América's Voice](#). David Torres is a Spanish-language Advisor at [América's Voice](#).*

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## Isais-Gastelum/Esp.

diferencia en nuestra comunidad y en toda la nación. Debemos cumplir con nuestra obligación moral para dejar un mundo habitable para las generaciones futuras. Podemos lograr esto mientras brindamos apoyo inmediato a aquellos que más lo necesitan. Debemos trabajar por la justicia ambiental y la salud pública, a la vez que enfrentamos la crisis climática. Tenemos una oportunidad de invertir en un futuro de energía limpia mientras asumimos las injusticias del pasado.

Las comunidades de bajos ingresos y discriminadas por motivos raciales y étnicos son las más vulnerables a la contaminación y a los efectos del cambio climático; por ejemplo, como resultado sufren de una incidencia más alta de asma y de enfermedades respiratorias. Como si esto fuera poco, son estas las comunidades las que han sentido el peor embate del COVID-19, tanto en términos de enfermedad y de muerte, como económicamente. Nuevo México ha perdido más de cuatro mil personas por este virus. El presidente Biden debe centrar estas comunidades en un paquete histórico de infraestructura en el que las inversiones estén enfocadas en las comunidades desventajadas.

El acceso al agua potable limpia y al aire limpio para respirar no de-

bería ser un lujo que solo algunos puedan disfrutar. Necesitamos inversiones para electrificar el transporte limpio para reducir la contaminación con carbono, así como inversiones en infraestructura de agua limpia para todas las comunidades. Según las calificaciones de 2021 de la Sociedad Americana de Ingenieros Civiles, Nuevo México tiene \$320 millones en necesidades de manejo de aguas residuales. El estado debe diversificar su economía porque tiene una dependencia enorme en el sector petrolero. Mejorar nuestra salud pública y calidad de vida requerirá de una inversión significativa. También, al modernizar nuestra red eléctrica e incrementar la energía limpia y renovable, seremos testigos de menos desastres climáticos y eventos meteorológicos extremos como las inundaciones y los incendios.

Los líderes de fe de todo el país se han unido en un llamado por un paquete audaz de recuperación e infraestructura que nos ayudará a reconstruir de manera tal que seamos más fuertes que nunca. Al igual que nuestros líderes de fe nos guiaron a través de los momentos más oscuros e inciertos del año pasado, también pueden guiar nuestra nación a reconstruir mejor. Por eso New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light se unió a más de

3,400 otros líderes de fe de todo el país y sumó su nombre a una carta al Congreso que hace un llamado por un paquete de recuperación económica e infraestructura significativo que cree empleos que sostengan a las familias y a las comunidades mientras se cuida de nuestro clima y de nuestros vecinos.

La hermana Joan Brown, directora ejecutiva de New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light, dijo alguna vez: "Es un imperativo moral lidiar con los efectos del cambio climático y asegurarnos de que se haga una intersección con las comunidades". Debemos proteger lo que Dios ha puesto en nuestras manos. La respuesta no debe temerle al cambio porque tenemos que aprender a adaptarnos. Contamos con los miembros del Congreso para convertir esta visión en una realidad. Deben apoyar completamente la aprobación de proyectos de ley que ayuden a las familias a levantarse mientras se protege a nuestra salud pública y a nuestro sagrado medioambiente.

*Arcelia Isais-Gastelum de New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light & ReNew Mexico.*

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## Sharry/Esp

- El litigio sobre DACA que dio pie al fallo 16 de julio, fue iniciado por procuradores estatales republicanos encabezados por el fiscal general de Texas, Ken Paxton, quien ha sido acusado de corrupción.

- El juez Hanen, nombrado por el expresidente republicano George W. Bush, ha demostrado una vez más su hostilidad hacia los inmigrantes. Previamente echó por tierra la posibilidad de ofrecer alivio a millones al fallar en contra de DAPA y del DACA ampliado. Y ahora falla en contra de DACA.

Demócratas, sabemos que ustedes apoyan una vía a la ciudadanía para millones, pero no basta con simplemente apoyar esas medidas. Necesitamos un avance lar-

gamente esperado, un resultado concreto, una pieza legislativa que se convierta en ley.

Ustedes tienen la mayoría y les imploramos que empleen todo lo que está en su poder para formalmente reconocer a los Dreamers, a los beneficiarios del TPS, a los trabajadores agrícolas y a otros trabajadores esenciales, como los estadounidenses que son. Ustedes crearon el vehículo, ahora, por favor, condúzcanlo hasta la meta. Ustedes deciden. El fracaso no es una opción.

*Frank Sharry is the Director Ejecutivo de América's Voice.*

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# Our Future Is Worth the Fight

*Paid for by Protégete Action*

receiving their first Child Tax Credit payment today, don't forget that every single Democrat voted against making it larger."

Hello? Did we just go through the funhouse mirror?

In point of fact, when the American Rescue Plan was being debated last February, Lee and Senator Marco Rubio did propose slightly larger payments. But here's the rub: They wanted to restrict them only to "working parents." Children of the unemployed would be out of luck. Yet those kids are the poorest of the poor. They're most at risk of being hungry without a roof over their heads.

