

11 de Mayo

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The Human Toll of Migration 8
El Coste Humano de la Migración 8

Photo/Foto: Roxanne De La Rosa/Cronkite Borderlands Project

11 de Mayo 2023
Volume No. XXXIII Issue 27

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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Today's Immigration Drama Stems From the Same-Old Politics

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

While a human drama continues to play out at the border—with political ramifications—it's impossible not to recognize that everyone bears some guilt in this situation. Republicans, for having become the primary obstacle to a legislative solution that reforms all the components of an anachronistic and insufficient immigration system; and the Democrats, for having wasted various opportunities to act when they controlled both chambers of Congress and the White House.

In addition, all the political protagonists in this migration drama know exactly what they have to do at the legislative level. However, not only is the will to do it scarce, but there is an abundance of cowardliness and personal and partisan expediency standing in the way.

Meanwhile, far from the preliminary U.S. elections political chess match, thousands of migrants continue on their way, traversing geographic regions full of dangers, with no other objective in mind than to arrive to the U.S./Mexico border, as the only solution at hand for them at this moment in human history. They keep alive the

mental image of a "beacon of hope," a light at the end of the tunnel that has been dimming without expectations of re-illuminating—at least in the short term—beginning some time ago and continuing to this very day.

“

No matter what happens post-Title 42, migration flows will always be a constant at the southern border.



It's true that the Biden administration announced programs for family reunification and the opening of processing centers in countries that send migrants, or who are along the path north. That is without counting on the CBP One application to make appointments for their cases if they are not in the United States, a technology that has not worked out due to its constant glitches, as the migrants traveling have reported. But

none of that seems to pause the thousands of human beings who want to come here.

Agencia EFE reported on May 2nd that the Border Patrol detained 22,220 migrants in a timespan of 72 hours. Moreover, border cities began to declare states of emergencies because their shelters are full and migrants continue to come.

See Hastings & Torres on page 21

El Drama Migratorio de Hoy Como Resultado de la Politiquería de Siempre

Maribel Hastings y David Torres

Mientras la frontera vuelve a ser escenario de un drama humano con ramificaciones políticas, resulta imposible no reconocer que en esta situación nadie está libre de culpas. Los republicanos por haberse convertido en el principal obstáculo para una solución legislativa que reforme todos los componentes de un sistema migratorio anacrónico e insuficiente; y los demócratas por haber desperdiciado varias oportunidades de actuar cuando han controlado ambas cámaras del Congreso y la Casa Blanca.

Más aún, a estas alturas todos los protagonistas políticos de este drama

migratorio saben exactamente qué hay que hacer a nivel legislativo. Sin embargo, escasea no solo la voluntad para hacerlo, sino que abunda la cobardía y la conveniencia personal y partidista para solucionarlo.

Pero ahora que el Título 42 dejará de aplicarse la semana que viene, el 11 de mayo, provocando que miles de migrantes, particularmente solicitantes de asilo, sigan arribando a la frontera con la esperanza de llegar a suelo estadounidense, volvemos a escuchar los mismos argumentos: por una parte, que es culpa de los demócratas por tener las fronteras "abiertas"; y por otra, las mismas "soluciones" que no son otra cosa que simples parches temporales.

Mientras tanto, ajenos al ajedrez político preelectoral estadounidense,

miles de migrantes siguen su camino, atravesando regiones geográficas llenas de peligros, sin otro objetivo en mente que arribar a la frontera México-Estados Unidos, como la única solución que se tiene a la mano en esta etapa de la historia humana. Es decir, ellos mantienen viva mentalmente la luz de ese "faro de esperanza", que de un tiempo a la fecha aquí se ha ido extinguiendo sin que se prevea una reactivación de su otrora brillantez en el corto plazo.

Es cierto que el gobierno de Joe Biden anunció programas de reunificación familiar y la apertura de centros de procesamiento en los países que envían migrantes o que son escala en su travesía al norte. Eso sin contar con la aplicación CBP One para hacer citas para sus casos sin estar en Estados

“

Pase lo que pase después del Título 42, los flujos migratorios siempre serán una constante en la frontera sur.

Unidos, tecnología que no ha servido de mucho debido a sus constantes fallas, según han relatado los mismos migrantes en tránsito. Pero nada de eso parece frenar a los miles de seres humanos que quieren llegar.

La Agencia EFE reportó en 2 de mayo que la Patrulla Fronteriza detuvo a 22,220 migrantes en un lapso de

72 horas. Además, ciudades fronterizas comenzaron a declarar estado de emergencia porque sus albergues no tienen cabida y los migrantes siguen llegando.

Y por si fuera poco, el gobierno de Biden anunció el envío de 1,500 tropas adicionales a la frontera sur para proveer labores de apoyo y administrativas, pero no detener a migrantes.

Hace unas semanas, en este mismo espacio, publicamos una columna donde planteábamos que esta medida se implementó en marzo de 2020 por la administración de Donald Trump, de manera que el actual gobierno de Estados Unidos ha tenido tiempo para planificar su respuesta al anticipado aumento de migrantes, una vez que deje de aplicarse. Pero como el tema migratorio es para los políticos esa molesta piedra en el zapato que quieren sacarse y proseguir su camino, las soluciones suelen ser inadecuadas y a destiempo.

Vea Hastings y Torres/Esp, página 19

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On June 3, 2021, the League of Women Voters of Colorado celebrates the winner of the 2023 Leaders of Democracy Award - **REPRESENTATIVE JASON CROW** of Colorado's 6th Congressional District for his heroism and defending our democratic process after January 6th, 2021.

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Let's Talk About Reparations

Councilwoman Candi CdeBaca

Some of you may have noticed that my name and the word reparations went viral over the weekend, and I want to give you, my constituents, some background on what's going on, what it means, and what we can work on together going forward.

Last week, I participated in a candidate forum that was hosted by the Greater Metro Denver Ministerial Alliance of Denver, a coalition of local Black faith leaders, during which they asked all runoff candidates for mayor, City Council District 9, and City Council District 8 questions that were very specific to Denver's Black com-



munity. One of those questions was: *Do you support reparations and their implementation at the local level? If so, how could that potentially look?* We had two minutes to respond, and I answered the question directly. Yes, I support reparations, and I provided hypothetical

examples of what that might look like at the local level, including considering how our special taxing districts for businesses (business improvement districts, or BIDs) could play a role. Every single candidate at the forum also stated that they supported some form of racial reparations.

A clip of my response was circulated with zero context by the far-right hate account, Libs of TikTok, encouraging its white nationalist followers to systematically harass and threaten me, and it was further amplified by initial media coverage, primarily within the far-right news ecosystem but also by some local news outlets. True to the Libs of TikTok playbook, thousands of abusive com-

ments and threats flooded social media and emails and voicemails to both my campaign and our District 9 office over the weekend.

kind of structures already exist that could be considered in a conversation at the local level. It was not something I am proposing, and it is not something that was vetted by the community.

But let's be clear: I do think reparations are necessary, both locally and nationally. And many people have already been having that conversation for a very long time. One example locally is the work of the Denver Black Reparations Council. Nationally, the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) has existed since 1987. Ta-Nehisi Coates's essay The Case for Reparations was published almost ten years ago. More recently, there have been many great ideas about what reparations could look like, including the

See CdeBaca on page 21

Hablemos de Reparaciones

Concejala Candi CdeBaca

Algunos de ustedes habrán notado que mi nombre y la palabra reparaciones se han hecho virales durante el fin de semana, y quiero darles a ustedes, mis electores, algunos antecedentes sobre lo que está pasando, lo que significa, y lo que podemos trabajar juntos en el futuro.

La semana pasada participé en un foro de candidatos organizado por la Greater Metro Denver Ministerial

El vídeo que circuló es sólo un pequeño fragmento de información de un foro de candidatos que se sacó completamente de contexto.

