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**Chris M. Fresquez**  
President / CEO - Publisher

**Toni C. Fresquez**  
Editor

**Juan Carlos Uribe**  
Spanish Editor

**Raya Tkachenko**  
Layout/Production

THE WEEKLY ISSUE / El Semanario

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 460428, Glendale CO 80246

 800-886-4054  
303-672-0800  
720-368-5387 Fax

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## El Semanario Endorses Debbie Ortega for Denver Mayor

The next mayor of Denver must address the blatant inequities across all spectrums of the City, while maintaining its' economic investments and presenting secure and transparent leadership. Debbie Ortega, Denver City Councilwoman At-Large, has the utmost integrity, and decades of experience and knowledge to be elected as Denver's next Mayor.

*The Weekly Issue/El Semanario* is proud to endorse Debbie Ortega for Mayor of Denver.

For over three decades, Debbie has garnered the trust of her constituents and has been a constant source of progressive action throughout the City of Denver. In her role as Councilwoman, serving District 9 (1997-2003) and At-Large (2011-current), she has delivered on her campaign pledges to create equity and a voice for those who don't always have a seat at the table.

Debbie understands the intricate levels of government and has been courageous in speaking out

when the functions of city politics have not been inclusive to all of Denver's residents. She is a trusted person of sound moral character and never diminishes the voices of her constituents.

As a City of Denver Councilwoman, Debbie has never wavered in her commitment to serve the people who elected her to office. She understands the core of family struggles—her father died in a coal mine accident when she was five, leaving her mother alone to raise Debbie and her four siblings. She was raised with integrity and humility and has instilled the same qualities within her family. Debbie knows the multitude of challenges that Denver residents are facing and the economic struggles to remain in their beloved City.

During her tenure in District 9—a district with one of the city's most economically and environmentally challenged communities—Debbie was instrumental in the cleanup of the ASARCO Superfund Site, that for years held dan-

gerous levels of contamination in the soil and air in north Denver. Prior to the construction efforts along the I-70 corridor, Debbie demanded health and safety measures for the neighboring residents, schools and businesses, and she advocated for affordable housing and job opportunities for residents.

Debbie expanded her advocacy role when she was elected as an At Large representative, setting in place numerous neighborhood protections and regulations, establishing economic development opportunities and championed environmental concerns and park land designation.

She has consistently won Denver elections since 1997—with large margins in 2015 and 2019—due to her genuine commitment and accountability to the people of Denver.

Debbie realizes the extreme hardships Denver is facing with a record number of unhoused people, and is promoting solutions for this crisis, while working with af-



Debbie Ortega, Denver City Councilwoman At-Large

Photo/Foto: Ortega for Denver

fected businesses and communities. Additionally, she precisely outlines her campaign platform issues with defining accomplishments and sound solutions on housing, safety, jobs, transit, homelessness, quality of life, and climate.

Through these solutions, she clearly understands the concept of representing all people, with a well-defined plan to lead Denver in its next phase.

To support Debbie in her efforts to become the next mayor of Denver, visit [DebbieOrtega.com](#). Read more about Debbie Ortega on page 12.

**The Weekly Issue/El Semanario Editorial Board**

**Read More Commentary:**  
[ELSemanarioOnline.com](#)

## El Semanario Apoya a Debbie Ortega para la Alcaldía de Denver



Foto/Photo:

Debbie Ortega, Concejal de Denver.

El próximo alcalde de Denver debe hacer frente a las flagrantes desigualdades en todos los ámbitos de la ciudad, manteniendo sus inversiones económicas y presentando un liderazgo seguro y transparente. Debbie Ortega tiene la mayor integridad y décadas de experiencia y conocimiento para ser elegida como la próxima alcaldesa de Denver.

*The Weekly Issue/El Semanario* se enorgullece de apoyar a Debbie Ortega para la Alcaldía de Denver.

Durante más de tres décadas, Debbie se ha ganado la confianza de sus electores y ha sido una fuente constante de acción progresista en toda la ciudad de Denver. En su papel como concejal, sirviendo al Distrito 9 (1997-2003) y At-

Large (2011-actual), ha cumplido con sus promesas de campaña para crear equidad y una voz para aquellos que no siempre tienen un asiento en la mesa.

Debbie entiende los intrincados niveles de gobierno y ha sido valiente al hablar cuando las funciones de la política de la ciudad no han sido inclusivas para todos los residentes de Denver. Es una perso-

na en la que se puede confiar, de carácter moral sólido y que nunca resta importancia a las voces de sus electores.

Como concejala de la ciudad de Denver, Debbie nunca ha vacilado en su compromiso de servir a las personas que la eligieron para el cargo. Entiende la esencia de las luchas familiares: su padre murió en un accidente en una mina de carbón cuando ella tenía cinco años, dejando a su madre sola para criar a Debbie y a sus cuatro hermanos. Fue educada con integridad y humildad y ha inculcado las mismas cualidades a su familia. Debbie conoce la multitud de retos a los que se enfrentan los residentes de Denver y las luchas económicas para permanecer en su querida ciudad.

Durante su mandato en el Distrito 9 -un distrito con una de las comunidades con más problemas económicos y medioambientales de la ciudad- Debbie desempeñó un papel decisivo en la limpieza del emplazamiento de ASARCO

Superfund, que durante años mantuvo peligrosos niveles de contaminación en el suelo y el aire en el norte de Denver. Antes de las obras de construcción a lo largo del corredor de la I-70, Debbie exigió medidas sanitarias y de seguridad para los vecinos, las escuelas y las empresas, y abogó por viviendas asequibles y oportunidades de empleo para los residentes.

Debbie amplió su papel de defensora cuando fue elegida representante At Large, estableciendo numerosas protecciones y normativas vecinales, creando oportunidades de desarrollo económico y defendiendo las preocupaciones medioambientales y la designación de terrenos para parques.

Ha ganado sistemáticamente las elecciones de Denver desde 1997—con amplios márgenes en 2015 y 2019—debido a su genuino compromiso y responsabilidad con el pueblo de Denver.

Debbie es consciente de las dificultades extremas a las que se

enfrenta Denver con un número récord de personas sin vivienda, y está promoviendo soluciones para esta crisis, al tiempo que trabaja con las empresas y comunidades afectadas. Además, esboza con precisión los temas de su plataforma de campaña con logros definitorios y soluciones sólidas en materia de vivienda, seguridad, empleo, tránsito, personas sin hogar, calidad de vida, y clima.

A través de estas soluciones, ella entiende claramente el concepto de representar a todas las personas, con un plan bien definido para dirigir Denver en su próxima fase.

*Para apoyar a Debbie en sus esfuerzos por convertirse en la próxima alcaldesa de Denver, visite [DebbieOrtega.com](#). Lea más sobre Debbie en la página 12.*

**The Weekly Issue/El Semanario Consejo Editorial**

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## How Upcoming House GOP Hearings Will Mainstream Dangerous Conspiracies

Vanessa Cárdenas

Over the next few weeks House Republicans on the Judiciary and Oversight committees will launch their latest foray into political theater trying to outdo one another in the intensity of their bigoted and anti-immigrant attacks. While some may write this off as simply performing for the cameras, we should take it much more seriously. Racist rhetoric and conspiracy theories are not just soundbites for Fox News, they have already con-



Photo/Foto: America's Voice

tributed to a significant death toll, and the stakes for future violence are incredibly high.

While these hearings are being advertised as Congressional oversight on "border security," the reality is that they will not address the challenges on immigration, rather they will be a forum where House Republicans will expound on their demagoguery. The urgency to reform our badly outdated immigration system is more evident every day, yet a serious conversation about solutions will not be found among these GOP members. Instead, these Members will use the hearings as a platform for hate fuelled racist conspiracy theories and

will falsely claim that there is a literal "invasion" at the southern border, as Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) did in promoting the Oversight hearing. This rhetoric should not be misinterpreted as mere hyperbole. The language of a so-called migrant "invasion" is inextricably tied to the anti-semitic and white nationalist Great Replacement Theory.

Anyone covering these hearings must understand the origins of this rhetoric and language, and how it was used by the white nationalists in Charlottesville in 2017 who chanted "You will not replace



Recent history has shown how hate speech leads to political and hate violence and these hearings will add more fuel to the fire.

us" and "Jews will not replace us." Stopping the "Hispanic Invasion" was allegedly the motive of a

See Cárdenas on page 19

## Las Próximas Audiencias Del Partido Republicano En La Cámara Harán Prevalecer Conspiraciones Peligrosas

Vanessa Cárdenas

Durante las próximas semanas, los republicanos de la Cámara de Representantes de los comités Judicial y de Supervisión lanzarán su nueva andanada de agresiones como parte de su teatro político para mostrar cuán intensos son sus intolerantes y antiinmigrantes ataques. Si bien algunos consideran estas audiencias como un simple acto para las cámaras, la realidad es que se deberían atender con mucha más seriedad. La retórica racista y las teorías de conspiración no solo son "sound bites" que usan medios como Fox News, ya que han contribuido a la pérdida de vidas humanas, sino que hacen que los riesgos de violencia en el futuro sean increíblemente más altos. A pesar que estas audiencias han sido promovidas como una forma del Congreso de vigilar la "seguridad fronteriza", la realidad es que no abordarán los desafíos migratorios, sino que serán un foro donde los republicanos de la Cámara expondrán su demagogia. La urgencia por reformar nuestro anacrónico sistema de inmigración es más evidente cada día, pero una conversación seria en torno a las soluciones no se escuchará de esos miembros del Partido Republicano. En su lugar, veremos cómo estas audiencias se usan como plataforma para alimentar el odio y teorías conspirativas racistas, y falsamente se afirmará que hay una literal "invasión" en la frontera sur, como dijo la representante Lauren Boebert (R-CO) al promover esta audiencia. Esta retórica no debe malinterpretarse como una simple exageración. El lenguaje de una llamada "invasión" de migrantes está inextricablemente unida a la

teoría antisemita y del nacionalismo blanco del Gran Reemplazo. Cualquiera que cubra estas audiencias debe entender los orígenes de esa retórica y lenguaje, y cómo fueron usados por nacionalistas blancos en Charlottesville en 2017, quienes cantaron "Ustedes no nos reemplazarán" y "Los judíos no nos reemplazarán". Detener la "invasión hispana" fue supuestamente el motivo del pistolero que asesinó a 23 personas en un Walmart de El Paso en 2019, según un texto que él mismo escribió. El específico lenguaje de una "invasión" y un "reemplazo" fue copiado por el terrorista nacionalista blanco que asesinó a 10 personas en Buffalo, NY, en mayo pasado. Este debe ser el contexto en cualquier informe periodístico sobre las audiencias y la estrategia del Partido Republicano.

Muy lejos de lo que se pretende con las audiencias del Congreso, el teatro político que estamos cerca a presenciar puede provocar violencia política y terrorismo, lo cual es una de las mayores preocupaciones del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS). En noviembre y diciembre pasados, el DHS dio a conocer repetidas advertencias sobre amenazas serias hacia infraestructura crucial y comunidades inmigrantes de parte del terrorismo doméstico influido por la ideología antiinmigrante. Si estas audiencias tuvieran la intención de resolver los desafíos de la inmigración, habría propuestas legislativas en curso para solucionar el problema. En lugar de eso, los republicanos se apegan al muro fronterizo y a acabar con nuestro sistema de asilo. Como indicó el congresista Tony Gonzales (TX-23), integrante del caucus republicano: "Tratar de prohibir las solicitudes legítimas de asilo: en primer lugar,



La historia reciente nos ha demostrado cómo el discurso de odio conduce a la violencia política, y estas audiencias echarán más leña al fuego.

Paul Gosar, quienes utilizarán sus puestos para impulsar y promover las conspiraciones nacionalsitas blancas sobre la inmigración y la frontera, pero esta vez dirigida a una audiencia mucho más amplia. ¿Cómo sabemos esto? Porque monitoreamos lo que dicen, tuitean y anuncian. America's Voice observó los anuncios del Partido Republicano en el último ciclo electoral y encontró más de 700 ejemplos que utilizaban un lenguaje peligroso de conspiraciones de "invasión" y "reemplazo" en los mensajes de campaña de más de 80 candidatos republicanos. Estas audiencias congresionales no son sobre política pública o

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## Commentary/Commentario

## LGBTQ Kids Need Protection From Bullies and Violence



Photo: David DeWitt

David DeWitt

I grew up in a struggling, post-industrial Ohio town in the 1990s where ignorance and intolerance often reigned. I stood up to bullies my whole life, and when put under physical threat, I fought them.

No bully can intimidate me, and so even though I was definitely a weird kid, I was also funnier, smarter, and stronger than them.

They tested me, in the ways that kids do, and learned to be respectful. They also knew I would not tolerate bullying of others, so if anyone picked on someone just

for being different, we were going to have a problem.

Bullies are low, broken people; weak-minded and insecure.

But instead of being tough on themselves to grow into better human beings, they desperately try to mask their weakness and insecurity by acting tough to try to intimidate others.

It's tragic to see in any child and sad to see in any teenager, but when bullying manifests in grown adults, it's pathetic; an inexcusable and disgusting stunting of the mind.

“

Bullies are low, broken people; weak-minded and insecure.

When I was in high school 20 years ago, being LGBTQ put a big target on your back.

See DeWitt on page 16

## Black and Brown Caucuses Will Continue to Fight for Accountability and Safety Efforts

We, the members of Colorado's Black and Latino caucuses grieve for Tyre Nichols, his family, and his community. We mourn with Memphis, we ache, we are angry. In our pain and anger, we offer not just thoughts and prayers, but a renewed commitment to action that will upend the policy choices that led to Tyre's death—policy choices that will lead to the next pre-

bodies, and even our homes are so worth less than others'—is perceived to be tolerable, or without consequence. The events in Memphis highlight a culture that is so deep and pervasive that it supplants moral hierarchies like taking care of your own community. This is a result not of rogue bad actors, but of a system that is complicit in funding, facilitating, and fomenting such lethal outcomes for Black civilians in Tennessee, in Colorado, and nationwide.