In a joint press release at the time, Lee and Rubio said they refused to support what they termed "welfare assistance" to jobless parents, warning against undercutting "the responsibility of parents to work to provide for their families." Then Lee, Rubio, and every other Republican voted against the whole shebang—help for working and non-working parents. And now Lee wants to take credit for wanting to make the payments larger to begin with? Talk about both sides of the mouth.

As we move toward the gravitational pull of the midterm elections—and polls show how pop-

ular the monthly child payments are—I expect other Republicans to make the same whopper of a claim.

But underneath this hypocritical Republican rubbish lie two important questions. The first: will a payment of up to \$300 per child every month—totaling up to \$3,600 per child per year—invite parents to become couch potatoes?

That seems doubtful. Even a family with three kids under six would receive no more than \$10,800 a year. That's way below what's needed to pay even subsistence expenses, and still far below what a full-time job at the federal minimum wage would pull in.

But even if the payment caused some parents to work a bit less, it's far from clear their children are worse off as a result. Maybe they benefit from additional parenting time.

Which only raises a second question: should children be penalized because their parents aren't working, or are working less than they would without the child payment?

This question has been debated in America for many years—ever since Franklin D. Roosevelt first provided "Aid for Families with Dependent Children" (AFDC) in

the Social Security Act of 1935.

It can't be decided based on facts; it comes down to values. We know, for example, that child poverty soared after Bill Clinton and congressional Republicans ended AFDC in 1996 and substituted a work requirement. Many people—myself included—look back on that decision as a horrible mistake.

But many of its proponents call it a success because it resulted in additional numbers of poor adults getting jobs and thereby setting good examples for their children of personal responsibility. In the view of these proponents, a country where more parents take responsibility to provide for their children is worth the collateral damage of a greater number of impoverished children.

Since the 1990s, the Republican view that public assistance should be limited to families with breadwinners has taken firm hold in America. Only now, with the American Rescue Plan—put into effect during the worst public health crisis in more than a century and one of the fiercest periods of unemployment since World War II—has that view been rejected in favor of a universal family benefit.

It's too early to know whether this about-face is permanent. The Act's payments will end a year from now

unless Congress passes Biden's proposed \$3.5 trillion addition. Almost every Senate Democrat has signaled a willingness to go along. But here again, not a single Senate Republican has signed on.

Let's be clear. Mike Lee's Republican Party—the putative party of "family values"—doesn't support needy families. It supports a pinched and, in these perilous times, unrealistic view of per-

sonal responsibility—children be damned.

*Robert Reich is the Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley, and a senior fellow at the Blum Center for Developing Economies.*

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**Dreamers**

the Department of Homeland Security can no longer approve initial DACA applications, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") is still *accepting* applications filed after Judge Hanen's decision. These applications will be placed "on hold." Depending on the particular facts of a person's case, a DACA application "on hold" may be beneficial or risky.

Judge Hanen's decision does not currently affect DACA recipients' ability to renew their DACA status. Current DACA recipients maintain DACA status, ability to work, and ability to renew if they continue to meet the requirements for DACA.

RMIAN has and continues to provide free consultations to those who think they may be eligible for DACA, individuals with DACA seeking renewals, as well as individuals interested in other immigration benefits or relief. If you have ques-

tions about DACA or are interested in learning more about your immigration options, please call (303) 433-2812 to schedule your free consultation.

Dreamers and their families are a vital part of our community and deserve to live in peace with hope for the future. RMIAN implores the Biden Administration and Congress to ensure a pathway to citizenship for all Dreamers, providing the permanent solution our DACA-mented clients and community deserve. Anything less strips our immigration system of fairness and equity.

RMIAN reaffirms its commitment to making our immigration system more just and equitable for Dreamers and all immigrants in Colorado.

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**RTD**

er. "While we are happy with the progress made in the fight against COVID-19, we are still not out of the woods and ask for our customers' cooperation in this matter."

The federal mask requirement on public transportation, which remains in effect, initially took effect Feb. 2 and pertains to the use of buses, trains, airplanes, stations and airports. To read the order or

review frequently asked questions about it, [visit the CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov).