Alliance de Denver, una coalición de líderes religiosos negros locales, en el

que se plantearon preguntas muy específicas para la comunidad negra de Denver a todos los candidatos a la alcaldía, al distrito 9 del ayuntamiento y al distrito 8 del ayuntamiento. Una de esas preguntas era: *¿Apoya las reparaciones y su aplicación a nivel local? En caso afirmativo, ¿cómo podría ser?* Teníamos dos minutos para responder, y respondí directamente a la pregunta. Sí, apoyo las reparaciones, y

Vea CdeBaca/Esp, página 21

Retire This Dehumanizing Language About Immigrants

Daniella Prieshoff

Last year, my client Susan called me to discuss her immigration case.

During our conversation she referenced the news that immigrants were being bused from the southern border to cities in the North, often under false promises, only to be left stranded in an unknown city.

In confusion and fear, Susan asked me: "Why do they hate us so much?"

While I couldn't answer Susan's question, her underlying concern highlights a startling escalation of public aggression against migrants over the past year.



migrants. This divisive language serves no purpose other than to divide our country, undermine the legal right to seek asylum in the United States, and cultivate a fear of the most vulnerable.

A clear example is showcased in recent media coverage of northbound migration across the U.S.-Mexico border. Many outlets describe recent migration through the Americas as a "flood," "influx," "wave," or "surge"—language that reinforces the notion that migration is akin to an imminent, uncontrollable, and destructive natural disaster.

These descriptions are accompanied by sensational photographs and videos of long lines of brown and Black immigrants wading across the Rio Grande, crowding along the border wall, or boarding Customs and Border

Patrol (CBP) vehicles to be transported to detention.

Woven into this framing is the near-constant use of the term "illegal" or "unlawful" to describe unauthorized crossings. As an advocate for immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and trafficking, I'm alarmed by the use of this language to describe a migrant's attempt to survive.

Moreover, it's often simply incorrect. A noncitizen who has a well-founded fear of persecution in the country from which they've fled has a legal right — protected under both U.S. and international law — to enter the United States to seek asylum.

When mainstream media wield the term "illegal" as though it were synonymous with "unauthorized," they misinform readers and falsely paint asylum seekers as criminals.

Worse still, they encourage politicians who call immigrants themselves "illegals," a deeply dehumanizing term. And the more dehumanizing language we use, the more likely it is that we will see immigrants as the "other" to justify cruel immigration policies.

See Prieshoff on page 21

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The words we use in everyday discourse mean something — they can spell out life or death for those among us who are most vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

There seems to be a growing "us" versus "them" mentality towards im-

Poll of Election Officials Shows High Turnover Amid Safety Threats and Political Interference

Ruby Edlin and Lawrence Norden

A new Brennan Center survey of local election officials from around the country shows that many election officials have left the field, and more plan to go. In 2020, confronted with the Covid-19 pandemic, election officials ran what the key government agencies at the time called the “most secure election in American history” with the highest voter turnout in over 100 years. But since then, the election officials have found themselves targeted by a campaign to lie about election results and undermine faith in American democracy.

Scapegoated for election outcomes that some politicians and voters did not like, many election officials have faced death threats, online harassment, and abuse. Political leaders interfered in their work by censoring or replacing some officials who told the truth about election security, and in some states they enacted new laws exposing officials to criminal penalties for minor infractions or for taking proactive steps to help their voters.

The result is hollowing out the ranks of experienced election administration professionals, with potentially more to come in the next year. The survey found that 12 percent of local election officials began their service after the 2020 election cycle. Another 11 percent of current officials say they are very or somewhat likely to leave before November 2024. If these officials follow through and exit their positions, we will have lost approximately 1.5 election officials per day between the November 2020 and 2024 elections.

“

With the 2024 presidential election approaching, now is the time to ask what we can do to further strengthen election administration.

The loss of institutional knowledge that accompanies such high turnover can mean that election officials are less aware of resources available to assist them in securing and running their

elections. Large numbers of resignations can also result in more administrative mistakes, which can in turn fuel conspiracy theories and threats, continuing the cycle that has led to resignations in the first place.

The findings of our survey provide some explanation as to why election officials continue to leave office at high rates, as well as some clues as to what can be done to staunch the bleeding and offer support where it is needed most, particularly to the field’s newest members.

Dangers on the job

Threats, abuse, and harassment continue to be a significant concern in the field. Cathy Darling Allen, the clerk and registrar of voters of Shasta County, California, has described fearing for the safety of her staff after discovering a surveillance camera planted at the back entrance of her office used by poll workers during the 2022 primary. At least one other official discovered a wireless video camera aimed at his front door. In Gillespie County, Texas, election staff endured several kinds of harassment, including volunteer poll watchers calling the police and filming staff in a



dark parking lot, attempting to forcibly enter a secure ballot vault, and stalking and threatening some staffers. In August 2022, the entire staff resigned, with at least one person citing threats in her resignation letter.

This issue is not limited to a small number of places: our survey shows that nearly one in three election officials have been harassed, abused, or threatened because of their job. Alarmingly, more than one in five are concerned about being physically assaulted on the job in future elections. Election officials worry about their colleagues, with 45 percent of respondents expressing concern for the safety of other election officials and workers in future elections. Not surprisingly then, more than half of respondents expressed concern that the attacks will make it more difficult to retain or recruit election workers in future elections.

Lack of funding hurts election security

At the same time, 74% of local election officials say they need their annual budget to grow to address security

and election administration needs over the next five years. Election systems are critical infrastructure vital to our democracy and national security, and Congress’s unwillingness to provide adequate funding is a significant failure. While the Department of Homeland Security’s announcement requiring more federal grant money be dedicated to election security was a step in the right direction, our survey shows there is more work to do.

Election officials say increased funding would allow them to invest in more poll workers and improved voting equipment, as well as strengthen cybersecurity and the physical security of election offices. Many election officials have sought to secure their offices following threats. An election official in Jackson County, Oregon asked the state for about \$80,000 to install bullet-resistant glass and transaction windows at certain office counters after the parking lot was painted with threatening language. The Brennan Center has estimated that implementing basic physical

See Edlin & Norden on page 25

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Encuesta Demuestra Gran Rotación de Autoridades Electorales en Medio de Amenazas a Su Seguridad

Ruby Edlin y Lawrence Norden

Una nueva encuesta que realizó el Brennan Center entre autoridades electorales locales de todo el país demuestra que muchos funcionarios electorales – es decir, personas que administran las elecciones – han dejado su puesto y más planean hacerlo. En 2020, en medio de la pandemia de Covid-19, las autoridades electorales administraron lo que los organismos gubernamentales clave describieron en su momento como las “elecciones más seguras de la historia de los Estados Unidos” y con la mayor participación electoral en más de 100 años. Pero, desde entonces, los administradores electorales se han vuelto el blanco de una campaña que busca mentir sobre los resultados electorales y debilitar la confianza del público en la democracia de los Estados Unidos.

“

De cara a las elecciones presidenciales de 2024, ahora es el momento de preguntarnos qué podemos hacer para seguir fortaleciendo la administración electoral.

Muchas autoridades electorales, cuales chivos expiatorios, por los resultados electorales que no les agradaron a ciertas partes de la clase política y del electorado, han recibido amenazas de muerte, acoso en línea y abusos. Además, algunos líderes políticos intentaron interferir en su trabajo censurando o removiendo a algunas autoridades

Vea Edlin & Norden/Esp, página 20



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Dominican Republic Border Wall Deepens Tensions Over Haitian Immigration

By Roxanne De La Rosa

It's a breezy, partially cloudy day in March as Mayor Santiago Riverón puffs on a cigar while sitting outside his home on his sprawling ranch in Dajabón, Dominican Republic, not far from the controversial border wall being built between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Riverón loves his country and takes pride in his Dominican heritage. And in an echo of anti-immigrant voices in the United States, he says Haitian people are "invading" his country.