Officers being swiftly dismissed from their jobs and charged for their alleged crimes is necessary, but we must set the bar higher. We hope these steps toward justice are due to the recognition of the cruelty behind the imbalance of power that is police brutality, not because of the perpetrators' persuasion. We hope this example of diligence will apply to all who dare to behave this grievously in the future.

ventable police killing if we do not change course swiftly.

Racism— from the implicit and internalized bias that our lives, our bodies, and even our homes are so worth less than others'— is perceived to be tolerable, or without consequence.

“

Racism— from the implicit and internalized bias that our lives, our bodies, and even our homes are so worth less than others'— is perceived to be tolerable, or without consequence.

Thousands live with the anxiety of how they will be treated if

Vea [Caucuses](#), página 17

A VIBRANT NEW COMEDY  
SET IN THE HEART OF MIAMI

Illustration by Kyle Malone

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## Commentary/Commentario

## Social Security Is a Sacred Contract, Not Something To Be Trifled With

**Tom Conway**

**C**liff Carlton was the 10th of 11 children and one of three still living at home when his father, a coal miner, died unexpectedly at 67.

Only his dad's Social Security benefits, along with vegetables from the family's small farm in southwestern Virginia, kept the household afloat during the lean years that followed.

That battle for survival made Carlton a lifelong champion of Social Security and a tireless opponent of the Republicans in Congress who keep trying to kill this lifeline for the middle class.

"It's not a gift. It's money that we're due," explained Carlton, vice president of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) Chapter 8-UR2 and president of the Virginia Alliance for Retired Americans.

"We put money into it. We deserve it back," continued Carlton, 70, a retired tire manufacturing worker and longtime member of the United Steelworkers (USW) who's attended rallies and lobbied Congress on behalf of Social Security for 30 years.

Republicans long hoped to privatize Social Security, preferring to gamble Americans' futures on the stock market rather than force the wealthy to pay their fair share of the taxes needed to sustain the program. Fortunately, congressional Democrats, union members and other Americans torpedoed these schemes.

**“**  
Pro-corporate Republicans openly plot to cut Social Security benefits and raise the retirement age, moves that would force millions of Americans to work longer and delay their retirements.

But now there's a new threat. To secure enough votes to become speaker of the House, Kevin McCarthy toadied to extremist Republicans whose demands for radical budget cuts once again put Social Security and Medicare at risk.

Pro-corporate Republicans openly plot to cut Social Security

benefits and raise the retirement age, moves that would force millions of Americans to work longer and delay their retirements. Some Republicans even want to gut the current funding formula, slashing payments to Americans with other income, regardless of how much they pay into the program.

The National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare warns that this kind of con, called means-testing, would end Social Security as Americans know it and take benefits even from those with "very modest incomes."

"If you lose something, you don't ever get it back," observed Carlton, who fears that Republican toying with Social Security will break seniors already living on the margins amid skyrocketing medical costs and mounting bills stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition to providing a buffer against unexpected health crises, Social Security is the only resource many retirees have when they outlive the nest eggs they accumulated during their working years.

"My grandmother is 102 years old. She retired at the age of 65 the year I was born, so I've never known her except in a retired state.

She still lives on her own," said Mike Budd, 37, a Marine Corps veteran and member of USW Local 12775, who credits Social Security with enabling his grandma, a former bank teller, to maintain her independence and high quality of life for decades.

"In fact, that's the reason I'm very passionate about keeping this program around," said Budd, who works as a substation electrician at Northern Indiana Public Service Co. (NIPSCO).

Democratic President Joe Biden and the Democratic-controlled Senate will continue to protect Social Security—and Medicare—from the Republicans who narrowly regained control of the House in November. Still, the Republicans vow to stage a showdown over America's debt and allow the nation to careen toward default in a reckless gambit to commandeer the spending cuts they want.

Ironically, many of the same Republicans bent on eviscerating Social Security have huge personal fortunes on top of congressional pensions and enjoy a level of financial security out of reach of most Americans.

"It's certainly easy to tell people to make do with less when they have more," noted Budd, chair of Local 12775's Veterans of Steel Committee, who deployed to Iraq three times from 2004 to 2009 as an aircraft mechanic with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14 (MALS-14).

"There were no millionaires deployed with me," noted Budd, only "a lot of working-class people" who loved their country and believed in the American dream that Republicans now threaten.

Some Republicans attempt to soft-pedal their shenanigans by saying they won't cut benefits for current recipients, only future retirees who would have "time to adjust" to the changes, likely by working longer.

That angers Budd, who's been paying Social Security taxes since he was a 16-year-old with a summer job at an equipment rental company and expects the long-promised return on his ongoing investment.

He's already laying the financial groundwork for his golden years, and those plans hinge on a robust Social Security program that will

See Conway on page 20

## LEAP can help heat your home LEAP le puede ayudar a calentar su hogar

Colorado's Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) helps eligible Coloradans pay a portion of their winter home heating costs.

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## A Tribal Education Trust Fund Guarantees a Fundamental Right

**Mark Mitchell**

**A**s former governor of Te-suque Pueblo and current chairman of the All Pueblo Council of Governors (APCG), I am forever grateful to the late Judge Sarah Singleton for ruling in *Yazzie/Martinez v. State of New Mexico* that Native American students have a constitutional right to a culturally and linguistically relevant education.

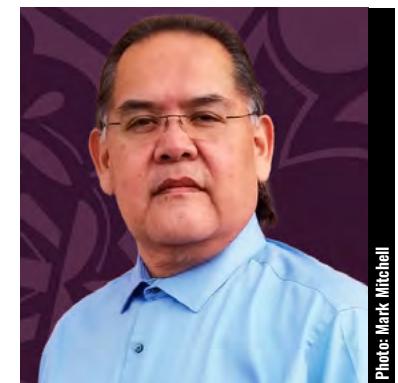


Photo: Mark Mitchell

**“**  
We should all be mindful that these lands are ancestral tribal lands that once belonged to the Indigenous People of this state.

APCG's tribal leaders, who collectively serve as a diplomatic arm and a shield to protect against threats to traditional Pueblo ways of life, have voiced their support for the court's decision in *Yazzie-Martinez*, and have developed and

endorsed the Tribal Remedy Framework, which offers a comprehensive plan for meeting the needs of Native students.

Now the APCG offers a tribal response to the court ruling that is aligned with the Tribal Remedy Framework: we call for the establishment of a Tribal Education Trust Fund.

The APCG has worked diligently to develop and adopt Resolution No. 2022-18, which supports the Establishment of a Tribal Education Trust Fund for the maintenance and preservation of our precious languages and traditions. It calls

See Mitchell on page 19

## Millions of Children, Adults at Risk of Losing Medicaid Coverage

**By Benjamin Neufeld**

**T**he Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that between 5 and 14 million people will lose Medicaid coverage when states "unwind" the continuous enrollment provision this year.

"This unwinding is [going to be] considered the largest health event since the implementation of the [Affordable Care Act]," said Laura Guerra-Cardus at a news briefing held by The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in collaboration

Policy Priorities," in collaboration with Ethnic Media Services (EMS), on Friday, January 27. During the pandemic, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) required Medicaid programs to keep recipients continuously enrolled and covered until the declared end to the Public Health Emergency. According to [KFF.org](#), Congress passed a spending bill at the end of last year that will put an end to that continuous enrollment provision on March 31. On April 1, states can begin "unwinding" Medicaid coverage by resuming the review process for enrollee eligibility and, "ending coverage for those found ineligible," according to the EMS news briefing.

ineligible," according to the EMS news briefing. Guerra-Cardus and other experts are concerned that many o

5.5.175

# **Millones en Riesgo Cobertura de Medicaid**

## **Por Benjamin Neufeld**

"Este desmantelamiento será considerado el mayor acontecimiento sanitario desde la puesta en marcha de la Ley de Asistencia Sanitaria Asequible", afirmó Laura Guerra-Cardus en una rueda de prensa celebrada por el Centro de Prioridades Presupuestarias y Políticas, en colaboración con Ethnic Media Services (EMS), el viernes 27 de enero. Durante la pandemia, la ley Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) exigía que los programas de Medicaid mantuvieran a los beneficiarios continuamente inscritos y cubiertos hasta que se declarara el fin de la emergencia de salud pública. Según KFF.org, el Congreso aprobó una ley de gastos a finales del año pasado que pondrá fin a esa disposición de inscripción continua el 31 de marzo. El 1 de abril, los esta-

As a likely result of the continuous enrollment policy put in place by the Public Health Emergency, Medicaid enrollment grew 30% during the pandemic. Now 84 million, or 1 in 4, Americans are covered by Medicaid. According to Farah Erzouki, a Senior Policy Analyst at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities who spoke at the EMS briefing, 18 million people stand to lose Medicaid coverage despite millions of them remaining eligible. People of color and children are particularly at risk.

Laura Guerra-Cardus, the Director of State Medicaid Strategy at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, says that those most likely to lose coverage due to ineligibility include young adults who turned 19 during the pandemic and will no longer be eligible for children's coverage, parents whose income has risen above the eligibility threshold or who no longer have dependents, and postpartum people past their state Medicaid program's eligibility period--either 60 days, 6 months, or 12 months after birth depending on the state.

Guerra-Cardus and other experts are concerned that many o

these individuals who become ineligible for Medicaid will simultaneously be unable to afford marketplace insurance due to the extremely low income threshold for Medicaid eligibility or ineligibility. She believes states should expand their Medicaid eligibility criteria to account for this potential gap.

Many individuals who lose Medicaid coverage may be eligible for other affordable healthcare options through the Affordable Care Act, but they may have only a limited time to make that transition without experiencing a lapse in coverage.

Many people who are able to retain their Medicaid eligibility may still be at risk of losing coverage due to the logistical challenges state agencies face with processing this unprecedented volume of cases. Strain on these agencies will likely result in mistakes during case processing and inadequate information/outreach to Medicaid enrollees pertaining to the renewal process. Due to the Public Health Emergency policy, most, if not all, of these enrollees, have likely not been in contact with their Medicaid agencies in at least three years. Farah Erzouki worries that unfa-

A young boy with dark hair and a blue plaid shirt is sitting on a white examination table. A male doctor with glasses and a white coat is leaning over him, using a stethoscope to listen to his chest. The doctor's hands are on the boy's lower back and hip. The background shows a corkboard with various notices pinned to it.

**Millions of children and families will be affected by the government's process to disenroll Medicaid coverage across the country.<sup>7</sup>** *Millones de niños y familias se verán afectados por el proceso del gobierno para dar de baja la cobertura de Medicaid en todo el país.*

miliarity with the renewal process could result in mistakes on behalf of enrollees and a potential lapse in coverage. Additionally, she suspects that many enrollees have changed addresses during the pandemic and therefore will not receive their renewal notices/information in the mail.

aid agencies, Medicaid enrollees, community organizations, and media outlets--to prepare for this unwinding process. They want to see a stronger informational campaign around the unwinding, including resources and instructions for those who will be affected. Erzouki also believes Medicaid

"This really is an all hands on deck situation," said Kristen Golden Testa, the Health Policy Director for The Children's Partnership. Testa, along with Erzouki and other experts, are encouraging everyone--particularly Medicaid agencies--to act now to lessen the burden of this crisis by expanding eligibility requirements, making the renewal process simpler, automating renewals for cer-

See **Medicaid** on page 17

# DESCUBRA LOS VERDADEROS COSTOS DE LA ENERGÍA SUCIA



## Cover /Portada

## Lengthy Timeline for DACA Legal Fight Puts Lives on Hold for Years

By Ariana Figueroa

**K**aren Judith Briseno Ortiz mailed in her application for a program meant to protect undocumented children from deportation, one day after her twin sister's application.

Her sister was accepted into the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, but Briseno Ortiz, who grew up in Dallas, Texas, was not. Now her application is in limbo due to an injunction placed by a Texas federal judge, who determined the Obama-era program was unlawful.

"That opportunity got taken from me," she said of Texas District Judge Andrew Hanen's decision, which prevented the government from accepting new applicants into the program, but allowed it to remain for current participants as it undergoes litigation.

Multiple immigration attorneys who spoke with States Newsroom said they expect a decision on the legality of DACA, when it eventually goes to the U.S. Supreme Court, to not be issued until 2024. Congress appears unlikely to take action, although immigration advocates have suggestions about policy initiatives the Biden administration could study for DACA recipients.

In the meantime, they must wait.

### One legal to work, one not

Briseno Ortiz and her sister, now 20, live together and attend Texas A&M University.

One twin is allowed to work, because DACA gives her access to work permits and a Social Security number.

But Briseno Ortiz, a chemistry major, cannot get work permits and will likely have to leave her home state to attend medical school, since there is only one

medical school in Texas that admits DACA students.

The program, which has protected more than 800,000 undocumented children, including 14,520 in Colorado, from deportation since 2012, is at risk of being deemed unlawful, leaving recipients in limbo and uncertain if they will be protected from deportation.

Briseno Ortiz is the only one of her three siblings not in the program, despite being eligible for DACA. The Migration Policy Institute, a think tank that tracks migration, estimates that as of December 2021, there are 1.5 million undocumented people who are DACA-eligible but not enrolled.

"It's frustrating because we're just waiting," Briseno Ortiz said of her application and others that are still pending due to the injunction.

### DACA legal challenges

The Trump administration tried to rescind the program in 2017. That is the same year the twins turned 15, making them eligible for DACA.

When the Supreme Court in June 2020 deemed the Trump administration's actions were unlawful, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services should have begun to accept first-time DACA applications, but the Trump administration didn't.