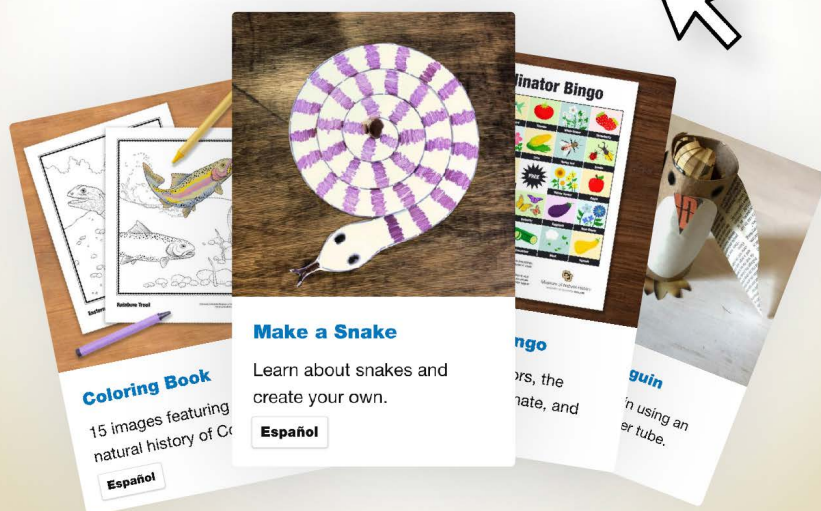
*To learn more about how RTD has kept its employees and customers safe throughout the pandemic, visit [rtd-denver.com/coronavirus](https://rtd-denver.com/coronavirus).*

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# Museum From Home

**Free** programs, exhibits and activities online in English and Spanish.

[Colorado.edu/cumuseum/mfh](https://colorado.edu/cumuseum/mfh)

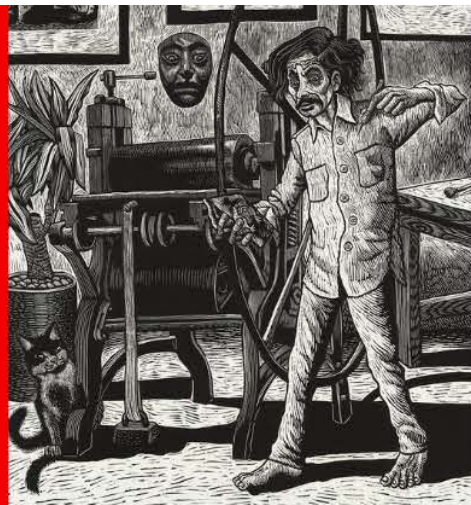
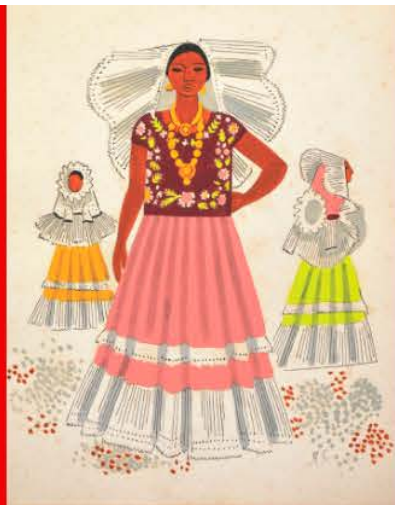


 **Museum of Natural History**  
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**Latino Cultural Arts Center**

# ART WITH A CONSCIENCE

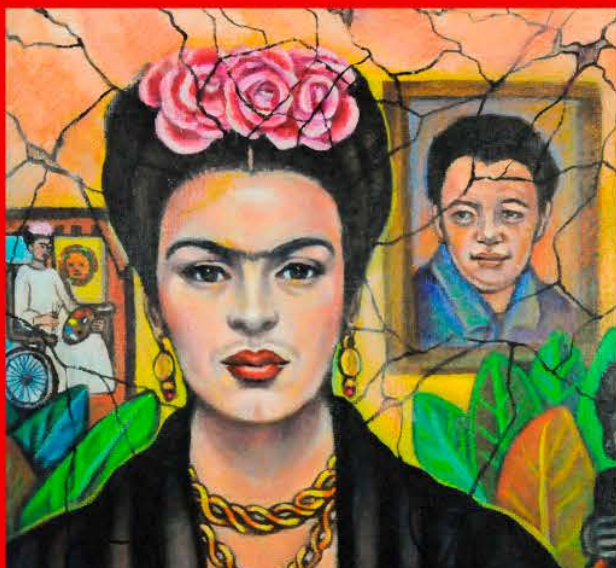
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**Protections**

— someone on her shift who had been sick came back to work even though they were still symptomatic. For the second time, OSHA did a remote inspection and concluded that there wasn't a problem; the USPS had policies that lined up with CDC guidelines. OSHA didn't do inspections following her complaints about maskless parties.

Though OSHA has issued safety guidelines pertaining to COVID-19 in the workplace, the recommendations don't have the force of law. President Joe Biden promised to issue an emergency standard that would give OSHA more power to enforce COVID-19-specific measures. When the standard came into effect in June, it applied only to health care workers, leaving out other hard-hit industries.

When Hernández came back to work in late May, her colleagues didn't know she'd been sick. Rumors had spread that she'd gone on maternity leave. "They actually asked me if I had a baby," Hernández said. When she first reported her illness to the USPS, she named five colleagues she'd had contact with to the agency nurse, so that they could be notified and quarantined. When she later checked with her colleagues, the USPS had only contacted and quarantined one of them, she said. (The USPS said it would not comment on individual cases.)