The reasons for the construction of the wall that borders this northwestern city of 17,000, he says, are to prevent people from poverty-stricken, gang-overrun Haiti from illegally entering, and to make a resounding political statement.

"It has been embraced by Dominicans as a patriotic symbol, and that cannot be changed," Riverón said. "That cannot be changed."

The wall being built here would add to a growing list of border barriers worldwide. According to a [March 2022 report](#) by University of Quebec researcher Élisabeth Vallet, there were 74 border walls in the world, most of them constructed in the last two decades, and 15 others in various stages of planning at the time of her report.

Opponents of the Dominican wall say it will not prevent Haitians from trying to flee the ongoing violence in their country, the poorest in the Western Hemisphere, where violent gangs control large segments of the nation.

"We always say that we do not agree with any wall in any part of the world. This wall is being built to appease conservative and nationalist groups," said William Charpentier Blanco, a leader at the nonprofit [National Coalition for Migrations and Refugees](#). "The government's narrative is that the wall is going to control organized crime. That will never happen. In no part of the world do border walls work."



A group of Haitians, including a young girl, are deported back to Haiti at the border gates in Dajabón, Dominican Republic, on March 4, 2023. / Un grupo de haitianos, entre ellos una niña, son deportados de vuelta a Haití a las puertas de la frontera en Dajabón, República Dominicana, el 4 de marzo de 2023. (Photo/Foto: Roxanne De La Rosa/Cronkite Borderlands Project)

Riverón, the Dajabón mayor, says a border wall will help slow down drug trafficking, theft and prevent the gang-driven violence in Haiti from coming into his country. Yet Dominican supporters of the wall don't expect it to solve everything. Some claim, for example, that border officials are corrupt and accept bribes from deported Haitians allowing them to come back into the country.

"The wall is a matter of national security. The wall is not going to solve the immigration issue because illegals cross the bridge (between Haiti and Dajabón)," Riverón said. "And unfortunately, the military allows illegals to cross through checkpoints."

As in the United States, regulating immigration has become a hot-button political issue in the Dominican Republic and, as in the U.S., the Dominican government decided that at least a partial solution to this problem was to build a wall. But compared to the Mexico-U.S. border wall, the Dominican wall is far less formidable.

The Dominican barrier will have a concrete base approximately 4-5 feet high, topped by integrated chain link fencing and finished off with barbed wire. It will stand nearly 13 feet high with watchtowers and surveillance cameras that have yet to be installed. Construction of the wall, which began in February 2022, has been slow and is behind schedule. According to government estimates, it will cost approximately \$32 million to build and will cover about 106 miles of the 240-mile border between the two countries, leaving large segments of border unfenced.

The U.S. border wall is made of various materials – but all tougher than chain link. It is also as tall as 30 feet high in some segments, contributing to a five-fold increase in the number of traumatic injuries to those who have fallen trying to climb over it, according to a recent report by physicians in the San Diego, California, region. Approx-

imately 700 miles of the nearly 2,000 mile U.S.-Mexico border is fenced in some way. Technology, including drones, surveillance cameras and nearly 300 smart towers have been installed along the wall.

Dominican President Luis Abinader visited Dajabón in February of last year for a groundbreaking ceremony on the wall. Abinader is popular for his stance against immigration and his fiery rhetoric has stoked anti-Haitian sentiment. A poll of 1,214 Dominicans conducted in late April by Markestrategia indicated that 55 percent of those surveyed would vote to reelect him in the next presidential election in 2024.

“

Human beings have no race or color, they must be defended wherever they go.”

Hector Perea, Defensa Civil

For all of the strong feelings about immigration, Dajabón is a small example of the interdependence of the Dominican Republic and Haiti, which share the island of Hispaniola. In Dajabón, there is a weekly market where Haitians are allowed to cross the bridge into the Dominican city to sell their wares.

Haitians attending the market line up for hours until the gates open. They sell everything from used clothes to diapers. The desperation of Haitians can be seen in some of the items they bring to sell: a used Minnie Mouse toy car scribbled on with faded black marker or one very worn-down bar stool.

Mayor Riverón says he supports Haitians coming to visit and sell their goods in the Dominican marketplace, but he expects them to return to their country at the end of the day. What he does not support is Haitians crossing into the country illegally. Riverón says

he wants the international community to see that Haiti doesn't need handouts, it needs resources to create sources of employment.

"It has become a disaster. Haiti is a country that has no authority. It is a country that is being governed by criminal gangs, many of which are being financed by politicians from their own country," Riverón said. "Those politicians prefer disorder and take advantage of that disorder. That's the situation in Haiti. Unfortunately, Haiti is not prepared to be a democratic country. It has to be a country that is dominated with a heavy hand."

But interdependence of the two economies goes far beyond small markets and is rooted in the need for cheap labor. Haitian immigrants make up a large portion of the workforce in agriculture, construction and other sectors of poorly paid manual labor jobs in the Dominican Republic. In a February report, the Dominican College of Economists (Codeco) estimated that 700,000 Haitians are employed in the Dominican Republic, a country of about 11 million people. Immigration advocates even say the border wall is being built by the same people it is meant to keep out – Haitians who are fleeing their homeland due to poverty, violence and instability.

Along a portion of the border wall, the Dajabón River – also known as the Massacre River, after the massacre of French buccaneers by Spaniards in the 1700's – runs between the two countries. Today hundreds of Haitians come to the river daily to wash their clothes and lay them out to dry on the nearby rocks. Haitians cross the river and hang their clothes to dry on the low concrete ledge of a mostly unfinished border wall.

Busloads of Haitians are deported daily, in plain sight of the border gates of Dajabón. Mothers with babies

Alcalde de la Frontera Declara el Estado de Emergencia por la Llegada de Inmigrantes



Una familia haitiana es deportada a Haití desde un autobús de inmigración en la República Dominicana en marzo. / A Haitian family is deported back to Haiti from an immigration bus in the Dominican Republic in March. (Foto/Photo: Roxanne De La Rosa/Cronkite Borderlands Project)

Por Roxanne De La Rosa

Es un día de brisa, parcialmente nublado en marzo, mientras el alcalde Santiago Riverón fuma un puro sentado fuera de su casa en su extensa finca, en Dajabón, República Dominicana, no lejos del controvertido muro fronterizo que se está construyendo entre Haití y la República Dominicana.

Riverón ama a su país y se enorgullece de su herencia dominicana. Y en un eco de las voces antiinmigrantes en Estados Unidos, dice que los haitianos están “invadiendo” su país.

“

El ser humano no tiene raza ni color, hay que defenderlo allá donde vaya”.

Hector Perea, Defensa Civil

Las razones de la construcción del muro que bordea esta ciudad noroccidental de 17.000 habitantes, dice, son impedir la entrada ilegal de personas procedentes de Haití, asolada por la pobreza y dominada por las bandas, y hacer una rotunda declaración política.

“Los dominicanos lo han adoptado como un símbolo patriótico, y eso no se puede cambiar”, afirma Riverón. “Eso no se puede cambiar”.

El muro que se está construyendo aquí se sumaría a una creciente lista de barreras fronterizas en todo el mundo. Según un [informe de marzo de 2022](#) de la investigadora de la Universidad de Quebec Élisabeth Vallet, en el momento de redactar su informe había 74 muros fronterizos en el mundo, la mayoría

de ellos construidos en las dos últimas décadas, y otros 15 en diversas fases de planificación.

Quienes se oponen al muro dominicano afirman que no impedirá que los haitianos intenten huir de la violencia imperante en su país, el más pobre del hemisferio occidental, donde bandas violentas controlan amplios sectores de la nación.