It wasn't until December 2020 that USCIS complied and opened up applications for first-time applicants, which is when Briseno Ortiz and her sister sent in their applications. Her twin's paperwork was sent on Dec. 22 and hers on Dec. 23, 2020.

They sent their applications one day apart to avoid any confusion with immigration officials or hold-up with their applications because they share the same birthday and first and last name.

Briseno Ortiz' twin was ac-



Photo/Foto: Molly Adams/flickr/cc 2.0

Advocates of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program continue to push for a solid path to citizenship for millions of undocumented children. / Los defensores del programa de Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA, por sus siglas en inglés) siguen presionando para conseguir una vía sólida hacia la ciudadanía para millones de niños indocumentados.

cepted in DACA in June 2021, just before Hanen's decision, which barred future applications, but allowed for renewals. This stems from a lawsuit brought by Republican-led states that argue the program is burdensome to states and the government overreached its power in creating the program.



"It's frustrating because we're just waiting."

Karen Judith Briseno Ortiz

Briseno Ortiz said she feels helpless waiting for the court to make a decision.

The Biden administration appealed that July 2021 decision to

the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, headquartered in New Orleans. A three-judge panel said that the Obama administration did not have the authority to create the program in 2012 and sent the case back to Hanen.

The panel asked the judge to look at the new version of a rule on the program issued by the Biden administration in August 2022, which was set to take effect on Oct. 31.

As of now, the lower court is hearing arguments about whether the Biden administration's new rule, which is nearly identical to the memo creating DACA, is lawful. A schedule for that case has not been set yet.

"But advocates are not very hopeful that the decision coming out of this court will be positive or in favor of DACA," said Veronica García, an attorney at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center.

She said the best case scenario is if DACA gets struck down, renewals will be allowed to continue while the case then goes to the Supreme Court.

"That doesn't mean that it will not be ruled unlawful, but it's in a much better legal footing," he said, pointing out that when Hanen first looked at the Obama-era program he decided that the administration overreached its power in creating the program through a memo, rather than proper rule making.

Chishti said that in many ways, the Biden administration has already responded to Hanen's arguments by going through the rule making process in creating DACA.

He added that briefs in the case can be filed through April, meaning that a date for oral arguments won't be set until after that.

"I don't think we're looking at a decision in this case till at least the summer," Chishti said.

Then, once the case is appealed to the 5th Circuit, as expected, and then the Supreme Court, Chishti said he doesn't expect a decision until the spring of 2024 or later.

"So that means there's nothing imminent wrong potentially happening to the existing DACA recipients," he said.

### DACA 'is outdated'

Juliana Macedo do Nascimento, the deputy director of federal advocacy of United We Dream, said DACA could be ended as early as next year by the Supreme Court, during the Biden administration, "which would just be a shame given his history, and his legacy with the program."

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## La Lucha Legal por DACA Pone Vidas en Espera por Años



están pendientes debido a la medida cautelar.

### Los desafíos legales de DACA

La administración Trump intentó rescindir el programa en 2017. Ese es el mismo año en que los gemelos cumplieron 15 años, haciendolos elegibles para DACA.

Cuando el Tribunal Supremo en junio de 2020 consideró que las acciones de la administración Trump eran ilegales, los Servicios de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de Estados Unidos deberían haber comenzado a aceptar las primeras solicitudes de DACA, pero la administración Trump no lo hizo.

No fue hasta diciembre de 2020 que USCIS cumplió y abrió las solicitudes para los solicitantes por primera vez, que es cuando Briseno Ortiz y su hermana enviaron sus solicitudes. La documentación de su gemela fue enviada el 22 de diciembre y la de ella el 23 de diciembre de 2020.

Enviaron sus solicitudes con un día de diferencia para evitar cualquier confusión con los funcionarios de inmigración o retrasos en sus solicitudes, ya que comparten la misma fecha de nacimiento y el mismo nombre y apellido.

Briseno Ortiz dijo que se siente impotente a la espera de que el tribunal tome una decisión.

El gobierno de Biden apeló esa decisión de julio de 2021 ante el Tribunal de Apelaciones del 5º Circuito, con sede en Nueva Orleans. Un panel de tres jueces dijo que la administración Obama no tenía autoridad para crear el programa en 2012 y devolvió el caso a Hanen.

El panel pidió al juez que examinara la nueva versión de una norma sobre el programa emitida por la administración Biden en agosto de 2022, que debía entrar en vigor el 31 de octubre.

A partir de ahora, el tribunal de primera instancia está escuchando los argumentos sobre si la nueva

Vea [DACA/Esp](#), página 20

Por Ariana Figueroa

**K**aren Judith Briseno Ortiz envió por correo su solicitud para un programa destinado a proteger a los niños indocumentados de la deportación, un día después de la solicitud de su hermana gemela.

tados Unidos, no se emita hasta 2024. Parece poco probable que el Congreso tome medidas, aunque los defensores de los inmigrantes tienen sugerencias sobre iniciativas políticas que el gobierno de Biden podría estudiar para los beneficiarios de DACA.

Mientras tanto, deben esperar.

**Uno legal para trabajar, otro no**  
Briseno Ortiz y su hermana, que ahora tiene 20 años, viven juntas y asisten a la Universidad A&M de Texas.

Una de las gemelas puede trabajar, porque DACA le da acceso a permisos de trabajo y a un número de la Seguridad Social.

Pero Briseno Ortiz, una estudiante de química, no puede obtener permisos de trabajo y probablemente tendrá que dejar su estado natal para asistir a la escuela de medicina, ya que sólo hay una escuela de medicina en Texas que admite estudiantes de DACA.

El programa, que ha protegido de la deportación a más de 800.000 niños indocumentados, incluidos 14.520 en Colorado, desde 2012, corre el riesgo de ser considerado ilegal, dejando a los beneficiarios en el limbo y sin saber si estarán protegidos de la deportación.

Briseno Ortiz es la única de sus tres hermanos que no está en el programa, a pesar de ser elegible para DACA. El Migration Policy Institute, un centro de estudios que rastrea la migración, estima que hasta diciembre de 2021 hay 1.5

"Es frustrante porque solo estamos esperando".

Karen Judith Briseno Ortiz

Su hermana fue aceptada en el programa de Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia, pero Briseno Ortiz, que creció en Dallas, Texas, no. Ahora su solicitud está en el limbo debido a una orden judicial dictada por un juez federal de Texas, que determinó que el programa de la era Obama era ilegal.

"Me quitaron esa oportunidad", dijo sobre la decisión del juez de distrito de Texas Andrew Hanen, que impidió que el gobierno aceptara nuevos solicitantes en el programa, pero permitió que permaneciera para los participantes actuales mientras se somete a litigio.

Múltiples abogados de inmigración que hablaron con States Newsroom dijeron que esperan que la decisión sobre la legalidad de DACA, cuando finalmente llegue al Tribunal Supremo de Es-

millones de indocumentados que son elegibles para DACA pero no están inscritos.

"Es frustrante porque solo estamos esperando", dijo Briseno Ortiz sobre su solicitud y otras que aún

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Heart by Rosa Chavez



## State News / Noticias del Estado

## How a Bilingual School Counselor in Adams 14 Helps Students and Families

**COLORADO****By Yesenia Robles**

**A**s more schools see a need to focus on student mental health, districts are hiring new mental health professionals to help.

But what do these various positions involve, how do they work together, and how can they help students?

Chalkbeat talked to a bilingual school counselor in Adams 14 to learn more about how school counselors work with students and how being bilingual contributes to the job.

Brenda Moreno Negrete is the only bilingual counselor in the only comprehensive high school in Adams 14, a district north of Denver, where about half of the more than 6,000 students are identified as English language learners and most come from Spanish-speaking homes. Here she talks about her job and how being bilingual helps her talk to more students and connect with families.

The following interview has been edited for clarity and length.



Photo/Foto: Christian K. Lee para Chalkbeat

**Bilingual school counselors can help talk to families to remove the stigma of mental health issues, said Brenda Moreno Negrete.** / Los consejeros bilingües de la escuela pueden hablar con las familias para eliminar el estigma de los problemas de salud mental, dijo Brenda Moreno Negrete.

**Tell us about your job.**

It is my first year as a school counselor here at Adams City High School. School counselors, we have three main domains that we focus on: academics, career, and then social-emotional, which is where the mental health part comes in. They go hand-in-hand. A lot of times we have kiddos struggling at home or with mental health that affects their academics. Being able to look at kiddos in that holistic way is where we try to help.

A lot of college programs including mine we do internships and practicums where we do just mental health — that's all we do we do, and then later we incorporate the academics part of it.

I grew up in the community I'm serving. We do have an intern that is bilingual, but I am currently the only bilingual licensed counselor at the school which has been of huge help. It's just really nice to be able to connect with families in their language. I know my commu-

nity and I know how important it is for parents to connect with people who speak their language and who can connect with them. I also know the needs here so I wanted to come here and I wanted to start my career here.

**What kind of work do you do with students on a typical day?**

It varies. If a kid is talking about suicide or self-harming, we get called in and we do screeners. If a kiddo is having a tough day they come to us and meet with us, whether it be about anything from anxiety, which we have seen a lot, to depression, to maybe even just relationship problems. We go ahead and talk to them. We do talk about academics but that is not all the focus.

If we see they're having attendance issues then we go ahead and check in and see what's going on. A lot of the time it has something to do with their life at home or they are struggling with mental health.

**How are students assigned to one of the four counselors?**

It depends on the school. Right now at our school we have them

by alphabetical order, so it's by last name.

When it comes to kiddos, their families might only speak Spanish, but a lot of kiddos are bilingual. We do have kiddos who maybe they just got here from Mexico or they're fairly new. If they don't speak English, then yes, that would be me. I go ahead and meet with them and talk to them just because right now our other counselors do not speak Spanish. We do have the intern who does and she does talk to some also.

**What are the other mental health resources you work with at your school?**

We have a social worker. She works with a lot of kiddos, she usually has a case load just like us. A lot of her kiddos have special education services or are on IEPs (Individual Education Program).

In this school we have Kids First, which is a clinic and they're stationed here at the school, right in the same area as our nurse. Kids First also offers a therapist. If there are kiddos who need more time, for example my caseload right now is about 350 students, so that's a lot of students. We do have kiddos who need maybe more individualized meetings with a therapist more often, like once a week or every other week. Then we do refer out.

We have Kids First and we have Griffith Center here at the school. Griffith Center is also a mental health place where they do all sorts of things, but they have someone who is actually here at the school. It's really neat because when we refer students they meet with a therapist who is here at the school. The family does not have to go out. We try to eliminate that barrier. They usually try to pull them or meet with them during the school time, where they're able to.

**When do you connect with families?**

It comes in a lot of different ways. Sometimes the parents do come in asking for help. They get phone calls saying that their kid is missing class and so some of them do come in. Or for example if we have a teacher who refers them and says, "Hey, I know this kid who maybe has cuts" or "I know this kid is feeling down," then we go ahead and pull them and depending on what's going on that's when we make the connection at home.

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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**1150-AM**

**El Semanario**



## Cómo Una Consejera Bilingüe de Adams 14 Ayuda a los Estudiantes y Sus Familias

### COLORADO

#### Por Yesenia Robles

**A** medida que más escuelas ven una necesidad de enfocarse en la salud mental de los estudiantes, los distritos están contratando más profesionales de salud mental para ayudar.

Pero ¿qué papel juegan estas nuevas personas, cómo trabajan juntas, y cómo pueden ayudar a los estudiantes?

Chalkbeat entrevistó a una consejera escolar bilingüe de Adams 14 para aprender más sobre cómo los consejeros escolares trabajan con los estudiantes y cómo ser bilingüe aporta a esa labor.

Brenda Moreno Negrete es la única consejera bilingüe en la única secundaria integral en Adams 14 (un distrito al norte de Denver), donde más o menos la mitad de los más de 6,000 estudiantes están identificados como ELL (estudiantes que están aprendiendo inglés) y la mayoría proviene de hogares que hablan español. Aquí ella habla acerca de su trabajo y de cómo ser bilingüe le ayuda a hablar con más estudiantes y conectarse con las familias.

La entrevista que sigue fue editada para ser más clara y breve.

¿Tienes más preguntas sobre empleos de salud mental en tus escuelas y te gustaría compartirlas con nosotros? Envianos un email a [co.tips@chalkbeat.org](mailto:co.tips@chalkbeat.org).

#### Cuéntanos sobre tu trabajo.

Este es mi primer año como consejera escolar aquí en la Escuela Secundaria Adams City. Los consejeros escolares tenemos tres tareas principales en las que nos enfocamos: aspectos académicos, carrera profesional, y aspectos socioemocionales, y en este último es que está la salud mental. Son cosas que van juntas. Muchas veces tenemos chicos que están teniendo dificultades en la casa o problemas de salud mental que afectan su desempeño académico. Nosotros entonces nos fijamos en ellos de manera completa para tratar de ayudarlos.

Muchos programas universitarios, entre ellos el mío, incluyen prácticas en las que solo hacemos salud mental; o sea, es todo lo que hacemos primero y luego incorporamos lo académico.

Yo crecí en la comunidad en que estoy trabajando. Tenemos un programa de práctica bilingüe, pero actualmente soy la única consejera bilingüe con licencia en la escue-

la, lo cual ha sido de mucha ayuda. Es verdaderamente genial poder conectarme con las familias en su idioma. Yo conozco mi comunidad y sé qué tan importante es para los padres poder conectarse con gente que hable su idioma y que los entiendan. También sé las necesidades que hay aquí, y por eso quise empezar mi carrera profesional en esta comunidad.