As ProPublica and the USPS inspector general later detailed, the USPS doesn't have enough health care staff to identify and quarantine every exposed worker. The inspector general also reported that the agency had no strategy to fill those roles. At the time, 21% of the USPS' nurse positions were vacant. The nurses are responsible for interviewing sick workers, doing contact tracing to identify ex-

posed workers and clearing people to come back to work.

On the other side of the building from Hernández's work area, Moore, a mail clerk, had started feeling sick in early February, a few weeks before Hernández. Moore told her family she thought it was just the sinus infection and allergies she usually got around this time of year. But a few days later when she visited her doctor, her breathing was so labored that the doctor had her sent to the hospital in an ambulance.

“I think that if they would've told her she'd been exposed, she would've gotten tested and maybe her outcome would've been different. We don't know that, and we'll never know that.”  
Vanessa Vasquez

At first, it didn't seem like she would be there for long. She and her family stayed in touch with video calls and texts. When her grandson won student of the month for his grades, she celebrated with him over the phone. But her condition worsened. On Feb. 19, she was transferred to the intensive care unit and put on a ventilator soon afterward.

As the days went by, Moore used up her sick leave, then her vacation days. After those ran out, she had to take leave without pay. Once Moore could no longer speak, her older daughter took over calling her USPS supervisor to tell her how to allocate Moore's leave.

"My mom literally, up until she could no longer talk, was tex-

ting her supervisor, making sure how to do her time," said Vanessa Vasquez, Moore's daughter. "She was so worried about me talking to her supervisor, and how to divide her annual and sick leave and no pay."

On March 12, Moore's lungs collapsed. While she was on the ventilator, her two daughters, her grandchildren and her partner of 30 years visited to say goodbye.

"We were best friends," Vasquez said. "We were only 20 years apart. Everybody had different bonds with her." In an interview over Zoom, Vasquez's 12-year-old son Tony sat with his head in his hands. "She was everything," he said, before his voice broke.

The family tried hard to limit their exposure to COVID-19, avoiding grocery store visits and contact with anyone outside of the family. They were worried about infecting Moore's 87-year-old mother. No one in the family tested positive other than Moore's partner, who didn't show symptoms. He works for a PPE engineering company and said his employers always sent alerts when there were COVID-19 cases among workers. There hadn't been any alerts recently.

"I think that if they would've told her she'd been exposed, she would've gotten tested and maybe her outcome would've been different," her daughter said. "We don't know that, and we'll never know that."

*Maryam Jameel is an engagement reporter working on community-sourced investigations out of ProPublica's Washington, D.C. newsroom.*

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**PFAS**

dairies and threatened our water supply across my district. It puts lives, livelihoods, and this beautiful place we call home at risk."

Just days before the Physicians for Social Responsibility report was released, she hosted a press conference with a Clovis-area dairy farmer about how PFAS contamination from Cannon Air Force Base destroyed his farm.

The Physicians for Social Responsibility report states that PFAS used in fracking could place groundwater at risk. These chemicals could enter the groundwater through various methods including spills, inadequate treatment and discharge of wastewater, underground migration, and cracks in casing or cement, according to the report.

"The American people have a right to know what chemicals are used in oil and gas production," Fernández said.

One way that PFAS could potentially get into the groundwater is through produced water, a by-product of oil and gas extraction that can contain chemicals used in fracking.

While NMOGA states that there is no evidence fracking has contaminated New México's groundwater, there are hundreds of documented produced water spills each year in the state.

In light of aridification in the western United States and ongoing drought, some New México lawmakers have hoped produced water could be a way to address water shortages. The produced water, they say, could be treated and put to beneficial use.

This led to the passage of the New México Produced Water Act of 2019.

"The New México Produced Water Act of 2019 provided the

New México Environment Department with regulatory authority for all uses of produced water outside of the oil and gas industry," Hayden said.

NMED is not currently issuing permits for discharges of produced water, she said.

Within the oil and gas industry, the use of produced water is regulated by the Oil Conservation Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department.

Both NMED and the OCD have partnered with the New México Produced Water Research Consortium to gather additional data about produced water.

"Before drafting any rules to allow for regulated use of treated produced water outside of the oil and gas sector, we are investing in sound science to fill gaps in our understanding of what is in produced water and how it can be treated to remove harmful pollutants," Hayden said. "Ultimately, we aim to determine what, if any, end uses could take advantage of this water source without harm to human health and the environment and be a tool in mitigating the impacts of climate change, especially drought."

NMED also intends to file a petition with the state's Water Quality Control Commission to amend the ground and surface water regulations under the Water Quality Act to "prohibit all discharges of untreated produced water outside the oil and gas industry," she said.

*Hannah Grover is a Reporter with New Mexico Political Report. This story was originally published by New Mexico Political Report.*

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**RTD/Esp**

"La seguridad es el valor principal de RTD y por eso seguimos centrados en la seguridad de los empleados y los clientes y continuamos adhiriéndonos al mandato de la Administración de Seguridad del Transporte", dijo el Director de Seguridad de RTD, Mike Meader. "Aunque estamos contentos con los progresos realizados en la lucha contra el COVID-19, todavía no estamos fuera de peligro y pedimos la cooperación de nuestros clientes en este asunto".