“Siempre decimos que no estamos de acuerdo con ningún muro en ninguna parte del mundo. Este muro se está construyendo para apaciguar a los grupos conservadores y nacionalistas”, dijo William Charpentier Blanco, dirigente de la Coalición Nacional para las Migraciones y los Refugiados ([National Coalition for Migrations and Refugees](#)), organización sin fines de lucro. “La narrativa del gobierno es que el muro va a controlar el crimen organizado. Eso nunca sucederá. En ninguna parte del mundo funcionan los muros fronterizos”.

Riverón, el alcalde de Dajabón, afirma que un muro fronterizo ayudará a frenar el tráfico de drogas, los robos y evitará que la violencia de las bandas de Haití llegue a su país. Sin embargo, los partidarios dominicanos del muro no esperan que lo resuelva todo. Algunos afirman, por ejemplo, que los funcionarios fronterizos son corruptos y aceptan sobornos de haitianos deportados que les permiten volver al país.

“El muro es una cuestión de seguridad nacional. El muro no va a resolver el problema de la inmigración porque los ilegales cruzan el puente (entre Haití y Dajabón)”, dijo Riverón. “Y lamentablemente, los militares permiten que los ilegales crucen por los retenes”.

Al igual que en Estados Unidos, la regulación de la inmigración se ha con-

vertido en un tema político candente en la República Dominicana y, como en Estados Unidos, el gobierno dominicano decidió que al menos una solución parcial a este problema era construir un muro. Pero comparado con el muro fronterizo entre México y Estados Unidos, el muro dominicano es mucho menos formidable.

La barrera dominicana tendrá una base de hormigón de aproximadamente 1,2 m de altura, rematada por una valla de alambre de espino. Tendrá una altura de casi 4 metros y contará con torres de vigilancia y cámaras que aún no se han instalado. La construcción del muro, que comenzó en febrero de 2022, ha sido lenta y va con retraso. Según estimaciones del Gobierno, su construcción costará unos 32 millones de dólares y cubrirá unas 106 millas de las 240 millas de frontera entre los dos países, dejando grandes segmentos de frontera sin vallar.

El muro fronterizo estadounidense está hecho de diversos materiales, pero todos más resistentes que la mala metálica. Además, en algunos tramos alcanza los 9 metros de altura, lo que contribuye a multiplicar por cinco el número de lesiones traumáticas de quienes se han caído intentando escalarlo, según un informe reciente de médicos de la región de San Diego (California). Aproximadamente 700 millas de las casi 2.000 millas de frontera entre Estados Unidos y México están valladas de alguna manera. A lo largo del muro se ha instalado tecnología, incluidos drones, cámaras de vigilancia y casi 300 torres inteligentes.

El presidente dominicano, Luis Abinader, visitó Dajabón en febrero del año pasado para asistir a la ceremonia

de colocación de la primera piedra del muro. Abinader es popular por su postura contra la inmigración y su encendida retórica ha avivado el sentimiento antihaitiano. Una encuesta realizada a finales de abril por Markestrategia entre 1.214 dominicanos indicaba que el 55% de los encuestados votaría a favor de su reelección en las próximas elecciones presidenciales de 2024.

A pesar de los fuertes sentimientos sobre la inmigración, Dajabón es un pequeño ejemplo de la interdependencia de la República Dominicana y Haití, que comparten la isla de La Española. En Dajabón hay un mercado semanal en el que se permite a los haitianos cruzar el puente hacia la ciudad dominicana para vender sus mercancías.

Los haitianos que acuden al mercado hacen cola durante horas hasta que

se abren las puertas. Venden de todo, desde ropa usada hasta pañales. La desesperación de los haitianos puede verse en algunos de los artículos que traen para vender: un coche de juguete usado de Minnie Mouse garabateado con rotulador negro descolorido o un taburete de bar muy desgastado.

El alcalde Riverón dice que apoya que los haitianos vengan de visita y vendan sus productos en el mercado dominicano, pero espera que al final del día regresen a su país. Lo que no apoya es que los haitianos entren ilegalmente en el país. Riverón dice que quiere que la comunidad internacional vea que Haití no necesita limosnas, sino recursos para crear fuentes de empleo.

Vea [Inmigración](#), página 24

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Rep. Caraveo Hears About Abortion Access Concerns at Roundtable Discussion

COLORADO

By Lindsey Toomer

First-term U.S. Representative Yadira Caraveo held a roundtable discussion where she heard concerns and ideas from stakeholders advocating greater access to reproductive health care in her district last Wednesday.

In a conference room at the YMCA in Johnstown, a small town southeast of Loveland, Caraveo, a Thornton Democrat, heard about the biggest challenges reproductive health advocates and providers are facing from representatives with Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains (PPRM), Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights, the Northern Colorado chapter of the National Organization for Women, BIPOC Alliance and more. Anti-abortion centers, sometimes referred to as crisis pregnancy centers, and lack of access in rural Colorado were among their top concerns, and participants shared what they want to see to improve abortion access.

The U.S. Supreme Court overturned a 50-year precedent protecting the federal right to an abortion with its *Dobbs*



U.S. Rep. Yadira Caraveo speaks with advocates for reproductive rights at a roundtable on May 3, 2023 at the YMCA in Johnstown, Colorado. / La representante estadounidense Yadira Caraveo habla con defensores de los derechos reproductivos en una mesa redonda celebrada el 3 de mayo de 2023 en el YMCA de Johnstown, Colorado. (Photo/Foto: Lindsey Toomer/Colorado Newswire)

v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision last summer, meaning the states can now decide whether to permit the procedure. Multiple women at the roundtable emphasized that legal abortion, as in Colorado, does not mean it's accessible, especially for more rural parts of the state, where the closest place to access reproductive health care can be at least two hours away.

"If you have legal access to abortion and reproductive health care, but you can't access it, then you don't real-

ly have it," said Kathia García, a public affairs organizer with PPRM. "Being able to work to expand that would be something that not just Coloradans, but community members from outside the state who come here to be protected and to get the services that they don't have access to, I think that would be amazing."

Jamie Rasmussen, a program director with *BIPOC Alliance*, a northern Colorado organization that advocates for people of color, said she's concerned

about centers claiming to offer abortion services "preying" on people. Aurora Rousseau, a student at the University of Northern Colorado, said an anti-abortion center in Greeley is pushing a large advertising campaign toward students who might not know of the other resources available to them in the area. While the center isn't advertising that it provides abortion services, as a new Colorado law is expected to prohibit later this year, it advertises pre-abortion screenings, she said.

"We have had reports of students going in there and then they are essentially slut-shamed and told that they shouldn't get an abortion," Rousseau said. "It's really frustrating because it seems like it's really accessible — they offer free STI testing, but when you get there, it's a very different experience and it causes a lot of harm."

Claudia Pérez, a public affairs manager with PPRM, said the advocates want to see more proactive work to protect abortion care since so much work lately has been on the defense, such as mitigating harm. She said this would entail greater effort to expand access and affordability across communities.

"We definitely have community members here in Colorado who have been left out, and it frustrates me when

I'm in community and I hear from people, 'Well, we're fine. We're in Colorado, right?'" Pérez said. "And I'm like, no, that's not the lived experience of so many people in our state."

Rahshida Pérez, interim executive director of the BIPOC Alliance, said as a Black woman she is experienced with going to the doctor and being told there is no problem or that she doesn't need help. She said more doctors of color need to be brought into the world of reproductive health care in Colorado.

“

If you have legal access to abortion and reproductive health care, but you can't access it, then you don't really have it.”

Kathia García, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains

"No one asks me about my body. No one cares what I have to say about my body. They just want to tell me what to do with it," Pérez said. "I think as we're trying to recruit physicians and beef up that system ... we need to show people that it is a comfortable place that they will actually be cared for by people who are willing to listen and people that know their bodies, because they have it."