#### ¿Qué tipo de trabajo haces con los estudiantes en un día normal?

Eso varía. Si un estudiante está hablando de suicidio o de hacerse daño, nos llaman y hacemos evaluaciones. Si alguien está teniendo un día difícil, viene a nuestras oficinas y hablamos, ya sea sobre ansiedad (que hemos visto bastante), depresión, o hasta problemas en sus relaciones. En esos casos, hablamos con ellos. Si se toca el tema de lo académico, pero ese no es todo el enfoque.

Si notamos que están teniendo problemas de ausencia, entonces checamos a ver qué está pasando. Muchas de las veces, está relacionado con algo en su vida familiar o porque están batallando con salud mental.

#### ¿Cómo se asignan los estudiantes a uno de los cuatro consejeros?

Depende de la escuela. Ahora mismo en nuestra escuela los tenemos por orden alfabético, o sea, según el apellido.

Aunque algunas familias solamente hablan español, muchos de los chicos son bilingües. Tenemos algunos que quizás acaban de llegar de México o son bastante nuevos. Si no hablan inglés, entonces sí, esos los atiendo yo. Me reúno y hablo con ellos, ya que ahora mismo los demás consejeros no hablan español. Si hay una practicante que lo habla, y ella habla con algunos también.

#### ¿Qué otros recursos de salud mental hay en tu escuela?

Tenemos una trabajadora social. Ella trabaja con muchos de los estudiantes; usualmente atiende a tantos como nosotros. Muchos de los chicos tienen servicios de educación especial o un IEP (programa individual de educación).

En esta escuela tenemos el programa *Kids First*, una clínica aquí mismo y en el mismo área de la enfermería. La clínica *Kids First* también ofrece servicios de terapia para estudiantes que necesitan más tiempo. Por ejemplo, mi total de casos ahora es más o menos 350 estudiantes, lo cual es bastante

grande. Tenemos chicos que quizás necesitan citas de terapia más individualizada y más frecuentes, por ejemplo, una vez a la semana o cada dos semanas. Si ese es el caso, los referimos a otra clínica.

Aquí tenemos *Kids First* y también el *Griffith Center*, otro centro de salud mental que ofrece muchas cosas, y que ha asignado a alguien a estar aquí en la escuela. Es verdaderamente genial, porque cuando tenemos que referir a un estudiante, se reúne con un terapeuta aquí mismo en la escuela. La familia no tiene que acudir a otro sitio. Nosotros tratamos de eliminar esa barrera. Usualmente, el/la terapeuta se reúne con el estudiante durante las horas de escuela, cuando pueden.

#### ¿Cuándo te conectas con las familias?

Eso ocurre de muchas maneras diferentes. A veces los padres vienen a la escuela a pedir ayuda. La escuela los llama para decir que su hijo(a) está faltando a clases, y algunos de los padres vienen. O, por ejemplo, a veces un maestro hace un referido diciendo 'He notado que este estudiante tiene cortaduras', o 'esta estudiante se está sintiendo triste'.

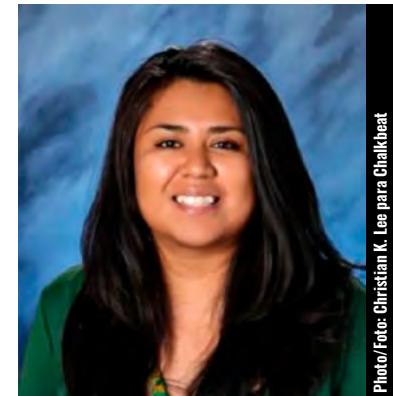
Si eso ocurre, entonces los sacamos del salón, y dependiendo de lo que esté pasando, entonces nos comunicamos con el hogar.

Otras veces llamamos a la casa para checar si todo está bien con el estudiante. Les decimos a los padres lo que está pasando, especialmente si se trata de salud mental, para checar qué está ocurriendo en la casa. En cuanto a lo académico, podemos llamar a los papás para avisarles si está todo en marcha para graduarse o no.

#### ¿Los estudiantes pueden esperar confidencialidad al hablar con ustedes, o cuándo se tienen que comunicar con los padres?

Hay confidencialidad entre nosotros y el estudiante. Solo hay tres excepciones en las que no podemos cumplir eso. Si algo le está haciendo daño, por ejemplo, si está hablando de suicidio, o si está en peligro. Si está hablando de hacerle daño a otra persona, o si está amenazando hacerle algo al edificio. Esas son realmente las únicas excepciones, aparte de que nos podemos comunicar con los padres si el estudiante nos da permiso.

Todo esto está publicado en nuestras oficinas, y nosotros tam-



Brenda Moreno Negrete es consejera bilingüe en Adams 14./ Brenda Moreno Negrete is a bilingual counselor in Adams 14.

bien les decimos a los estudiantes. Sí tenemos confidencialidad, y estoy aquí para ayudarte, pero hay excepciones. Yo siempre les digo, y en muchas ocasiones ellos me dan permiso para hablar con la familia. Si la familia está de acuerdo en participar, esto marca una gran diferencia. Pero hay casos en los que no es lo adecuado.

Por ejemplo, si un estudiante se está haciendo daño o tiene pensamientos suicidas, entonces una manera de ayudar es tener esa conversación con los padres de una manera en que el/la estudiante se sienta seguro(a) y sin estigma.

Vea **Bilingüe**, página 21



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## State News / Noticias del Estado

**Debbie Ortega: Working To Be Denver's Next Mayor****COLORADO**

In ways large and small, Councilwoman At-Large Debbie Ortega has been a Denver public servant for decades. A trailblazer, Debbie co-sponsored Denver's first equal protection ordinance, led the fight to force cleanup of environmental waste in Globeville and Elyria-Swansea, and is still helping struggling Denverites find housing. As our next mayor, Debbie's decades of experience in municipal public policy, along with her history of standing up to special interests,

will help make Denver safer and more prosperous for everyone.

That's why, as one of Denver's citywide councilors, she was re-elected in 2019 by a historic margin – receiving 23,000 more votes than the incumbent mayor.

Debbie was born in New Mexico, the daughter of a coal miner who was killed on the job. Raised along with her brother and three sisters by her mother, Debbie and her family moved to Denver when she was 13. She attended Kepner Middle School, graduating from West High School. She attended

Barnes Business College and attended DU's Law School Clinical Education Program. Straightaway, Debbie went into public service – working in Lt. Gov. George Brown's office and for U.S. Sen. Floyd Haskell. After working for several years as an aide to Denver City Councilman Sal Carpio, Debbie was elected as his successor in 1987, serving until 2003 – when she and nine colleagues were term limited.

After leaving her council position, Debbie became the Denver Homeless Commission's first Executive Director. She's also Board Chair for Del Norte Neighborhood Development Corporation, a non-profit that builds affordable housing. She has served on numerous boards and commissions, such as Denver Women's Commission, Healthy Foods for Denver Kids, Opioid Abatement Council,



Councilwoman At-Large Debbie Ortega is a candidate for Denver Mayor.

Photo/Foto: Ortega for Denver

and Denver's Crime Prevention & Control Commission. Debbie also co-chaired Denver's 2020 census.

Debbie was elected to one of Denver's citywide at-large council seats in 2011, and was re-elected twice thereafter.

While in office, Debbie has been an independent voice for neighborhoods left behind by city hall – standing up to powerful mayors and siding with people

**See Mayor on page 19**

**Debbie Ortega: Trabajando para Ser la Próxima Alcaldesa de Denver****COLORADO**

**L**a concejala Debbie Ortega ha sido una servidora pública de Denver durante décadas. Como pionera, Debbie copatrocinó la primera ordenanza de protección igualitaria de Denver, lideró la lucha para forzar la limpieza de residuos medioambientales en Globeville y Elyria-Swansea, y sigue ayudando a los habitantes de Denver con dificultades a encontrar vivienda. Como próxima alcaldesa, las décadas de experiencia de Debbie en política pública municipal, junto con su historial de enfrentarse a intereses especiales, ayudarán a que Denver sea más segura y próspera para todos.

Es por eso que, como uno de los concejales de la ciudad de Denver, fue reelegida en 2019 por un margen histórico: recibió 23,000 votos más que el alcalde en funciones.

Debbie nació en Nuevo México, hija de un minero del carbón que murió en el trabajo. Criada junto a su hermano y tres hermanas por su madre, Debbie y su familia se mudaron a Denver cuando ella tenía 13 años. Estudió en la Kepner Middle School y se graduó en el West High School. Estudió en el Barnes Business College y asistió al Programa de Educación Clínica de la Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad de Denver. Enseguida, Debbie se dedicó al servicio público, trabajando en la oficina del Vicegobernador George Brown y para el Senador de los EE.UU. Floyd Haskell. Después



La concejala de Denver Debbie Ortega.

Foto/Foto: Ortega for Denver

de trabajar varios años como ayudante del concejal de Denver Sal Carpio, Debbie fue elegida su sucesora en 1987, cargo que ocupó hasta 2003, cuando ella y nueve colegas vieron limitado su mandato.

Tras dejar su cargo en el ayuntamiento, Debbie se convirtió en la primera Directora Ejecutiva de la Comisión de Personas sin Hogar de Denver. También es Presidenta del Consejo de Del Norte Neighborhood Development Corporation, una organización sin ánimo de lucro que construye viviendas asequibles. Ha formado parte de numerosos consejos y comisiones, como la Comisión de Mujeres de Denver, Healthy Foods for Denver Kids, Opioid Abatement Council y la Comisión de Prevención y Control de la Delincuencia de Denver. Debbie también copresidió el censo 2020 de Denver.

Debbie fue elegida para ocupar uno de los escaños del consejo

municipal de Denver en 2011, y posteriormente fue reelegida en dos ocasiones.

Durante su mandato, Debbie ha sido una voz independiente para los barrios abandonados por el ayuntamiento, enfrentándose a alcaldes poderosos y poniéndose del lado de la gente en cuestiones como la permute de terrenos de Hentzel Park en 2013 por una propiedad de las Escuelas Públicas de Denver (DPS) en el centro de la ciudad, el costoso proyecto de drenaje de Platte a Park Hill, que triplicó su coste, y en 1991, Debbie bloqueó una incineradora de residuos médicos que tenía permiso para instalarse en el norte de Denver. Fue uno de los dos votos en contra del desastroso plan de remodelación del Great Hall del Aeropuerto Internacional de Denver (DIA) de la administración Hancock. Antes del desar-

**Vea Alcaldesa, página 18**

## Announcement Marks the Beginning of Tax Season

### COLORADO

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) announced the continuation of its bilingual Get Ahead Colorado and Hacia Adelante Colorado statewide awareness campaigns, building on the success of last year's statewide outreach. The announcement marks the beginning of tax season, with the cam-

paigns encouraging all Coloradans to file their taxes to receive valuable tax credits such as the Child Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Child and Dependent Tax Credit.

In 2022, tax credits like the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit put an estimated \$3.5 million dollars back in the pockets of low and moderate-income Coloradans. This success was possible

through coordinated, collaborative partnerships between the Polis-Primavera administration, CDPHE, AmeriCorps, and ServeColorado; and with the help of hundreds of dedicated Colorado Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) volunteers.

"We are making sure Coloradans can keep more of their hard-earned money, and this tax season we en-

courage Coloradans to check out this great opportunity to get free and secure tax support," said Governor Polis.

The campaign websites — [GetAheadColorado.org](#) and [HaciaAdelanteColorado.org](#) — direct people to three free, easy, and secure ways to file their taxes. Coloradans can file their tax return [online](#), [virtually connect with an IRS-certified tax preparer](#) to file with their smart-

**“We encourage Coloradans to check out this great opportunity to get free and secure tax support.”**

Governor Jared Polis

phone, or get in-person help at a [Colorado VITA/TCE site location](#).

See [Rebate](#) on page 17

## Anuncio Marca El Comienzo de la Temporada De Impuestos

### COLORADO

El Departamento de Salud Pública y Medio Ambiente de Colorado (CDPHE, por sus siglas en inglés), anunció la continuación de su campaña de concientización estatal llamada en inglés Get Ahead Colorado y en español Hacia Adelante Colorado, debido al éxito del año pasado. El anuncio marca el comienzo de la temporada de impuestos, con campañas que alientan a todos los residentes de Colorado a declarar sus impuestos para recibir valiosos créditos fiscales como el Crédito Tributario por Hijos, el Crédito Trib-

utario por Ingreso del Trabajo y el Crédito Tributario por Hijos y Dependientes.

En 2022, los créditos fiscales como el Crédito Tributario por Hijos y el Crédito Tributario por Ingreso del Trabajo devolvieron aproximadamente \$3.5 millones de dólares a los bolsillos de los habitantes de Colorado de ingresos bajos y moderados. Este éxito fue posible a través de asociaciones en conjunto coordinadas entre la administración Polis-Primavera, CDPHE, AmeriCorps y ServeColorado; y con la ayuda de cientos de voluntarios dedicados a la Asistencia Voluntaria de Impuestos (VITA) y al

Asesoramiento Fiscal para Adultos Mayores (TCE) de Colorado.



“En esta temporada de impuestos alentamos a los habitantes de Colorado a aprovechar esta gran oportunidad para obtener apoyo fiscal gratuito y seguro”.

Gobernador Jared Polis

“Estamos asegurando que los habitantes de Colorado puedan conservar una mayor parte del din-

ero que tanto les costó ganar, y en esta temporada de impuestos alentamos a los habitantes de Colorado a aprovechar esta gran oportunidad para obtener apoyo fiscal gratuito y seguro”, dijo el Gobernador Polis.

Los sitios web de la campaña — [GetAheadColorado.org](#) y [HaciaAdelanteColorado.org](#) — dirige a las personas a tres formas gratuitas, fáciles y seguras para hacer su declaración de impuestos. Las personas pueden hacer su declaración de impuestos [en línea](#), [conectarlo virtualmente con un preparador de impuestos certificado por el IRS](#), también a través de

su teléfono inteligente u obtener ayuda en persona en uno de los [sitios VITA \(Asistencia de Impuestos\)](#). También se puede encontrar información accesible sobre créditos fiscales estatales y federales para ayudar a familias de bajos a moderados ingresos, además recursos para obtener apoyo gratuito.