El requisito federal de la máscara en el transporte público, que sigue en vigor, entró inicialmente en vigor el 2 de febrero y se re-

firió al uso de autobuses, trenes, aviones, estaciones y aeropuertos. Para leer la orden o revisar las preguntas más frecuentes al respecto, visite el sitio web de los CDC.

Para saber más sobre cómo RTD ha mantenido a sus empleados y clientes seguros durante la pandemia, visite [rtd-denver.com/coronavirus](https://www.rtd-denver.com/coronavirus).

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

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**REGRESO A LA ESCUELA | COVID-19 |**



[cdc.gov/coronavirus-es](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus-es)

MLA 325538 NCPRO 21-07-08-103



Padilla donde surge la mayor esperanza para los inmigrantes indocumentados que han aguantado década tras década por una regularización migratoria.

Y para quienes argumenten que cómo se pretende incluir medidas de legalización en proyectos presupuestarios, hay [datos](#), [estudios](#) y [ejemplos](#) de sobra que comprueban no solo el aporte al fisco de este sector de la población, ahora mismo, a través del pago de impuestos, incluyendo de ingresos y de ventas, comprando casas, ropa y comida, abriendo negocios, o aportando a la solvencia de un Seguro Social que no verán si no son regularizados.

En efecto, en un reciente estudio, el [Center for the American Progress](#) plantea que legalizar al grupo comprendido por Dreamers, beneficiarios de TPS y trabajadores agrícolas, redundaría en nada menos que \$1.5 billones de aumento al Producto Interno Bruto (PIB), además de que serían creados unos 400,800 nuevos empleos en la próxima década.

Eso, por supuesto, no sería todo, sino que obtendrían \$4,300 adicionales en ingresos en cinco años quienes lograsen la legalización, incremento que llegaría a \$13,500 en diez años. Y, en general, el aumento en el salario anual para todos los estadounidenses sería de \$600.

Y eso es sin contar que los inmigrantes indocumentados ya pagan un promedio de \$13,000 millones al Seguro Social cada año, más \$3,000 millones al Medicare, según datos de [New American Economy](#).

Es decir, esta sería una gran oportunidad para de una vez por todas conciliar varias realidades: que los indocumentados ya aportan a la economía y que legalizarlos lograría un beneficio económico nacional aún mayor. Y que a pesar de que los políticos republicanos explotan el tema obviando los verdaderos beneficios de la legalización, el pueblo estadounidense, demócrata y republicano, según diversos sondeos, apoya la vía a la ciudadanía, pues tienen un punto de vista más pragmático que político.

En efecto, la mayoría estadounidense ya se dio cuenta de que lo que se trata es de fortalecer el sistema que nos rige, diversificar sus alcances, hacerlo funcional para las generaciones futuras, garantizar su solvencia y darle un rostro más humano a su constante evolución económica. En resumen, para que todas esas piezas encajen en el mecanismo de supervivencia del Estados

Unidos actual, los inmigrantes indocumentados han sido, son y serán esenciales, mucho más que aquellos republicanos que, por fanatismo, prefieren cerrar los ojos ante una realidad que los apabulla y que les grita que los abran ya; de otro modo, la historia los devorará.

Otra realidad a conciliar: que los demócratas tienen que cumplir sus promesas de campaña, y la de impulsar la reforma migratoria se repite en cada ciclo electoral sin que nunca llegue a concretarse.

De ahí la importancia del proceso de conciliación utilizado desde 1974 para impulsar medidas presupuestarias de forma expedita y por mayoría simple, siempre y cuando se determine si, en efecto, tales medidas afectan los ingresos o los gastos del gobierno federal.

Las medidas solo son elegibles para el proceso de conciliación presupuestaria si cumplen con los lineamientos de la llamada Regla Byrd, en honor al fenecido senador demócrata de West Virginia, Robert Byrd, quien la impulsó para evitar que los proyectos de conciliación estuvieran plagados de medidas no relacionadas con el presupuesto.

En la historia reciente la conciliación presupuestaria se utilizó por el Senado de mayoría demócrata en 2010 para aprobar la Ley de Cuidado Médico Asequible, mejor conocida como Obamacare, y en 2017 el Senado de mayoría republicana la empleó para aprobar los recortes tributarios de Trump.

Todavía se desconocen los detalles y el desenlace del proyecto de conciliación que incluiría medidas migratorias. Pero al menos surge una esperanza para legalizar a esos sectores que también son fundamentales y esenciales para el funcionamiento de este complejo e histórico laboratorio social.

*Maribel Hastings es Asesora Ejecutiva de América's Voice.*

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

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communities have been hit hardest by COVID-19, both in terms of illness, death, and economic fallout. New México has lost over 4,000 people to this virus. President Biden must place these communities at the center of a historic infrastructure package, where investments target disadvantaged communities.