See [Caraveo](#) on page 21



La Diputada Caraveo Escucha las Preocupaciones Sobre el Acceso al Aborto en Una Mesa Redonda

COLORADO

Por Lindsey Toomer

El pasado miércoles, Yadira Caraveo, representante de los EE.UU. durante su primer mandato, celebró una mesa redonda en la que escuchó las preocupaciones e ideas de las partes interesadas que abogan por un mayor acceso a la atención de la salud reproductiva en su distrito.

En una sala de conferencias del YMCA de Johnstown, una pequeña ciudad al sureste de Loveland, Caraveo, demócrata de Thornton, escuchó a representantes de Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains (PPRM), Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (Organización de Colorado para las Oportunidades y los Derechos Reproductivos de las Latinas), la sección del norte de Colorado de la National Organization for Women (Organización Nacional de Mujeres), la BIPOC Alliance (Alianza BIPOC), etc., hablar de

“

Si tienes acceso legal al aborto y a los servicios de salud reproductiva, pero no puedes acceder a ellos, entonces no los tienes realmente”.

Kathia García, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains

los principales retos a los que se enfrentan los defensores y proveedores de servicios de salud reproductiva. Los centros antiaborto, a veces conocidos como centros de crisis del embarazo, y la falta de acceso en las zonas rurales de Colorado fueron algunas de sus principales preocupaciones, y los participantes compartieron lo que quieren ver para mejorar el acceso al aborto.

Vea [Caraveo/Esp](#), página 19

Colorado Announces New Resource to Prevent Youth Suicide

COLORADO

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment announced a new partnership between Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners and Second Wind Fund that will connect eligible youth who have experienced a suicidal crisis with licensed therapists. The initiative is an expansion of the existing Follow-Up Project, which has already provided more than 19,000 follow-up services to Coloradans since it began in 2018.

While the suicide rate for Colorado youth (ages 10-18) has remained statistically stable since 2016, Colorado continues to have among the highest rates of youth suicide in the country. This program will help young people struggling with suicidal despair overcome common barriers to care and connect with experienced, licensed mental health professionals.

"We are excited to fund and support this new referral pathway that will provide much-needed support for Colorado's youth," said Lena Heilmann, Office of Suicide Prevention director. "We look forward to growing this program over the next several years."

As part of the Follow-Up Project, CDPHE's Office of Suicide Prevention funds Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners to reach out to individuals who have recently been part of an inpatient program or had a visit to an emergency department for suicide risk. With the individual's consent, Follow-Up specialists with Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners contact the person regularly within the 30 days after discharge—when the risk of a suicide attempt or death is highest—to offer support, set goals, and connect them to resources. The new partnership with Second Wind Fund will build on that support by connecting youth ages 19 and younger, who are at risk for suicide, to therapists.

"Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners is honored to be a part of this new initiative that will help us meet a critical need in our state," said Melody Keown with Rocky Mountain Crisis Partner's Follow-Up Project. "We believe there is no 'wrong' door to accessing care, and that pairing with Second Wind Fund creates a new entryway for those who may otherwise be excluded from mental health services."

The Second Wind Fund is a Colorado-based organization that covers the

cost of therapy for youth with barriers to care, including financial constraints, inadequate insurance coverage, and a lack of available providers in their area. After a young person is referred by the Follow-Up Project, Second Wind Fund will pay for 12 sessions of therapy at no cost to the youth or their caretakers and will help families navigate services. Providers are available in English and Spanish with translation services available for other languages.

"Second Wind Fund is thrilled about the newly established referral pathway with the Follow-Up Project. Second Wind Fund has been on a 20+ year journey in Colorado of ensuring that no youth fall through the cracks of our mental health system. Our partnership will most certainly help save young lives across the state from suicide," said Chris Weiss, Executive Director of the Second Wind Fund.

Youth must be referred to Second Wind Fund by a participating emergency department or inpatient program in order to benefit from this referral pathway. However, parents and caregivers who are concerned their child may be experiencing thoughts of suicide can find immediate, free, and confidential



The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment announced a new partnership that will connect eligible youth who have experienced a suicidal crisis with licensed therapists. / El Departamento de Salud Pública y Medio Ambiente de Colorado anunció una nueva asociación que conectará a terapeutas acreditados con jóvenes elegibles que han pasado por una crisis suicida. (Photo/Foto: Adobe Stock)

support by calling Colorado Crisis Services at 1-844-493-TALK or by texting "TALK" to 38255.

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Colorado Anuncia Nuevo Recurso Para Prevenir El Suicidio Entre Los Jóvenes

COLORADO

El Departamento de Salud Pública y Medio Ambiente de Colorado anunció una nueva asociación entre Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners y Second Wind Fund, que conectará a terapeutas acreditados con jóvenes elegibles que han pasado por una crisis suicida. La iniciativa es una expansión del programa Follow-Up Project, que ha brindado más de 19,000 servicios de seguimiento a los habitantes de Colorado desde que inició en el 2018.

A pesar de que el índice del suicidio entre los jóvenes de Colorado (10-18 años de edad), ha permanecido estadísticamente estable desde el 2016, Colorado continúa con los más altos

índices de suicidio juvenil en el país. Este programa ayudará a los jóvenes que están luchando con una desesperación suicida, a superar las barreras comunes para obtener ayuda y conectar con profesionales de salud mental certificados y con experiencia.

"Estamos muy emocionados de brindar fondos y apoyo a este programa que proveerá ayuda muy necesaria para los jóvenes de Colorado", así dijo Lena Heilmann, directora de la Oficina de Prevención del Suicidio. "Esperamos que este programa crezca mucho más en los próximos años".

Como parte de Follow-Up Project, la Oficina de Prevención del Suicidio del Departamento de Salud y Medio Ambiente de Colorado brinda fondos al Rocky

Mountain Crisis Partners para comunicarse con individuos que han sido parte de un programa de hospitalización o ha estado en una área de emergencia por riesgo de suicidio. Con el consentimiento del individuo, especialistas del programa Follow Up con Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners, contactan a la persona de manera regular, dentro de los 30 días después de haber sido dado de alta - cuando el riesgo de intento de suicidio o muerte es mayor - para ofrecer apoyo, hacer metas y conectarlos a recursos. Esta nueva asociación con Second Wind Fund ayudará a conectar a jóvenes de 19 años y menores, que están en riesgo de suicidio, con terapeutas.

"Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners está honrado de ser parte de esta nueva

iniciativa que nos ayudará a satisfacer una necesidad crítica en nuestro estado", así dijo Melody Keown del Rocky Mountain Crisis Partner's Follow-Up Project. "Creemos que esto es un gran recurso para acceder a ayuda y en conjunto con Second Wind Fund se abre una puerta para aquellos que podrían estar excluidos de servicios de salud mental".

Second Wind Fund es una organización basada en Colorado que cubre los costos de la terapia para los jóvenes que tienen barreras para acceder a recursos, incluyendo dificultades económicas, falta de seguro médico y proveedores en el área. Después de que un joven es referido al Follow-Up Project, Second Wind Fund pagará 12 sesiones de terapia sin costo y ayudará a las familias con los recursos. Los proveedores están disponibles en inglés y en español con servicios de traducción a otros idiomas.

"Second Wind Fund está muy emocionado sobre la nueva ruta de refer-

encia con el Follow-Up Project. Second Wind Fund ha estado más de 20 años en Colorado, asegurando que los jóvenes tengan acceso al sistema de salud mental. Nuestra asociación ayudará a salvar vidas en Colorado", dijo Chris Weiss, director ejecutivo del Second Wind Fund.

Los jóvenes deben ser referidos al Second Wind Fund por un departamento de emergencia participante o un programa de hospitalización para poder tener el beneficio del programa referido. Sin embargo, los papás o los encargados de cuidar a los jóvenes que están preocupados porque sus hijos han experimentado pensamientos suicidas pueden encontrar apoyo inmediato, gratuito y confidencial, llamando a Servicios de Crisis en Colorado al 1-844-493-TALK o enviando la palabra "TALK" por mensaje de texto al 38255.