Las campañas están financiadas por el Programa de Movilidad Económica del [Proyecto de Ley del Senado 22-182](#) y están dirigidas por el Equipo de Movilidad Económica de CDPHE, cuyo objetivo es dis-

Vea [Reembolso](#), página 20

## Salud Names Dr. Pradeep Dharas as New Chief Medical Officer

### COLORADO



Photo/Foto: Salud Family Health

Pradeep Dhar, MD as its newest Chief Medical Officer for Salud Family Health. / Pradeep Dhar, MD como su nuevo Director Médico de Salud Family Health.

Salud Family Health recently announced Pradeep Dhar, MD as its newest Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Dhar is succeeding Dr. Tillman Farley, who served as Salud's Chief Medical Officer for the past 25 years and will continue to see patients at the Salud Fort Lupton clinic.

Dr. Dhar says of this recognition, “I am thrilled to continue my work at Salud by taking over the Chief Medical Officer position, which will allow me to continue providing medical

guidance and leadership to Salud's communities, patients, practitioners, and staff. It is an honor and privilege to continue working with a team of dedicated leaders and healthcare providers at Salud. I am motivated by the opportunity given to me by the Board of Directors and executive leadership team.”

Dr. Dhar completed medical school at the University of Bombay, India and pursued a Fellowship

See [Salud](#) on page 17

## Salud Nombra al Dr. Pradeep Dharas Como Nuevo Director Médico

### COLORADO

Salud Family Health anunció recientemente Pradeep Dhar, MD como su nuevo Director Médico. Dr. Dhar está sucediendo Dr. Tillman Farley, quien se desempeñó como Director Médico de Salud durante los últimos 25 años y seguirá viendo a los pacientes en la clínica Salud Fort Lupton.

El Dr. Dhar dice de este recon-

ocimiento: “Estoy encantado de continuar mi trabajo en Salud asumiendo el cargo de Director Médico, lo que me permitirá seguir proporcionando orientación médica y liderazgo a las comunidades de Salud, los pacientes, los profesionales y el personal. Es un honor y un privilegio continuar trabajando con un equipo de líderes dedicados y proveedores de salud en Salud. Estoy motivado por la oportunidad que me ha dado la

Junta Directiva y el equipo de liderazgo ejecutivo.”

Dr. Dhar completó la escuela de medicina en la Universidad de Bombay, India y siguió una beca en radiología intervencionista. Tras licenciarse en medicina, el Dr. Dhar trabajó brevemente para una compañía de seguros médicos como Vicepresidente de Servicios Médicos, un puesto que le

Vea [Salud/Esp](#), página 16

## State News / Noticias del Estado

## Proposed Legislation Seeks to End Detention Contracts with ICE

## NEW MÉXICO

By Megan Gleason

**A**bout a decade ago, Itzayana Banda's father called to tell her how horribly officials at the Otero County Processing Center were treating him and how he couldn't stand it anymore. Eight months later, she said in an interview, U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deported him. It was another 10 years before Banda got to see him again.

He may have never gone through that treatment if the county government hadn't allowed ICE to incarcerate immigrants there.

State legislators are trying to outlaw such agreements. Democratic Sens. Gerald Ortiz y Pino and Moe Maestas introduced legislation on Monday that would prohibit governments within the state of New Mexico from entering or renewing detention contracts with ICE starting in 2024.

That means the Otero County Processing Center — which racked up extensive abuse complaints and allegations of inhumane treatment and cruel conditions — could

no longer hold hundreds of immigrants.

Banda is now a spokesperson for the New Mexico Dream Team, an immigration advocacy group. She said her father told her how terribly officials treated him in Otero County.

"My dad would say that they would get treated like animals," she said.

“

New Mexico should not participate in mass incarceration that ICE is doing these days.”

Moe Maestas, NM State Senator

Ortiz y Pino said he was inspired to create the legislation after people approached him with concerns about how ICE treats asylum-seekers.

Federal inspectors told ICE in March to relocate people detained in Torrance County because of unsafe and unsanitary conditions. Five months later, in

August, an asylum-seeker from Brazil died by suicide there, and attorneys said he was being held in horrific conditions.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham responded to a question about poor detention conditions at a public safety news conference on Wednesday.

Lujan Grisham said she recently told Department of Homeland Security Cabinet Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas that what's happening at Torrance County Detention Center in New Mexico needs to improve, particularly if the federal government wants the state to keep licensing those facilities.

"I'm appalled at what's going on in Torrance County, and I need that fixed," she said.

Uriel Rosales, a field organizer with the New Mexico Dream Team, was raised in Chaparral, N.M., home to ICE's processing center. A DACA recipient, Rosales said he wants to see the immigrant detention in his community gone because of the reports of inhumane treatment there and at the other facilities.

The ultimate goal, Rosales said, is "to stop having inhumane condi-

tions in detention centers in New Mexico."

Sophia Genovese is a senior attorney at the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center. She said a large number of the immigrants coming to New Mexico are seeking asylum.

"They don't deserve this treatment," she said. "No one deserves this treatment."

**The bill's prospects**

Genovese said this bill could eliminate a space where ICE can hold up to 1,000 immigrants. That's just at Otero County Processing Center, she said, which detains the most immigrants in the state.

It could be more difficult to enforce a full shutdown at the other two detention centers in New Mexico. Genovese said the facility in Otero County is the only one where the county owns the land and the building, while the other two in Torrance and Cibola Counties are owned and operated by the private company CoreCivic.

So, she said, while the legislation would end the contracts ICE has with the counties in 2024, the federal agency could then just cut the county governments out altogether in Torrance and Cibola and contract directly with CoreCivic.

However, Genovese said the Torrance and Cibola detention centers each house fewer than 100 immigrants, while Otero usually holds around 500 or 600 people at a time.

The Torrance and Cibola facilities are primarily filled with state prisoners, Ortiz y Pino said. If ICE wanted to move more immigrants to those counties and skirt the state law, Ortiz y Pino said CoreCivic could no longer contract with the state, meaning those facilities would no longer be allowed to hold New Mexico prisoners.

That would be difficult, Ortiz y Pino said, since the bulk of CoreCivic's job in those prisons — under the company's contracts with the N.M. Corrections Department — is overseeing state prisoners.

Legislators tried to pass this kind of legislation in New Mexico four years ago, and Maestas said they've learned a lot. He said the measure has better chances this time.

"We're hoping to have a great conversation," Maestas said. "We think it's reasonable and phased in. But New Mexico should not participate in mass incarceration that ICE is doing these days."

Genovese said it's likely that the bill will pass due to the Legisla-

ture's Democratic majority, as well as community support. "When your constituents support it, I know our New Mexico politicians listen to them and vote in that direction," she said.

Virginia, New Jersey and Illinois recently enacted similar detention legislation. Genovese said this is becoming a national movement.

"It's a growing trend of states saying, 'We will not jeopardize the health and safety of those within our jurisdiction by subjecting them to inhumane treatment at immigration detention facilities,'" she said.

**Financial worries**

The bill sponsors said opponents of the legislation will likely be anyone who profits from detention centers, like private companies or surrounding towns.

But Genovese said that's not a strong argument against the bill because the facilities might not really be that financially helpful, research has shown.

New Mexico State University anthropology Professor Nathan Craig was an expert witness for Rep. Angelica Rubio (D-Las Cruces) in 2021 when lawmakers were attempting to end private prisons in the state. He said detention centers in rural areas don't help the local economy as much as people believe, because many workers are coming from more distant metropolitan areas.

Indeed, most of the guards at the Chaparral facility live in El Paso, Texas, Ortiz y Pino said. For those New Mexicans who do lose their jobs, he said, there are plenty of correctional facilities elsewhere in the state that desperately need workers. Maestas backed that up.

"When jails or prisons close down, the town doesn't close down," he said.

*Megan Gleason is a Reporting Fellow with Source New Mexico.*

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**For More New México News:**

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## Línea telefónica gratuita para los servicios de detección del cáncer de mama y de cuello uterino

# 1-833-525-1811

El servicio es disponible en varios idiomas, incluyendo diné, inglés, español y vietnamita.

Para obtener más información sobre el cáncer de mama y de cuello uterino en Nuevo México, por favor visite el sitio web de NM BCC:  
[nmhealth.org/about/phd/pchb/bcc](http://nmhealth.org/about/phd/pchb/bcc)



## Propuesta de Ley Para Poner Fin a los Contratos de Detención con el ICE

### NEW MÉXICO

Por Megan Gleason

**H**ace aproximadamente una década, el padre de Itzayana Banda la llamó para contarle lo horriblemente que lo estaban tratando los funcionarios del Centro de Procesamiento del Condado de Otero y que ya no podía soportarlo más. Ocho meses después, dijo en una entrevista, el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas de Estados Unidos (ICE) lo deportó. Pasaron otros diez años antes de que Banda volviera a verlo.

Puede que nunca hubiera pasado por ese tratamiento si el gobierno del condado no hubiera permitido al ICE encarcelar allí a los inmigrantes.

Los legisladores estatales están intentando prohibir este tipo de acuerdos. Los senadores demócratas Gerald Ortiz y Pino y Moe Maestas presentaron el lunes una ley que prohibiría a los gobiernos del estado de Nuevo México firmar o renovar contratos de detención con el ICE a partir de 2024.

Eso significa que el Centro de Procesamiento del Condado de Otero -que acumuló numerosas quejas por abusos y denuncias de trato inhumano y condiciones crueles- ya no podría retener a cientos de inmigrantes.

Banda es ahora portavoz del Dream Team de Nuevo México, un grupo de defensa de los inmigrantes. Dijo que su padre le contó lo terriblemente que lo trataban los funcionarios en el condado de Otero.

"Mi padre decía que los trataban como animales", dijo.

Ortiz y Pino dijeron que se inspiró para crear la legislación después de que la gente se acercó a él con preocupaciones sobre cómo ICE trata a los solicitantes de asilo.

En marzo, inspectores federales dijeron al ICE que reubicara a las personas detenidas en el condado de Torrance debido a las condiciones inseguras e insalubres. Cinco meses después, en agosto, un solicitante de asilo de Brasil murió allí por suicidio, y los abogados dijeron que estaba detenido en "condiciones horribles".

La gobernadora Michelle Lujan Grisham respondió a una pregunta sobre las malas condiciones de detención en una conferencia de prensa sobre seguridad pública el miércoles.

Luján Grisham dijo que recientemente le dijo al Secretario del

Gabinete del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional, Alejandro Mayorkas, que lo que sucede en el Centro de Detención del Condado de Torrance en Nuevo México debe mejorar, particularmente si el gobierno federal quiere que el estado siga otorgando licencias a esas instalaciones.

“Nuevo México no debe participar en el encarcelamiento masivo que ICE está haciendo en estos días”.

Moe Maestas, Senador de NM

"Estoy consternado por lo que está pasando en el condado de Torrance, y necesito que se arregle", dijo.

Uriel Rosales, un organizador de campo con el Dream Team de Nuevo México, se crió en Chaparral, N.M., sede del centro de procesamiento de ICE. Un beneficiario de DACA, Rosales dijo que quiere ver la detención de inmigrantes en su comunidad desaparecida debido a los informes de trato inhumano allí y en las otras instalaciones.

El objetivo final, dijo Rosales, es "dejar de tener condiciones inhumanas en los centros de detención en Nuevo México."

Sophia Genovese es abogada senior del Centro Legal para Inmigrantes de Nuevo México. Ella dijo que un gran número de los inmigrantes que llegan a Nuevo México están buscando asilo.

"No se merecen este trato", dijo. "Nadie merece este trato".

### Las perspectivas del proyecto de ley

Genovese dijo que este proyecto de ley podría eliminar un espacio donde el ICE puede retener hasta 1,000 inmigrantes. Eso es sólo en el Centro de Procesamiento del Condado de Otero, dijo, que detiene a la mayor cantidad de inmigrantes en el estado.

Podría ser más difícil aplicar un cierre total en los otros dos centros de detención en Nuevo México. Genovese dijo que el centro en el condado de Otero es el único en el que el condado es dueño de la tierra y el edificio, mientras que los otros dos en los condados de Torrance y Cibola son propiedad y están operados por la empresa privada CoreCivic.

Así que, dijo, mientras que la legislación pondría fin a los contratos que ICE tiene con los condados en 2024, la agencia federal podría entonces simplemente eliminar a los gobiernos de los condados por completo en Torrance y Cibola y contratar directamente con CoreCivic.

Sin embargo, Genovese dijo que los centros de detención de Torrance y Cibola alojan a menos de 100 inmigrantes cada uno, mientras que Otero suele alojar a unas 500 o 600 personas a la vez.

Los centros de Torrance y Cibola están ocupados principalmente por presos estatales, según Ortiz y Pino. Si el ICE quisiera trasladar a más inmigrantes a esos condados y eludir la ley estatal, Ortiz y Pino dijeron que CoreCivic ya no podría contratar con el estado, lo que significa que esas instalaciones ya no estarían autorizadas para albergar a presos de Nuevo México.

Eso sería difícil, dijo Ortiz y Pino, ya que la mayor parte del trabajo de CoreCivic en esas prisiones -en virtud de los contratos de la empresa con el Departamento de Correcciones de Nuevo México- es supervisar a los presos estatales.

Los legisladores intentaron aprobar este tipo de legislación en Nuevo México hace cuatro años, y Maestas dijo que han aprendido mucho. Dijo que la medida tiene mejores posibilidades esta vez.