Access to clean drinking water and clean air to breathe should not be a luxury only some enjoy. That's why we need investments in electrifying clean transportation to reduce carbon pollution and investments in clean water infrastructure for all communities. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2021 Infrastructure report card, New México has [\\$320 million](#) in wastewater needs. The state needs to diversify its economy because it is too [heavily dependent](#) on the oil sector. Improvement of our public health and quality of life will require significant investment. Also, by modernizing our electric grid and expanding clean, renewable energy, we will see far fewer deadly climate disasters and extreme weather events such as floods and fires.

Faith leaders from all across the country have united in their call for

a bold recovery and infrastructure package that will help us rebuild in a way that makes us stronger than ever before. Just as our faith leaders guided us through the darkest, most uncertain moments of the past year, they can also guide our nation in building back better. That's why New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light joined over 3,400 other faith leaders from around the country in adding its name to a [letter to Congress](#) calling for a bold economic recovery and infrastructure package that creates family and community sustaining jobs while caring for our climate and our neighbors.

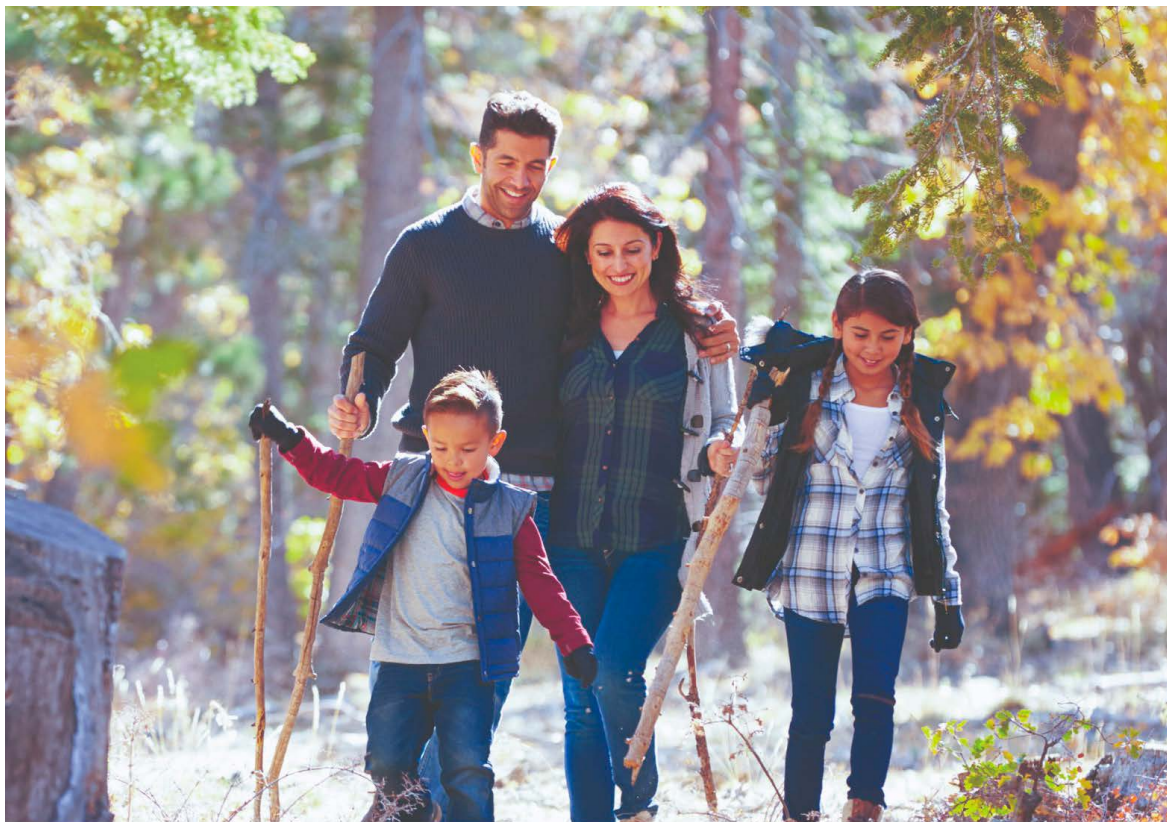
Sister Joan Brown, Executive Director of New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light, once stated, "It

is a moral imperative to address the impact of climate change and make sure it intersects with the communities." We must protect what God has put in our hands, the answer must not be afraid of change because we need to learn how to adapt. We're counting on members of Congress to turn this vision into a reality. They must fully support passing legislation that helps families get back on their feet while protecting our public health and sacred environment.

*Arcelia Isais-Gastelum, New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light & ReNew Mexico*

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PROTÉGETE

**Nuestro futuro  
vale la lucha.**

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identify as Republican or Republican-leaning, according to a [KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor report](#).



“When they hear people that they trust sharing their experiences, that goes a long way.”

Diego Montemayor,  
Denver

They also tend to be poorer, less educated and more likely to be uninsured. The KFF report found 19% of unvaccinated adults are Hispanic; of that group, 20% said they will “wait and see” about getting vaccinated, and 11% said they’d “definitely not” get it.