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Free for Kids Program Continues at Denver Art Museum

COLORADO

The Denver Art Museum (DAM) and Bellco Credit Union announced a major sponsorship of the museum's Free for Kids program. A supporter of Free for Kids since 2016, Bellco has expanded its investment this year to become the presenting sponsor to continue this important community access program. Launched in 2015, Free for Kids at the DAM supports free

general admission to all visitors ages 18 and under, as well as \$5 admission to all special ticketed exhibitions. The program extends free general admission to youth group field trips and summer camps, too.

"With this generous support from Bellco Credit Union, the Denver Art Museum continues to lower the barriers to museum access and welcome all young people — from preschoolers to teenagers — to explore world cul-

tures and their own creativity at the museum," said Christoph Heinrich, Frederick and Jan Mayer Director of the DAM. "We are thrilled that more than 800,000 kids have attended the museum for free since Free for Kids launched in 2015. Studies show time and again that access to museums and art education experience during childhood build greater quality of life and

See Kids on page 20



"Gratis para Niños" es un programa en el DAM y ofrece entrada general gratuita para todos los visitantes de hasta 18 años. / Free for Kids at the DAM supports free general admission to all visitors ages 18 and under. (Photo/Foto: Iris Miceli Photography, courtesy of Denver Art Museum)

El Programa Gratis para Niños Continúa en el Museo de Arte de Denver

COLORADO

El Denver Art Museum (DAM) y Bellco Credit Union anuncian hoy un patrocinio importante para el programa "Gratis para Niños" del DAM. Bellco ha apoyado "Gratis para Niños" desde el 2016 y, este año, amplía su inversión para convertirse en el patrocinador presentador a fin de continuar con este importante programa de acceso comunitario. "Gratis para Niños" es un programa que se lanzó en

2015 en el DAM y ofrece entrada general gratuita para todos los visitantes de hasta 18 años, así como entrada de \$5 para todas las exposiciones especiales. El programa también ofrece entrada general gratuita a excursiones de grupos juveniles y campamentos de Verano.

"Con el generoso apoyo de Bellco Credit Union, el Denver Art Museum sigue eliminando barreras para el acceso al museo y recibir a todos los jóvenes, desde niños en preescolar hasta adoles-

centes, para que allí exploren las culturas del mundo y su propia creatividad", señaló Christoph Heinrich, director Frederick y Jan Mayer del DAM. "Nos emociona saber que más de 800,000 niños han visitado de manera gratuita el museo desde que se lanzó "Gratis para Niños" en 2015. Los estudios demuestran constantemente que acceder a los museos y a la experiencia de educación artística durante la niñez gen-

Vea Niños, página 18



El Museo de Arte de Denver inicia un programa gratuito para niños y actividades creativas para divertirse en verano. / Denver Art Museum begins Free for Kids Program and Creative Summer Fun Activities. (Foto/Photo: Raine Chism Photography, cortesía de Denver Art Museum)

SIERRA CLUB

DESCUBRA LOS VERDADEROS COSTOS DE LA ENERGÍA SUCIA

Denver Sheriff Department Welcomes News Deputies



The Denver Sheriff Department hosted a graduation ceremony for the first class of 2023, class 2023-1. (Photo: Denver Sheriff Dept.)

COLORADO

Denver Executive Director of Public Safety, Armando Saldate and Sheriff Elias Diggins welcomed sixteen new deputies to the Denver Sheriff Department (DSD) at the graduation ceremony for the first class of 2023, class 2023-1.

The new deputy sheriffs completed a very challenging fifteen-week academy and now join a public safety team comprised of dedicated public servants who play a vital role in maintaining the safety and security of the

individuals in their care within Denver's Jails.

The new deputies will begin their new assignments at the Downtown Detention Center and the Denver County Jail where they will be responsible for providing safe and secure custody for individuals in custody.

The next DSD Training Academy will begin in July. The Denver Sheriff Department is currently recruiting and interested individuals can apply [here](#).

For More Colorado News: ElSemanaarioOnline.com

Celebrated Artist Carlos Frésquez Leaves the Classroom and a Legacy



MSU Denver art professor and alumnus Carlos Frésquez will retire in May after 33 years of teaching at MSU Denver. (Photo: Amanda Schwengel/MSU RED)

COLORADO

By Polina Saran and Laura Miller

Carlos Frésquez began his studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver with one goal in mind: to be a good artist. He didn't care about grades, he said, and he definitely didn't plan on becoming a teacher. After graduating in 1980, he thought he was done with school forever.

Then, in 1990, the prolific artist whose work has been exhibited and sold around the world found himself back in the classroom, where he would inspire new generations of artists for 33 years. He plans to retire from his role as professor of Art at MSU Denver this spring, but he says he'll never stop guiding others.

"My favorite thing is to come in and just interact with the students," he said. "I'm here to guide them, and students say, 'You're a sherpa, Carlos; you're a guide.' And I guess I am."

A Denver native, Frésquez remembered going to San Francisco as a kid

and seeing walls covered with murals. He knew then he wanted to be an artist. He attended Art classes at MSU Denver in the late 1970s and participated in the Chicano movement.

"I experienced a lot (of racism) in the '60s and '70s," he said. "It's no fun being spit on because of your ethnicity. I realized we needed to break barriers; we needed to educate people."

Shortly after he started teaching at MSU Denver, he proposed a mural class to the chair of the Art Department and developed a curriculum. With Frésquez's guidance, students have painted murals throughout Denver, from *Su Teatro* to the MSU Denver soccer field. His mural "Night of the Barrio Moon," painted in 1992, was recently restored.

"We've probably done 20 to 30 murals in the city over the years," he said. "I see murals as walls with tongues because they speak, and they're really our gift to the community."

For Frésquez, murals represent one of the most selfless acts an artist can perform. Students have to "toss

See Frésquez on page 25



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MSU Denver art professor and alumnus Carlos Frésquez looks at St. Cajetan's out of his office window. (Photo: Amanda Schwengel/MSU RED)

Queer Nonbinary New Mexican Reflects on Expanded NM Human Rights Law

NEW MÉXICO

By Austin Fisher

As Spanish-speaking Mexican immigrants from the town of Gómez Farías in Chihuahua, México, Arturo Castillo's parents struggled to get their house in the South Valley near Coors and Blake.

When Castillo's family first immigrated, they lived in a small room with their father and mother who was pregnant with their little brother, along with two older siblings. Their father is a drywall finisher, and their mother abandoned plans to study nursing in her home country to become a domestic worker in the United States.

Castillo, a queer and nonbinary first-generation New Mexican, loved growing up in the South Valley and felt at home there, because they had many Latino and Hispanic neighbors.

However, throughout their schooling, Castillo never once felt safe in their

academic setting coming out about their mixed immigration status family or about their identity as a queer person.

"Because I'm very much intersectional — in every sense of the word — there were a lot of parts of my identity that were left out," Castillo said. "As a young kid, I knew that I was different, but I didn't know why, specifically."

At the request of Equality New Mexico Executive Director Marshal Martínez, Castillo testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of [House Bill 207](#), which expanded the state's Human Rights Act by adding gender identity and gender among the characteristics protected by anti-discrimination law.

Castillo used to work with the New Mexico Youth Alliance, mainly on afterschool and educational issues, and met a couple of other queer people at the Gay Student Alliance (GSA) at their middle school.

But there was no GSA at South Valley Academy at the time, and they were not able to truly embrace who they



"It means that queer and nonbinary and trans kids like me growing up in this state will not be in that position of fear always," Arturo Castillo said of the expansion of New Mexico's Human Rights Act. / "Significa que los niños queer y no binarios y trans como yo que crecen en este estado no estarán siempre en esa posición de miedo", dijo Arturo Castillo sobre la ampliación de la Ley de Derechos Humanos de Nuevo México. (Photo/Foto: Austin Fisher / Source NM)

were until graduating from high school and attending college outside of New Mexico.