"Esperamos tener una gran conversación", dijo Maestas. "Creemos que es razonable y gradual. Pero Nuevo México no debe participar en el encarcelamiento masivo que ICE está haciendo en estos días".

Genovese dijo que es probable que el proyecto de ley sea aprobado debido a la mayoría demócrata de la Legislatura, así como el apoyo de la comunidad. "Cuando sus electores lo apoyan, sé que nuestros políticos de Nuevo México los escuchan y votan en esa dirección", dijo.

Virginia, Nueva Jersey e Illinois promulgaron recientemente una legislación similar en materia de detención. Genovese dijo que esto se está convirtiendo en un movimiento nacional.

"Es una tendencia creciente de los estados que dicen: 'No pondremos en peligro la salud y la seguridad de las personas que se encuentran bajo nuestra jurisdicción sometiéndolas a un trato inhumano'.

no en los centros de detención de inmigrantes", afirmó.

### Preocupaciones económicas

Los promotores del proyecto de ley afirman que quienes se opongan a la legislación serán probablemente quienes obtengan beneficios de los centros de detención, como las empresas privadas o las ciudades de los alrededores.

Pero, según Genovese, ese no es un argumento de peso contra el proyecto de ley, ya que los centros podrían no ser realmente tan útiles desde el punto de vista económico, según han demostrado las investigaciones.

Nathan Craig, profesor de antropología de la Universidad Estatal de Nuevo México, fue testigo experto de la diputada Angélica Rubio (D-Las Cruces) en 2021, cuando los legisladores intentaban acabar con las prisiones privadas en el estado. Dijo que los centros de detención en las zonas rurales no ayudan a la economía local tanto como la gente cree, porque muchos trabajadores vienen de áreas metropolitanas más distantes.

Vea Detención, página 16

ages 14-25

SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 4  
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

BERNA FACIO  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

city of albuquerque

YOUTH JOB  
& VOLUNTEER  
FAIR

youthconnect

CABQ.GOV/JOBFAIR

Our American culture of the time still largely kept LGBTQ people ostracized, shamed, mocked, humiliated, and "othered."

Powerful, influential LGBTQ people in sports, music, film, and business often stayed hidden in the closet, preferring to torture themselves mentally by living a lie than risk the very real possibility of deadly physical violence.

Nothing made these horrifying stakes more clear to my young mind than Matthew Shepard being tied to a fence and beaten to death in 1998.

He was 21, only eight years older than I was at the time — thinking about what kind of monstrous world I would have to live in.

I grew up knowing how to be tough in a tough city, but I knew I could not come out while I lived there, or I would be fighting constantly, no matter what respect I had earned. I've never been scared of a fight, but rumbling with idiots every day to defend my right to peacefully exist is not my idea of a good time.

Once I got far enough away to feel safe, I came out and my life has been absolutely blessed and beautiful ever since. I'm very fortunate and grateful for that. I wish the same for all my LGBTQ sisters and brothers.

Over the last 20 years, I've watched America transform from that dark place of hate and intolerance to one of widespread LGBTQ toleration and acceptance, at least in our popular culture and some of our laws and cities.

I give credit to all enlightened citizens of good conscience, and each new generation, for largely discarding the loathsome societal shackles of the past to carve out a new path.

Unfortunately, many Americans remain in thrall to the weak, insecure, hateful bigots and bullies, who are trying to fear-monger our newfound cultural acceptance in a despicable attempt to once again dehumanize us, and erase our lives and experiences.

They want to scare and intimidate us by spreading malicious lies and attacking anyone or anything that lets LGBTQ peo-

ple know we are safe, accepted, loved, and not alone.

From the Anti-Defamation League:

Far-right and extremist voices have launched a significant attack against the LGBTQ+ community in 2021-2022, demonizing people via repeated false claims that LGBTQ+ people are "pedophiles" who are "grooming" children in order to abuse them. This false and malicious narrative has been weaponized to label the LGBTQ+ community as "groomers" and has fueled a slew of hostile legislation and policies aimed at erasing the discussion of LGBTQ+ related issues in schools, removing LGBTQ+ books from schools and public libraries and, especially, to ostracize, defame and harass transgender people.

The blowback against widespread LGBTQ acceptance has been relentless, destructive, and deadly, especially for young LGBTQ people.

A 2022 survey from The Trevor Project found that 45% of LGBTQ youth across the country seriously considered suicide in the last year, while 14% actually attempted suicide.

The rate was even higher among transgender and non-binary people, who have become the primary targets of hate-baiting authoritarians.

This breaks my heart. These kids are already going through quite enough and the last thing they need is poisonous politics victimizing them further.

In 2021, the Human Rights Campaign tracked a record number of violent fatal incidents against transgender and gender non-conforming people — with 50 deaths.

These are people's children and family members and friends whose last moments alive were suffered under the wicked violence of hate and intolerance.

LGBTQ safe spaces and celebrations have been targeted with threats or acts of violence, including in Columbus in December.

A new staggering rise in violence against LGBTQ people directly mirrors the recent rise in

anti-LGBTQ rhetoric among right-wing politicians, pundits, and loser internet trolls.

Last year, by March alone, state lawmakers across the U.S. had proposed a record 238 bills that would limit the rights of LGBTQ Americans, with about half of them targeting transgender people specifically.

Repugnant jackals in the Ohio Statehouse have made repeated attempts to pass anti-LGBTQ laws attacking trans athletes and health care for no reason. They decided their time was best spent bullying one of Ohio's most vulnerable youth populations.

Their proposed laws have been so thoughtless and cruel, they crafted one without consulting even a single member of the trans community and created a national embarrassment for the state by proposing another to subject trans athletes to genital inspections.

Last week, we learned that a group of failed Republican central committee and local school board candidates have now filed a lawsuit against Hilliard City Schools alleging teachers are having "intimate sexual conversations" with students, and calling for the removal of badges supporting LGBTQ+ students.

Their evidence? A questionnaire asking for preferred pronouns, and some teachers wearing the badges to let LGBTQ students know they are a safe adult.

These people are either gullible and easily duped by misinformation and hateful rhetoric, or they are simply small-minded, hateful bigots, misleading others into hatred and intolerance. Either way, they're part of an insidious movement attempting to terrorize all LGBTQ people.

They're bullies, trying to bully the school district into bullying kids the district is meant to protect.

They're adult bullies, and they're pathetic.

Twist a pig's ear and listen to it squeal. Ask a bigot to have a shred of decency and they scream like wild banshees.

I could have never fathomed the progress LGBTQ people have

made these last 20 years, and I couldn't be more proud of it.

But we can not rest. We can never rest.

The forces of hate will continue desperately trying to manipulate the public with odious lies about us.

That's how the whole authoritarian terrorism game works, and they're as energized as ever.

LGBTQ people and our allies have to be constantly vocal and vigilant in standing up against these bullies.

We are funnier, smarter, and stronger than them.

While they congregate in delusional, dark-hearted paranoia, we gather in open, honest supportive acceptance.

Their shrieks of hate can not ever be allowed again to overcome our songs of love.

*David DeWitt is the Editor-in-Chief for the Ohio Capital Journal. This commentary is republished from Ohio Capital Journal under a Creative Commons license.*

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#### Detención

De hecho, la mayoría de los

guardias del centro de Chaparral viven en El Paso, Texas, dijo Ortiz y Pino. Para los neomexicanos que pierdan su empleo, dijo,

hay muchos centros penitenciarios en otras partes del estado que necesitan trabajadores desesperadamente. Maestas corroboró esta afirmación.

"Cuando las cárceles o prisiones cierran, la ciudad no cierra", dijo.

*Megan Gleason es becaria de Source New Mexico. Este artículo ha sido publicado por Source New Mexico bajo una licencia Creative Commons.*

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

ayudó a comprender la política, la economía médica y los aspectos administrativos de las clínicas sanitarias. Posteriormente, el Dr. Dhar completó su residencia en Medicina de Familia en la Universidad de Dakota del Norte y en la Universidad de Hawái. Está certificado en Medicina de Familia y recibió el premio al mejor residente al finalizar su programa. Durante su residencia, el Dr. Dhar trabajó con las comunidades nativas americanas a través del Servicio de Salud Indígena; esta oportunidad ayudó al Dr. Dhar a entender la importancia de la continuidad de la atención en las comunidades desatendidas, y lo impulsó a contribuir con sus servicios hacia este propósito.

El Dr. Dhar se unió a Salud en 2006. Inicialmente trabajó como Médico de Familia y Director Clínico de la clínica Salud Sterling, antes de trasladarse a la clínica Salud Brighton. El Dr. Dhar sirvió previamente en el Comité de Revisión por Pares, el Comité de Ética y el Comité de Acreditación en el Hospital Regional Banner Sterling. Actualmente, el Dr. Dhar es miembro de los Comités de Revisión por Pares en Salud y el Centro Médico Platt Valley. El Dr. Dhar se desempeñó como Vicepresidente de Servicios Médicos de Salud de 2016 a 2022.

Salud Family Health es un Centro de Salud Federalmente Calificado (FQHC), que opera 13 clínicas, 10 escuelas y una unidad móvil. Salud proporciona servicios médicos, dentales, farmacéuticos y de salud conductual a poblaciones de trabajadores agrícolas de bajos ingresos, médica mente desatendidas y estacionales. Desde 1970, Salud se ha comprometido a proporcionar atención a todos los miembros de la comunidad, independientemente de las finanzas, la cobertura de seguro, o la capacidad de pago.

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

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## Medicaid

tain categories of enrollees so that not all 84 million people need to be contacted individually, implementing online/over-the-phone renewals, expanding contact methods for enrollees to text and email rather than just mail, and initiating hiring incentives to address Medicaid agency staffing shortages prior to beginning the unwinding process.

Those currently on Medicaid should make sure their Medicaid agency has their correct address on file and be on the lookout for their renewal form which should arrive between April 2023 and April 2024. They should also familiarize themselves with their program's eligibility requirements and begin proactively looking for other coverage options through the Affordable Care Act marketplace by visiting [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) if they suspect they will lose eligibility.

*Benjamin Neufeld is an Independent Reporter for The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.*

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## STOP TEXTS STOP WRECKS.ORG

## Caucuses

accosted by law enforcement. In 2020 Colorado ranked 5th in the nation for Black deaths at the hands of police. The anxiety manifests in poor physical and mental health of the Black and Latino communities. This is a public health and public safety concern.

Our state's definition of safety should confront the reality that many feel not only insecure in walking, driving, or going to sleep in their home, but also in calling for help without having to risk bodily harm or death. That is why the Black and Brown caucuses will continue to fight for accountability and safety efforts that address root causes of harm and not policies designed to maintain the status quo.

In a state that prides ourselves on enacting data-driven legislation, it's time to legislate our values. We call on public support to encourage our colleagues to do the same.

*Black Democratic Legislative Caucus of Colorado and the Latino Caucus of Colorado.*

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## Salud

in Interventional Radiology. After graduating from medical school, Dr. Dhar briefly worked for a health insurance company as Vice President of Medical Services, a position that helped him understand the policy, medical economics, and administrative aspects of health care clinics. Dr. Dhar then completed his residency in Family Medicine at the University of North Dakota and the University of Hawaii. He is Board certified in Family Medicine and received the Best Resident award at the completion of his program. During his residency, Dr. Dhar worked with Native American communities through the Indian Health Service; this opportunity helped Dr. Dhar understand the importance of continuity of care in underserved communities, and drove him to contribute his services towards this purpose.

Dr. Dhar joined Salud in 2006. He initially worked as a Family Physician and Clinic Director for the Salud Sterling clinic, before moving to the Salud Brighton clinic. Dr. Dhar previously served on the Peer Review Committee, the Ethics Committee, and the Credentialing Committee at the Banner Sterling Regional Hospital. Currently, Dr. Dhar is a member of the Peer Review Committees at Salud and the Platt Valley Medical

Center. Dr. Dhar served as Salud's Vice President of Medical Services from 2016-2022.

**Salud Family Health** is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), operating 13 clinic locations, 10 school sites, and a mobile unit. Salud provides medical, dental, pharmacy, and behavioral health services to low-income, medically underserved, and seasonal farm-worker populations. Since 1970, Salud is committed to providing care to all community members regardless of finances, insurance coverage, or ability to pay.

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## Rebate

Visitors can also find easy-to-understand information about federal and state tax credits that help low to moderate-income families make ends meet and additional resources to get free tax help.

The campaigns are funded by the [Senate Bill 22-182 Economic Mobility Program](#) and are led by CDPHE's Economic Mobility Team, which aims to decrease child poverty and increase the economic well-being of all Coloradans.

Data back the effectiveness of tax credits as a tool for reducing

poverty. Last year, Child Tax Credit payments helped reduce child poverty by as much as 40%. [Research confirms](#) that the Earned Income Tax Credit is the most effective federal antipoverty program for working-age individuals and families, [lifting millions out of poverty](#).

"Tax credits are shown to improve health outcomes and increase health equity, including reduced infant mortality and low birth weight, reduced child maltreatment, increased intergenerational health, and improved educational attainment and earnings," said CDPHE Executive Director Jill Hunsaker Ryan.

Additionally, tax credits put more money back into Coloradans' pockets which helps reduce the stress of rising expenses. The Polis-Primavera administration has significantly expanded the Colorado state Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit to address the rising costs of basic resources, like housing, fresh groceries, and quality child care.

For more information about this initiative and how to get involved, visit [GetAheadColorado.org](#) or [HaciaAdelanteColorado.org](#).

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**El plomo  
pesa mucho en  
nuestras mentes.**

Aunque el agua que proveemos es segura, limpia y libre de plomo, este se puede mezclar con plomo al pasar por las tuberías de su casa. Por eso, estamos remplazando las líneas de servicio de nuestros clientes, una por una. Para saber si tiene una línea de servicio de plomo, visite nuestro sitio web.