Both Cervantes and Holguin credit local, state and community groups with aggressively looking to boost vaccination rates among Latino Coloradans, while also encouraging them to keep recruiting trusted community voices from within, to help deliver the message.

“You know, it’s not going to be Dr. [Anthony] Fauci saying something, that someone translates in Spanish, that you need to get vaccinated,”

Holguin said. “There’s going to be people in the community convincing others to get vaccinated.”

At Empower Field, soccer fan Diego Montemayor of Denver echoed that sentiment, saying some fans who got shots themselves urged friends who came to the stadium to visit the RV and get one, too. “When they hear people that they trust sharing their experiences, that goes a long way,” Montemayor said.

Community health advocate Karimme Quintana agreed. She had come to the game as well to spread the word about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine. She works as a *promotora de salud pública*, a public health outreach worker, focusing her efforts on Denver’s majority-Latino Westwood neighborhood. Quintana said that population may trust someone close to them more than even a doctor.

“They need to be more educated about the covid because they have a lot of questions,” said Quintana, whose button read “¿Tiene preguntas sobre covid? Pregúnteme.” (“Do you have questions about covid? Ask me.”)

“Latino people, they listen [to] the neighbor, they listen [to] my friend,” Quintana said.

University of Colorado Health nurse Danica Farrington said the vaccine effort at the soccer tournament was heavily promoted beforehand on billboards and big screens inside the stadium during the game.

“They just plastered it everywhere and said, go get your shot,” she said. “That’s pretty influential.”

The carnival atmosphere at the stadium helped him make the pitch, said Jesus Romero Serrano (featured on cover photo), a community ambassador with Denver’s mayor’s office: “It’s a Mexico game versus Honduras! So lots of Latinos are here. This is the perfect place to be, to reach the Latin community. Absolutely!”

To capitalize on the playful spirit of the day, Romero Serrano wore a Mexico soccer jersey and a red-and-green luchador wrestling mask. In his work with the city government, he’s what you could call a community influencer. He filtered through the tailgate crowd in the parking lot, handing out cards about where to get a vaccine.

As he circulated, he admitted it’s sometimes hard for some Latino Coloradans to overcome what they see as years of historical mistreatment or neglect from medi-

cal providers. “They don’t trust the health care system,” he said.

Still, Romero Serrano kept wading into the crowd, shaking hands and shouting over the constant din of the drum bands, asking people whether they had gotten a vaccine.

The most common answer he heard was “everybody has it” — but he was skeptical about that, thinking people were just being nice.

A few miles from the stadium is the Tepeyac Community Health Center, in the predominantly Hispanic Globeville neighborhood. That’s home base for [Dr. Pamela Valenza](#), a family physician and the chief health officer at the clinic. She tries to address her patients’ fears and concerns about the new vaccines, but many have told her they still want to wait and see that people don’t have serious side effects.

Valenza’s clinic recently held more vaccine events, at more convenient times that didn’t interfere with work, like Friday evenings, and offered free grocery cards for the vaccinated. She said she likes the idea of pairing vaccines with fun.

“The Latino culture — food, culture and community — is such a central part of the Latino community,” Valenza said. “Making the events maybe a little bit more than just a vaccine might encourage some community members to come out.”

*John Daley, Colorado Public Radio. This story is part of a partnership that includes Colorado Public Radio, NPR and Kaiser Health News.*

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**Jacobson**

Men seeking to help protect reproductive freedom must also advocate against proposed legislation that would give us dominion over women and pregnant people and give our government extreme power to control one of their most consequential, personal health care decisions. Take for example two recent bills introduced in [Arizona](#) and [Tennessee](#), which make the anti-choice agenda of controlling pregnant people’s lives abundantly clear. In Tennessee, the introduced legislation could give men the power to stop a woman’s decision to get an abortion, through legal action. In Arizona, policymakers introduced a bill that would allow a spouse to sue on behalf of the fetus, in order to stop the person from getting an abortion. Men cannot allow these policies to take effect in our name; we need to make clear that we reject an agenda that seeks to oppress women and pregnant people.

Beyond seeking to block harmful legislation, we also need to ensure that women have the freedom and resources to make the health care decisions that are right for them and access to all necessary reproductive healthcare services, including abortion care. This means advocating for policies like Medicaid expansion and for the repeal harmful federal restrictions like the Hyde Amendment that obstruct abortion access for low-income women.

There’s so much we can do to be part of the solution and advance reproductive freedom for all people. True allyship means no longer dismissing “locker room talk” as harmless. Those ideas objectify

women and pave a path to justify controlling their bodies. It means pushing back on men who perpetuate stigmas about abortion. It means understanding that all of us have women in our lives who have had an abortion. It means talking to your friends about this issue. It means knocking on doors, making calls, text-banking, and donating money to support reproductive rights and justice organizations leading this fight, including and especially [abortion funds](#) who need our support now more than ever. It means we, as male allies, need to get educated about the dire modern landscape for abortion access and the harmful barriers that block access to care at every step for pregnant people—and we need to [raise our voices](#) to oppose these harmful laws. It means [joining the next generation of young male-identifying allies](#) to become unwavering and effective partners in the fight to protect and expand reproductive freedom.