They said they always felt they would be put through hell if everyone knew who they truly were, or the rest of their family. They came out to two teachers they trusted, one of whom encouraged them to pursue a project about the effects of media on young people.

"I couldn't come out to my fellow peers," Castillo said. "I felt like if I did, my life would turn into a living hell, because I saw the way that queer kids were treated whenever they were out."

They started having suicidal thoughts when they felt like they couldn't turn to anyone.

"I think as I started to get older, I realized that I'm not your typical Mexican — at the time — boy," Castillo said.

If not for their sister Paola Castillo and her support, Arturo would not be alive today, they said. She was the first person they came out to, just before their 15th birthday.

Now, they keep hearing stories of others like them living in fear because of how queer people are constantly attacked across the United States.

"We're changing things for the better, and these kids are finally going to have a fighting chance," Castillo said. "Because I know that when we grew up, we didn't have that chance, and I know that a lot of people that I love are no longer here anymore because of that."

Castillo is now a program associate with Conservation Voters New Mexico.

"If I don't feel safe, as a 27-year-old nonbinary Mexican in the United States, I can just only imagine how other queer, nonbinary and trans kids feel right now," Castillo said.

It's easy to not always pay attention to issues when you're not a part of them, Arturo said, but they think lawmakers were moved by just meeting them.

"Queer kids', and trans kids', and nonbinary kids' lives are in danger, like everyday," Arturo said.

Sen. Leo Jaramillo (D-Española) shared Arturo's story on the floor of the New Mexico Senate as senators voted on the legislation.

It means the world to Castillo that the Legislature passed the bill and Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed it into law.

"It means that queer and nonbinary and trans kids like me growing up in this state will not be in that position of fear always," Castillo said.

Laws like the Human Rights Act must include all aspects of their identity, Jaramillo said.

If Arturo experienced discrimination in a public institution because they are Mexican, they would be protected but only under federal law, Jaramillo said. If they experienced discrimination because they are queer or non binary, they would have no protections under current state or federal law, he said.

Many institutions like school districts, Castillo said, can and do discriminate, or kick someone out of a classroom, or even out a student to their family.

"It's very easy to say, 'Well, on the federal level there are some protections,' but really there's not, if you really think about it," Castillo said.

Lawmakers cannot create protections for all young people to end depression, anxiety, stigma, or suicidal intentions, Jaramillo said.

"However, we can ensure, in this political environment, that those charged with educating and protecting young people do so for LGBTQ+ youth everywhere in New Mexico," Jaramillo said. "Let's set a proper example across the nation and exemplify how many lives can be saved due to this critical piece of legislation."

“

You're not alone, and we love you. Whenever you're ready to be in this space with us, we will gladly open our arms and support you, and uplift you.
Arturo Castillo

For any young queer or trans New Mexican who may not understand why they feel so different, or might not fully understand all the debate is about, Castillo would tell them that they are important, they matter, and "their story is just beginning."

Castillo said there will be people in those children's lives who are going to love them, but they haven't met yet. There will also be people who decide not to be there for them, who were never meant to be in their life, and that's OK, Castillo said.

"You're not alone, and we love you," Castillo said. "Whenever you're ready to be in this space with us, we will gladly open our arms and support you, and uplift you."

Austin Fisher is a reporter with Source New Mexico. This article is republished from Source New Mexico under a Creative Commons license.

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Nuevo Mexicano Queer No Binario Reflexiona Sobre la Ampliación de la Ley de Derechos Humanos de NM

Por Austin Fisher

NEW MÉXICO

Como inmigrantes mexicanos hispanohablantes del pueblo de Gómez Farías en Chihuahua, México, los padres de Arturo Castillo lucharon por conseguir su casa en South Valley, cerca de Coors y Blake.

“

No estás solo, y te queremos. Siempre que estés listo para estar en este espacio con nosotros, con gusto abriremos nuestros brazos y te apoyaremos, y te elevaremos”.
Arturo Castillo

Cuando la familia de Castillo inmigró por primera vez, vivían en una pequeña habitación con su padre y su madre, que estaba embarazada de su hermano pequeño, junto con dos hermanos mayores. Su padre es instalador de paneles de yeso y su madre abandonó sus planes de estudiar enfermería en su país natal para convertirse en empleada doméstica en Estados Unidos.

A Castillo, nueva mexicana de primera generación queer y no binaria, le encantaba crecer en el sur del Valle y se sentía como en casa allí, porque tenían muchos vecinos latinos e hispanos.

Sin embargo, a lo largo de su escolarización, Castillo nunca se sintió segura en su entorno académico al hablar de su familia de estatus migratorio mixto o de su identidad como persona queer.

“Como soy muy interseccional -en todos los sentidos de la palabra- había muchas partes de mi identidad que quedaban fuera”, dijo Castillo. “De joven, sabía que era diferente, pero no sabía por qué, específicamente”.

A petición del director ejecutivo de Equality New Mexico, Marshal Martínez, Castillo testificó ante el Comité Judicial del Senado en apoyo del [proyecto de ley 207](#) de la Cámara de Representantes, que amplió la Ley de Derechos Humanos del estado añadiendo la identidad de género y el género entre las características protegidas por la ley contra la discriminación.

Castillo solía trabajar con la Alianza Juvenil de Nuevo México, principalmente en temas extraescolares y educativos, y conoció a un par de otras personas queer en la Alianza de Estudiantes Gays (GSA, por sus siglas en inglés) de su escuela secundaria.

Pero entonces no había GSA en South Valley Academy, y no pudieron

aceptar realmente quiénes eran hasta que se graduaron en el instituto y asistieron a la universidad fuera de Nuevo México.

Dijeron que siempre sintieron que pasarían por un infierno si todo el mundo supiera quiénes eran realmente, o el resto de su familia. Salieron del armario con dos profesores en los que confiaban, uno de los cuales les animó a realizar un proyecto sobre los efectos de los medios de comunicación en los jóvenes.

“No podía decírselo a mis compañeros”, dice Castillo. “Sentía que si lo hacía, mi vida se convertiría en un infierno, porque veía cómo trataban a los chicos queer cuando salían del armario”.

Empezaron a tener pensamientos suicidas cuando sintieron que no podían recurrir a nadie.

“Creo que cuando empecé a hacerme mayor, me di cuenta de que no soy el típico chico mexicano -de aquella época-”, dijo Castillo.

Si no fuera por su hermana Paola Castillo y su apoyo, Arturo no estaría vivo hoy, dicen. Ella fue la primera persona a la que salieron del armario, justo antes de cumplir 15 años.

Ahora, siguen escuchando historias de otros como ellos que viven con miedo por cómo se ataca constantemente a las personas queer en todo Estados Unidos.

“Estamos cambiando las cosas para mejor, y estos niños por fin van a tener una oportunidad de luchar”, dijo Castillo. “Porque sé que cuando crecimos, no tuvimos esa oportunidad, y sé que mucha gente que quiero ya no está aquí por eso”.

Castillo es ahora asociada de programa con Conservation Voters New Mexico.

“Si yo no me siento segura, como mexicana no binaria de 27 años en Estados Unidos, sólo puedo imaginar cómo se sienten ahora mismo otros chicos queer, no binarios y trans”, dijo Castillo.

Es fácil no siempre prestar atención a los problemas cuando no eres parte de ellos, dijo Arturo, pero creen que los legisladores se conmovieron con sólo conocerlos.

“Las vidas de los niños queer, trans y no binarios están en peligro todos los días”, dijo Arturo.

El senador Leo Jaramillo (D-Española) compartió la historia de Arturo en el pleno del Senado de Nuevo México mientras los senadores votaban la legislación.