Obtenga más información  
en [DenverWater.org/Plomo](http://DenverWater.org/Plomo)



probabilidades de perder la cobertura por no reunir los requisitos se encuentran los adultos jóvenes que cumplieron 19 años durante la pandemia y ya no podrán optar a la cobertura infantil, los padres cuyos ingresos han superado el umbral de elegibilidad o que ya no tienen personas a su cargo, y las puérperas que han superado el periodo de elegibilidad de su programa estatal de Medicaid (60 días, 6 meses o 12 meses después del parto, según el estado).

A Guerra-Cardus y a otros expertos les preocupa que muchas de estas personas que dejan de ser elegibles para Medicaid no puedan al mismo tiempo permitirse un seguro de mercado debido al umbral de ingresos extremadamente bajo para ser elegible o no para Medicaid. En su opinión, los estados deberían ampliar sus criterios de elegibilidad de Medicaid para tener en cuenta esta posible brecha.

Muchas personas que pierden la cobertura de Medicaid pueden ser elegibles para otras opciones de atención médica asequible a través de la Ley de Asistencia Asequible, pero pueden tener sólo un

tiempo limitado para hacer esa transición sin experimentar un lapso en la cobertura.

Muchas personas que pueden mantener su elegibilidad para Medicaid aún pueden estar en riesgo de perder la cobertura debido al desafío logístico que enfrentan las agencias estatales con el procesamiento de este volumen sin precedentes de casos. La presión sobre estas agencias probablemente dará lugar a errores durante el procesamiento de casos y la información inadecuada / divulgación a los afiliados de Medicaid en relación con el proceso de renovación. Debido a la política de emergencia de salud pública, es probable que la mayoría de estos afiliados, si no todos, no hayan estado en contacto con sus agencias de Medicaid en al menos tres años. A Farah Erzouki le preocupa que el desconocimiento del proceso de renovación pueda dar lugar a errores por parte de los afiliados y a una posible interrupción de la cobertura. Además, sospecha que muchos afiliados han cambiado de dirección durante la pandemia y, por tanto, no recibirán por correo

sus notificaciones/información de renovación.

"Se trata realmente de una situación en la que hay que trabajar todos juntos", afirmó Kristen Golden Testa, Directora de Política Sanitaria de The Children's Partnership. Testa, junto con Erzouki y otros expertos, están animando a todos - en particular las agencias de Medicaid, los afiliados a Medicaid, organizaciones comunitarias, y los medios de comunicación - para prepararse para este proceso de relajación. Quieren que se lleve a cabo una campaña informativa más intensa en torno al proceso, que incluya recursos e instrucciones para los afectados. Erzouki también cree que las agencias de Medicaid deben actuar ahora para disminuir la carga de esta crisis mediante la ampliación de los requisitos de elegibilidad, haciendo que el proceso de renovación sea más simple, la automatización de las renovaciones para ciertas categorías de afiliados para que no todos los 84 millones de personas necesiten ser contactados individualmente, la implementación de renovaciones en línea / por teléfono

no, la ampliación de los métodos de contacto para los afiliados a texto y correo electrónico en lugar de sólo correo, y el inicio de incentivos a la contratación para hacer frente a la escasez de personal de la agencia de Medicaid antes de comenzar el proceso de desmantelamiento.

Los beneficiarios actuales de Medicaid deben asegurarse de que su agencia de Medicaid tiene registrada su dirección correcta y estar atentos a su formulario de renovación, que debería llegar entre abril de 2023 y abril de 2024. También deben familiarizarse con los requisitos de elegibilidad de su programa y comenzar a buscar proactivamente otras opciones de cobertura a través del mercado de la Ley de Asistencia Asequible visitando [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) si sospechan que van a perder la elegibilidad.

*Benjamin Neufeld es un Reportera  
Independiente de The Weekly  
Issue/El Semanario.*

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

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rollo de LoDo, Debbie negoció un compromiso que reunió a la comunidad conservacionista y a los propietarios de inmuebles, que finalmente apoyaron la eliminación de la fecha límite para la creación del distrito histórico de Lower Downtown.

Debbie Ortega, junto con su hija Janelle, Mayor del Departamento del Sheriff de Denver, y sus cinco nietos (uno veterano de las Fuerzas Aéreas de EE.UU. y dos veteranos de la Marina de EE.UU.), han estudiado en las escuelas públicas de Denver.

Las elecciones generales municipales de la ciudad de Denver son el **4 de abril**. El último día para registrarse para votar y recibir una papeleta por correo es el **27 de marzo**. Las papeletas se enviarán por correo la semana del **13 de marzo**, y se abrirán buzones de 24 horas.

*Para obtener más información sobre Debbie Ortega, visite el sitio web de su campaña [DebbieOrtega.com](http://DebbieOrtega.com).*

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# ¡Mejor Juntos!



## El reciclaje semanal ya está en marcha a todos los clientes de desechos sólidos de Denver!

**La recolección semanal de compost se implementará este verano.** Denver está ampliando los servicios para reducir la cantidad de basura que va a los vertederos y proteger el medio ambiente. La Ciudad está facturando a los clientes directamente por los servicios de residuos en función del tamaño del bote de basura. Cuanto más pequeño sea el carrito de basura, menor será la tarifa. Regístrate ahora para crear y administrar su cuenta.



**¿Preguntas?**  
Escanea el código QR para más información, incluyendo detalles sobre descuentos.



## Cardenas

gunman who killed 23 people at a Walmart in El Paso in 2019, according to a screed he wrote. And the specific language of "invasion" and "replacement" was copied by the white nationalist terrorist who murdered 10 people in Buffalo, NY last May. This is context that should be part of any press reports on the hearings and the GOP strategy.

A far cry from the intended function of Congressional hearings, the political theater about to debut risks inflaming the sort of political violence and terrorism that is a top concern for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Last November and December, the DHS issued repeated warnings about serious threats to critical infrastructure and immigrant communities coming from domestic terrorism inflamed by anti-immigrant ideology.

If these hearings were about addressing the challenges of immigration, there would be some kind of proposals under way to address the issue. Instead, Republicans stick to the border wall and ending asylum, which as one

member of their own caucus Rep. Tony Gonzales (TX-23), summed up "Trying to ban legitimate asylum claims — one, it's not Christian, and two, to me, it's very anti-American." For the most part, Rep. Gonzales' colleagues seem unbothered by stoking hatred and violence. Instead, many members of the GOP caucus enthusiastically embrace it. Both the Judiciary and Oversight committees are stacked with some of the most outspoken bigots on Capitol Hill. Speaker Kevin McCarthy has given these committee microphones to, among others, Matt Gaetz, Marjorie Taylor Greene, Lauren Boebert, Andy Biggs, and Paul Gosar who will use their positions to advance and further mainstream white nationalist conspiracies about immigration and the border, echoing the rhetoric of white nationalists, but to a much wider audience.

How do we know this? Because we monitor what they say, tweet, and advertise. America's Voice monitored GOP ads this past cycle and found more than 700 exam-

ples using dangerous language of "invasion" and "replacement" conspiracies in campaign messaging from more than 80 Republican candidates.

These hearings are not about policy or solutions. They are about continuing the drumbeat of anti-immigrant hate that we saw all throughout the midterms. We are going to see their opening acts over the next few weeks, and it will devolve from there. They are performing for Fox News, populating their fundraising ads, and energizing their radicalized base, but these racist conspiracy theories and dehumanizing rhetoric have real life consequences. Recent history has shown how hate speech leads to political and hate violence and these hearings will add more fuel to the fire.

**Vanessa Cárdenas is the Executive Director of America's Voice.**

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## Bilingual

Or we call as we're checking in on students. We let them know what's going on, especially for example with mental health, if we notice we need to check on what's going on at home. If it comes to academics, we might call to let them know this is how they are looking for graduation.

**Can students expect confidentiality, or when do you have to reach out to parents?**

There is confidentiality with us and the student. There are only three exceptions where we need to break that. That is if they are being harmed, so if they're talking about suicide, if they're in danger. If they're talking about hurting someone else or they want to hurt someone else or themselves, or if there's an immediate danger to the building. It's really only those exceptions, unless they give us permission.

When we meet with students we have signs and we do tell them. We do keep confidentiality. I am here for you, but there are exceptions to that. I always tell them and they do give me permission a lot of times to talk to the families. If the families are on board it makes all the difference, but sometimes it's not safe.

For example if a kiddo is hurting themselves or having suicidal ideations, then having that conversation with parents in a way where the child can feel safe and where it's not so much stigmatized is one way we can help.

**What do you want people to know about how you're able to help students in this job?**

Where we come in is we really try to see what's going on, try to take the time to see what's going on. If a kiddo is getting into fights, talking to them about anger and their coping skills. We really do not go into discipline because of the relationships we're building with the students. We have to be the people they can go to.

Students have to be feeling good mentally and emotionally before they can even be students. In working with other professionals here at the school, we are able to be more intentional about mental health and what's going on.

Bringing in other support like home and family. There are strengths in our community. Looping them in in a way where it can benefit the student if it's possible that also helps.

For example normalizing some of the things when we talk about mental health. Letting them know, a lot of kiddos are struggling with this. People struggle with it and it doesn't have to be something that's wrong with the kiddo. Normalizing that in a way where parents also feel support. Telling them we have these resources. If it's here at the school, for example, it's free. Talking to parents in a way they can understand it's not this shameful thing.

The biggest misconception about school counselors is that we just look at grades or do scheduling. There's this huge other resource that's not being tapped into which is the mental health, the social-emotional part. We're a great bridge to resources when it comes to how a student is feeling.

We have to meet with them about their grades, but it's also about just letting them know we're here because if the kiddo does open up, we can go ahead and get on that.

Do you have more questions about mental health positions at your schools you'd like to share with us? Send us an email at [cotips@chalkbeat.org](mailto:cotips@chalkbeat.org).

**Yesenia Robles is a reporter for Chalkbeat Colorado covering K-12 school districts and multilingual education. This story was originally published by Chalkbeat.**

## Mitchell

upon the state Legislature and executive to establish such a permanent fund with a major investment of state funds.

In 1993, as a newly appointed Tesuque tribal councilman and later a delegate to the APCG as governor, I have been aware of a deeply felt generational frustration among Pueblo leaders about younger tribal members who were being educated in a westernized public school system — one that ignored and threatened Pueblo traditions, cultures and languages.

Pueblo people have always maintained a dual obligation within our communities to be educated and civic ready in both our tribal way of life and in the world at large.

As COVID-19 swept across the country, health orders halted public gatherings. The Pueblos paused their traditional, cultural practices to protect our knowledge-holders, culture-bearers, and our people.

This affected our usual transfer-of-knowledge systems, often done verbally between older and younger generations. Additionally, poor technology infrastructure on tribal lands impeded the education of our children. Despite this, we found creative ways to protect our traditional ways of life and continue educating our young.

Throughout history, Pueblo people have faced similar threats to our existence and lifeways. Yet our marvelous cultural knowledge

systems have continued unabated and the transfer from one generation to the next is ongoing.

But the protection of Pueblo traditions, languages and cultures is also a state obligation. Our children spend countless hours in public school classrooms. We need complementary student programs and services to support our children after school, in our communities.

A Tribal Education Trust Fund would secure much-needed resources to build capacity within Tribal Education Departments to better serve our students.

This would not only help us prepare tribal students for pursuing college and career opportunities, but also motivate our students to speak our languages and engage in tribal culture and traditions.

New Mexico has received a windfall of revenue, especially from energy production on state lands. We should all be mindful that these lands are ancestral tribal lands that once belonged to the Indigenous People of this state.

**Mark Mitchell is the chairman of the All Pueblo Council of Governors, the group that represents the governors of 20 Pueblo Nations. This commentary is republished from [Source New Mexico](#) under a Creative Commons license.**

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## Mayor

on issues such as the 2013 Hentzel Park land swap for a downtown Denver Public Schools (DPS) property, the expensive Platte to Park Hill drainage project that tripled in cost, and in 1991, Debbie blocked a medical waste incinerator that was permitted to be sited in North Denver. She was one of two votes against the Hancock administration's disastrous Denver International Airport (DIA) Great Hall remodeling plan. Before development of LoDo, Debbie brokered a compromise that brought the preservation community and property owners together that eventually supported removal of a sunset on the creation of the Lower Downtown Historic District.

Debbie Ortega, along with her daughter, Janelle, a Major in Denver's Sheriff's Department, and her five grandchildren (one U.S. Air Force and two U.S. Navy veterans) are all products of Denver Public Schools.

The City of Denver's Municipal General Election is April 4. The last day to register to vote and receive a ballot by mail is March 27. Ballots will be mailed the week of March 13, and 24-hour drop-off boxes will open.

For more information on Debbie Ortega, visit her campaign website [DebbieOrtega.com](#).

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regla de la administración Biden, que es casi idéntica a la nota de creación de DACA, es legal. Aún no se ha fijado un calendario para ese caso.

"Pero los defensores no tienen muchas esperanzas de que la decisión que salga de este tribunal sea positiva o a favor de DACA", dijo Verónica García, abogada del Centro de Recursos Legales para Inmigrantes.

Ella dijo que en el mejor de los casos, si DACA es anulado, se permitirá que las renovaciones continúen mientras el caso pasa a la Corte Suprema.

#### Algunas esperanzas

Muzaffar Chishti, abogado y director de la oficina del Instituto de Política Migratoria en la Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad de Nueva York, dijo que cree que el gobierno de Biden ha dado a DACA más fuerza legal al escribir una regla sobre el programa, en lugar de tenerlo como un memorando, que el gobierno de Obama elaboró.

"Eso no significa que no será declarado ilegal, pero está en una base jurídica mucho mejor", dijo, señalando que cuando Hanen examinó por primera vez el programa de la era Obama decidió que la administración se extralimitó en su poder en la creación del programa a través de un memorando, en lugar de la elaboración de normas adecuadas.