Ultimately, we should listen to, trust and support pregnant people who need abortions in making the health care decision that is best for their bodies and their lives. They don’t need our permission, blessing, or input and nobody needs to justify their abortion to us. Anti-choice men are loud and clear on this issue, so it’s time pro-choice men step up and make some noise.

*Oren Jacobson is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Men4Choice.*

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latinos de Colorado, al mismo tiempo que los alientan a seguir reclutando voces comunitarias confiables, para ayudar a transmitir el mensaje.

"Sabes, no va a ser el doctor [Anthony] Fauci diciendo algo, que alguien traduzca al español", dijo Holguin. "Habrá personas en la comunidad que convencerán a otros para que se vacunen".

En Empower Field, el hincha Diego Montemayor, de Denver, se hizo eco de ese sentimiento y dijo que algunos fanáticos que recibieron las dosis instaron a los amigos que vinieron al estadio a ir a la casa rodante a vacunarse. "Cuando escuchan a personas en las que confían compartir sus experiencias, eso les ayuda mucho", dijo Montemayor.

La defensora de salud comunitaria, Karimme Quintana, estuvo de acuerdo. Quintana también fue al juego para correr la voz sobre la seguridad y eficacia de la vacuna. Trabaja como promotora de salud

pública, y concentra sus esfuerzos en el vecindario de Westwood, de mayoría latina, en Denver. Quintana dijo que la población puede confiar en alguien cercano incluso más que en un médico.

“Cuando escuchan a personas en las que confían compartir sus experiencias, eso les ayuda mucho”.  
Diego Montemayor, Denver

"Necesitan estar más informados sobre covid porque tienen muchas preguntas", dijo Quintana, cuyo prendedor decía "¿Tiene preguntas sobre covid? Pregúnteme".

"Los latinos escuchan al vecino, escuchan al amigo", dijo Quintana.

La enfermera de salud de la Universidad de Colorado, Danica Farrington, dijo que el esfuerzo de la vacuna en el torneo de fútbol se

promocionó mucho de antemano en vallas publicitarias y pantallas gigantes dentro del estadio durante el juego.

"Simplemente lo pegaron por todas partes y dijeron, ve a ponerte la vacuna", dijo. "Eso influye bastante".

El ambiente festivo en el estadio ayudó, dijo Jesús Romero Serrano (foto en la portada), embajador de la comunidad en la oficina del alcalde de Denver: "¡Es un juego de México contra Honduras! Así que muchos latinos están aquí. Este es el lugar perfecto para estar, para llegar a la comunidad latina. ¡Absolutamente!".

Para capitalizar el espíritu lúdico del día, Romero Serrano vistió una camiseta de fútbol de México y una máscara de luchador de lucha libre roja y verde. En su trabajo con el gobierno de la ciudad, es lo que se podría llamar un *influencer* de la comunidad. Repartió información a la multitud en el estacionamiento.

Mientras circulaba, admitió que a veces es difícil para algunos lati-

nos de Colorado superar lo que ven como años de maltrato histórico o negligencia por parte de los proveedores médicos. "No confían en el sistema de atención médica", dijo.

Aún así, Romero Serrano siguió moviéndose a través de la multitud, dando la mano y gritando por sobre el constante estruendo de los tambores, preguntando a la gente si habían recibido la vacuna.

La respuesta más común que escuchó fue "todo el mundo la tiene", pero se mostró escéptico al respecto, pensando que la gente simplemente estaba siendo amable.

A pocas millas del estadio se encuentra el Centro de Salud Comunitario Tepeyac, en el vecindario predominantemente hispano de Globeville. Esa es la base de operaciones de la doctora Pamela Valenza, médica de familia y directora de salud de la clínica. Valenza trata de abordar los temores y preocupaciones de sus pacientes acerca de las nuevas vacunas, pero muchos

le han dicho que todavía quieren esperar y ver que las personas no tengan efectos secundarios graves.

La clínica de Valenza llevó a cabo recientemente más eventos de vacunación, en horarios más convenientes que no interfirieron con el trabajo, como los viernes por la noche, y ofreció tarjetas de compra gratuitas para los vacunados. Dijo que le gusta la idea de combinar las vacunas con la diversión.

"La cultura latina -comida, cultura y comunidad- es una parte central de la comunidad latina", dijo Valenza. "Hacer que los eventos sean quizás un poco más que una simple vacuna podría alentar a algunos miembros a venir".

*John Daley, Colorado Public Radio. Esta historia proviene de la asociación de informes de salud de NPR con Colorado Public Radio y Kaiser Health News.*

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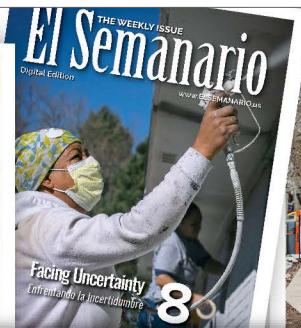
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