Chishti dijo que, en muchos sentidos, la administración de Biden ya ha respondido a los argumentos de Hanen, pasando por el proceso de elaboración de normas en la creación de DACA.

Añadió que los escritos en el caso se pueden presentar hasta abril, lo que significa que una fecha para los argumentos orales no se fijará hasta después de eso.

"No creo que estemos viendo una decisión en este caso hasta por lo menos el verano", dijo Chishti.

Entonces, una vez que el caso sea apelado ante el 5º Circuito, como se espera, y luego ante la Corte Suprema, Chishti dijo que no espera una decisión hasta la primavera de 2024 o más tarde.

"Así que eso significa que no hay nada inminente mal potencialmente sucediendo a los actuales beneficiarios de DACA", dijo.

#### DACA 'está anticuado'

Juliana Macedo do Nascimento, la subdirectora de defensa federal de United We Dream, dijo que DACA podría terminar tan pronto como el próximo año por el Tribunal Supremo, durante la administración de Biden, "que sería simplemente una

vergüenza dada su historia, y su legado con el programa."

United We Dream es un grupo sin fines de lucro de defensa de la inmigración juvenil.

"DACA nunca fue suficiente, y está desactualizado", dijo, y agregó que hay 11 millones de personas indocumentadas en el país que también necesitan protecciones.



"DACA nunca fue suficiente, y está desactualizado",

Juliana Macedo do Nascimento, United We Dream

Macedo do Nascimento señaló que los jóvenes indocumentados que serían elegibles para el programa no pueden calificar porque no nacieron en 2007. Para calificar para DACA, los jóvenes indocumentados tenían que haber residido continuamente en Estados Unidos desde 2007.

"Sabemos que los jóvenes inmigrantes que están cumpliendo 15, 16 años, que de otra manera serían elegibles para ello, ya no son elegibles porque ni siquiera estaban vivos en 2007", dijo.

Hasta ahora, lo único que podría cambiar DACA es una ley del Congreso, dijo.

#### Congreso estancado

Briseno Ortiz dijo que no tiene muchas esperanzas de que el Congreso tome medidas legislativas para proteger a los beneficiarios de DACA, y considera que el único curso de acción es involucrarse en grupos de defensa de la inmigración.

Incluso cuando los demócratas controlaban la Cámara de Representantes el año pasado, los demócratas en el Senado no tenían los votos para superar el requisito del umbral de 60 votos.

El año pasado, los líderes demócratas del Senado fijaron como fecha límite diciembre para aprobar cualquier legislación bipartidista que creara una vía a la ciudadanía para los beneficiarios de DACA.

Con la mayoría de la Cámara ganada por los republicanos en las elecciones de mitad de mandato de 2022, los demócratas sólo tenían un par de meses para aprobar cualquier legislación que protegiera DACA antes de perder la Cámara.

Hubo algunas conversaciones de un acuerdo bipartidista con

Sens. Kyrsten Sinema, demócrata de Arizona que ahora se ha convertido en independiente, y Thom Tillis, republicano de Carolina del Norte, pero nada se consolidó.

Incluso con el Congreso bloqueado, dijo Macedo do Nascimento, la administración Biden todavía tiene algunas iniciativas políticas que puede tomar para proteger a los que están en DACA, como a través del Estatus de Protección Temporal, que se concede a los que ya residen en los EE.UU., pero cuyo país de origen se considera inseguro para el retorno, y permite a los beneficiarios permanecer en los EE.UU. temporalmente, o la Salida Forzada Diferida.

La DED no es un estatus migratorio específico, pero permite a los beneficiarios quedar exentos de la deportación durante un determinado periodo de tiempo.

La administración también podría incluir en el TPS a países con un elevado número de beneficiarios de DACA, como México, añadió Macedo do Nascimento.

"La autoridad de libertad condicional que tiene la administración es realmente poderosa, y pueden usarla para proteger a la gente", dijo.

Nuevo programa de libertad condicional

A principios de este año, la administración Biden anunció un nuevo programa de libertad condicional que ampliaría las oportunidades de entrada legal en Estados Unidos para los inmigrantes procedentes de Cuba, Haití y Nicaragua.

El programa permitirá la entrada legal en el país de hasta 30.000 inmigrantes al mes procedentes de esos países que tengan patrocinadores financieros en Esta-

dos Unidos y hayan superado una comprobación de antecedentes. Se les permitiría trabajar temporalmente durante dos años.

Macedo do Nascimento dijo que el gobierno de Biden podría trabajar para implementar un programa similar de libertad condicional para aquellos bajo DACA.

"Tenemos la esperanza de que están buscando en estas otras opciones sobre cómo utilizar diferentes herramientas para ... proteger a la gente", dijo.

Los demócratas y los defensores de la inmigración dieron la bienvenida al nuevo programa de libertad condicional, pero criticaron el uso continuo y la expansión del Título 42 por parte de la administración, que es una política controvertida que rechaza inmediatamente a los migrantes en la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México durante una crisis sanitaria, como la pandemia del coronavirus.

Sin embargo, los programas de libertad condicional que la administración Biden ha puesto en marcha ya se enfrentan a desafíos legales por parte de los estados liderados por los republicanos.

La Casa Blanca no respondió a las solicitudes de comentarios de States Newsroom sobre sus planes en relación con el posible fin de DACA.

*Ariana Figueroa es una reportera de la Oficina de D.C. de States Newsroom. Este artículo fue publicada originalmente por Colorado Newline.*

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

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#### Cárdenas/Esp

soluciones. Tienen el fin de continuar con el repique del odio antiinmigrante que vimos durante las elecciones intermedias. Vamos a presenciar sus actos de apertura en las próximas semanas, y se pondrá peor.

Están actuando para Fox News, poblando sus anuncios de recaudación de fondos y movilizando a su base radicalizada, pero estas teorías conspirativas racistas y la retórica deshumanizante tienen consecuencias en la vida real. La historia reciente nos ha demostrado cómo el discurso de odio conduce a la violencia política, y estas audiencias echarán más leña al fuego.

*Vanessa Cárdenas es Directora Ejecutiva de America's Voice*

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not only let him retire at a decent age but support him as well as it has his grandma should he also live to 102.

Instead of cutting essential programs, TJ Stephens said, he'd like to see Republicans agree to fairly tax uber-rich Americans who use dodgy loopholes to pay little or nothing now. And he'd like to see more wealthy tax cheats and deadbeats run to ground.

Stephens, a member of USW Local 9231 and an electrician at the Cleveland-Cliffs complex in New Carlisle, Ind., regards Social Security as America's contract with working people—one as inviolable as the one he signed when he joined the Air Force at 19 and went off to serve as a satellite communications technician at Langley Air Force Base.

"Inhumane is the best word I can think of," Stephens, 37, said of Republican plans to move the goalposts on those already paying into Social Security and force younger Americans to "work ourselves into the grave."

Ultimately, Carlson predicted, public anger will stop the Republicans in their tracks. He's planning to ratchet up his activism and get more retirees to join him.

"It makes a difference," he said of Social Security. "It's not something we're going to give up without an extraordinary fight."

*Tom Conway is the international president of the United Steelworkers Union (USW). This oped is republished from Common Dreams under a Creative Commons license.*

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#### Reembolso

minuir la pobreza infantil y aumentar el bienestar económico de todos los habitantes de Colorado.

Los datos respaldan la efectividad de los créditos fiscales como herramienta para reducir la pobreza. El año pasado, los pagos del Crédito Tributario por Hijo ayudaron a reducir la pobreza infantil hasta en un 40%. Las investigaciones confirman que el Crédito Tributario por Ingreso del Trabajo es el programa antipobreza federal más efectivo para personas y familias en edad de trabajar, sacando a millones de la pobreza.

"Se ha demostrado que los créditos fiscales mejoran las condiciones de salud y aumentan la equidad en la salud, incluida la reducción de la mortalidad infantil y el bajo peso al nacer, la reducción del maltrato infantil, el aumento de

la salud intergeneracional y la mejora de los logros educativos y los ingresos", dijo la directora ejecutiva de CDPHE, Jill Hunsaker Ryan.

Además, los créditos fiscales devuelven más dinero a los bolsillos de los habitantes de Colorado, lo que ayuda a reducir el estrés del aumento de los gastos. La administración Polis-Primavera amplió significativamente el Crédito Tributario por Hijo y el Crédito Tributario por Ingreso del Trabajo del estado de Colorado para abordar los crecientes costos de los recursos básicos, como vivienda, alimentos y cuidado infantil de calidad.

Leer mas información, visite [GetAheadColorado.org](#) o en español [HaciaAdelanteColorado.org](#).

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## ¿Qué te gustaría que la gente sepa acerca de cómo puedes ayudar a los estudiantes?

Nuestra tarea es verdaderamente tratar de ver qué está pasando; dedicar tiempo para ver lo que está ocurriendo. Si un chico o chica está metiéndose en peleas, hablamos con él o ella sobre sus destrezas para manejar situaciones. No nos metemos en disciplina porque estamos tratando de establecer una relación con los estudiantes. Tenemos que convertirnos en alguien a quien pueden acudir.

Ellos tienen que sentirse bien mentalmente y emocionalmente antes de ser estudiantes. Trabajando junto con otros profesionales aquí en la escuela, podemos ser más intencionales en nuestros servicios de salud mental y al determinar qué está pasando.

También empleamos otros recursos de apoyo, como el hogar y la familia. Nuestra comunidad tiene puntos fuertes, y podemos emplearlos de una manera que beneficie al estudiante si es posible. Por ejemplo, normalizando algunos de los temas de los que hablamos al tener conversaciones de salud mental. Dejárselos saber que muchos chicos están batallando con esto. La gente lucha con eso, y no significa que hay algo mal con el estudiante. Normalizarlo de tal manera que los padres también sientan apoyo. Decírles que tenemos estos recursos, y que, si son los que están en la escuela, son gratuitos. Hablar con los padres de una manera que puedan entender que la salud mental no es nada de lo que tengan que avergonzarse.

La idea más errónea sobre los consejeros escolares es que solamente nos fijamos en las calificaciones y en los programas de estudio. También tenemos este enorme recurso que no se está aprovechando: la salud mental, la parte socio-emocional. Nosotros somos un excelente puente a recursos cuando un estudiante no se siente bien.

Cierto, tenemos que hablar con ellos sobre sus calificaciones, pero también decirles que estamos aquí para ayudarles. Si el estudiante se abre y comparte con nosotros lo que necesita, nosotros podemos ayudarle.

*Yesenia Robles es reportera para Chalkbeat Colorado y cubre asuntos relacionados con los distritos escolares K-12 y la educación multilingüe. Esta historia fue publicada originalmente por Chalkbeat.*

Traducido por Milly Suazo-Martinez

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## DACA

United We Dream is a non-profit youth immigration advocacy group.

"DACA was never enough, and it's outdated," she said, adding that there are 11 million undocumented people in the country who also need protections.

Macedo do Nascimento pointed out that undocumented youth who would be eligible for the program can't qualify because they were not born by 2007. In order to qualify for DACA, undocumented youth had to have continuously resided in the U.S. from 2007.

"We know that immigrant youths who are turning 15, 16, who would otherwise be eligible for it, are no longer eligible because they weren't even alive in 2007," she said.

So far, the only thing that would change DACA is an act of Congress, she said.

### Congress stalled

Briseno Ortiz said she doesn't have much hope that Congress will take legislative action to protect DACA recipients, and sees the only course of action to get involved in immigration advocacy groups.

Even when Democrats controlled the U.S. House last year, Democrats in the Senate did not have the votes to overcome the 60-vote threshold requirement.

Last year, Senate Democrat leaders set a December deadline of passing any bipartisan legislation to create a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients.

With the House majority won by Republicans in the 2022 midterm elections, Democrats only had a couple of months to pass any legislation protecting DACA before they lost the House.



"DACA was never enough, and it's outdated."

Juliana Macedo do Nascimento, United We Dream

There were some talks of a bipartisan agreement with Sens. Kyrsten Sinema, a Democrat from Arizona who's now become an independent, and Thom Tillis, Republican of North Carolina, but nothing solidified.

Even with Congress gridlocked, Macedo do Nascimento said, the Biden administration still has some policy initiatives it can take to protect those in DACA, such as through Temporary Protected Status, which is granted to those who are already residing in the U.S. but whose home country is deemed unsafe for return, and allows those recipients to stay in the U.S. temporarily, or Deferred Enforced Departure.

DED is not a specific immigration status, but allows those covered to be exempt from deportation for a certain period of time.

The administration could also

include countries with a high number of DACA recipients for TPS, such as Mexico, Macedo do Nascimento added.

"The parole authority that the administration has is really powerful, and they can use that to protect people," she said.

### New parole program

Early this year, the Biden administration announced a new parole program that would expand opportunities for migrants from Cuba, Haiti and Nicaragua to legally enter the United States.

The program will allow up to 30,000 migrants each month from those countries who have U.S.-based financial sponsors and have passed a background check to enter the country legally. They would be allowed to work temporarily for two years.

Macedo do Nascimento said the Biden administration could work to implement a similar parole program for those under DACA.

"We're hopeful that they're looking into these other options on how to use different tools to ... protect people," she said.

Democrats and immigration advocates welcomed the new parole program, but criticized the adminis-

tration's continued use and expansion of Title 42, which is a controversial policy that immediately turns away migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border during a health crisis, such as the coronavirus pandemic.

However, those parole programs that the Biden administration has implemented are already facing legal challenges from Republican-led states.

The White House did not respond to States Newsroom's requests for comment on its plans pertaining to the potential ending of DACA.

Ariana Figueroa is a D.C. Bureau reporter with States Newsroom.

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