Para Castillo significa mucho que la Asamblea Legislativa aprobara el proyecto de ley y que la Gobernadora Michelle Lujan Grisham lo convirtiera en ley.

“Significa que los niños queer y no binarios y trans como yo, que crecen en este estado, no estarán siempre en esa situación de miedo”, dijo Castillo.

Leyes como la Ley de Derechos Humanos deben incluir todos los aspectos de su identidad, dijo Jaramillo.

Si Arturo experimentara discriminación en una institución pública por ser mexicano, estaría protegido, pero sólo bajo la ley federal, dijo Jaramillo. Si sufriera discriminación por ser queer o no binario, no tendría ninguna protección en virtud de la legislación estatal o



De pie en el despacho de la senadora Carrie Hamblen en la Asamblea Legislativa de Nuevo México, Arturo Castillo recordó que la habitación era más o menos del mismo tamaño que aquella en la que vivía su familia cuando emigraron de Chihuahua. / Standing in Sen. Carrie Hamblen's office at the New Mexico Legislature, Arturo Castillo recalled the room was about the same size as the one his family lived in when they first immigrated from Chihuahua. (Foto/Photo: Austin Fisher / Source NM)

federal vigente, afirmó.

Muchas instituciones, como los distritos escolares, dijo Castillo, pueden discriminar, y de hecho lo hacen, o expulsar a alguien de un aula, o incluso delatar a un estudiante ante su familia.

“Es muy fácil decir: ‘Bueno, a nivel federal hay algunas protecciones’, pero en realidad no las hay, si realmente se piensa en ello”, dijo Castillo.

Los legisladores no pueden crear protecciones para que todos los jóvenes acaben con la depresión, la ansiedad, el estigma o las intenciones suicidas, dijo Jaramillo.

“Sin embargo, podemos asegurar, en este ambiente político, que los encargados de educar y proteger a los jóvenes lo hagan para los jóvenes LGBTQ+ de todo Nuevo México”, dijo Jaramillo. “Pongamos un ejemplo adecuado en toda la nación y ejemplifiquemos cuántas vidas pueden salvarse gracias a esta pieza crítica de legislación”.

Para cualquier joven queer o trans de Nuevo México que tal vez no entienda por qué se siente tan diferente, o que

tal vez no entienda del todo de qué se trata el debate, Castillo les diría que son importantes, que importan, y que “su historia apenas comienza”.

Castillo dijo que habrá personas en la vida de esos niños que les querrán, pero que aún no han conocido. También habrá personas que decidan no estar ahí para ellos, que nunca debieron estar en su vida, y eso está bien, dijo Castillo.

“No estás solo, y te queremos”, dijo Castillo. “Siempre que estés listo para estar en este espacio con nosotros, con gusto abriremos nuestros brazos y te apoyaremos, y te elevaremos”.

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

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Migrants Waiting to Cross the Border Say Government's App for Asylum-Seekers is a Mess

By Uriel J. García

After spending days in overcrowded shelters, Joseline Decaires Jiménez sat in a charter bus station Monday night, waiting for a bus to take her to Denver — even farther from her family, whom she had to leave behind because of a problem using a phone app.

She'd crossed the border legally but quickly reached the limit of nights she could stay in El Paso shelters. Her husband, Juan Angel Pabón Guerrero, and their two daughters would have to stay behind in Ciudad Juárez, where they live in a tent among at least 100 other migrants who have camped in front of a shuttered Mexican detention center that was damaged by a March fire that killed 40 migrants.

"It hurts to leave, knowing that my daughters are just across the wall and yet I can't see them," Jiménez said, wiping tears from her eyes. "I'm afraid I won't see them again, I'm afraid someone may threaten to kill them."

The family is among thousands of migrants who have waited in Mexican border cities for a chance to legally enter the U.S. as the federal government

prepares to end the use of Title 42, the pandemic public health order that immigration officials have used 2.7 million times since March 2020 to quickly expel migrants at the southern border without allowing them to request asylum.

“

It hurts to leave, knowing that my daughters are just across the wall and yet I can't see them.”

Joseline Decaires Jiménez

Trying to avoid a rush of migrants across the border when Title 42 lifts late Thursday night, the government has urged them to apply for asylum from their home countries or through the CBP One cellphone app, which is supposed to allow migrants to make an appointment to legally enter the country through a port of entry and request asylum.

But migrants in El Paso and Juárez who spoke to the Tribune said the app routinely crashes as they and thousands of other migrants try to get ap-

pointments during a 10-minute window each morning. Others don't have cellphones to even make the attempt.

Jiménez said she spent weeks trying to get an appointment for her family from the migrant camp in Juárez, but every morning the app would crash. When she finally got it to work, the app didn't register her husband's and two daughters' information — she's not sure whether it was her mistake or the app's — and it gave her an appointment in Arizona.

The app wouldn't let her add the rest of her family to the appointment. So she took a bus to Arizona and crossed into the U.S. there without her family two months ago.

"We're separated because of that stupid app," her husband, a former Venezuelan law enforcement officer, said on a recent weekday as he sat inside the family's tent at the migrant camp.

Like many migrants in the camp, their patience is running low. They have thought about crossing the border illegally if they don't get an appointment soon.

"But for now, we'll play by their rules, we'll respect their laws," Guerrero said.



Joseline Decaires Jiménez, a migrant from Venezuela, tears up as she sits on a bus headed from El Paso to a shelter in Denver — leaving her family behind in Mexico. Jiménez was separated from her husband and two daughters while trying to apply for asylum through the CBP One mobile app. (Photo: Ivan Pierre Aguirre for The Texas Tribune)



Juan Ángel Pabón Guerrero and his daughters, Ana Pabón, left, and Fatima Pabón, sit inside their tent at a makeshift migrant campsite in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, on Monday. They have lived at the camp for months waiting for a chance to legally enter the U.S. (Photo: Ivan Pierre Aguirre for The Texas Tribune)

Last week, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said that starting Wednesday it will increase the number of available appointments from 740 to 1,000 daily, extend the window for making appointments from 10 minutes to 23 hours and "prioritize noncitizens who have waited the longest."

Meanwhile, an untold number of migrants have already crossed the Rio Grande at El Paso in recent days and decided to take their chances with Border Patrol. On Monday, about 1,000 migrants were waiting on the American bank of the Rio Grande for Border Patrol agents.

U.S. officials are expecting up to 13,000 migrants to cross the southern border every day once Title 42 lifts — more than double the current average. Already, shelters on both sides of the border are overcrowded, and countless migrants are sleeping on the streets in both El Paso and Juárez.

El Paso Mayor Oscar Leeser said during a news conference last week that up to 15,000 migrants are stranded in Juárez.

In El Paso, an estimated 2,000 migrants have gathered around Sacred Heart Catholic Church in the city's downtown. During the day, families and their children take cover from the sun using cardboard and donated blankets. Some sell cigarettes to collect money for bus tickets out of the city; others ask bystanders for change. The church uses some of its facilities as a shelter in the late afternoons.

El Paso and at least two other Texas border cities — Laredo and Brownsville — have declared a state of emergency as both the federal and state governments have deployed additional military personnel to the border.

The Biden administration ordered 1,500 federal troops to the border to help immigration agents on the ground as Title 42 ends. Earlier this week, Gov. Greg Abbott sent hundreds of additional National Guard members — dubbed the Texas Tactical Border Force — to the border along with Blackhawk helicopters and C-130 cargo planes "to help intercept and repel large groups of migrants trying to enter Texas illegally."

CBP announced Monday night that agents would conduct a "targeted enforcement operation" in El Paso starting Tuesday. The announcement didn't provide details but said agents would avoid targeting locations "that would restrain people's access to essential services or engagement in essential activities to the fullest extent possible."

On Tuesday morning, migrants who crossed undetected began to turn themselves in to immigration agents in downtown El Paso.

"As we have said repeatedly, individuals who do not have a lawful basis to remain will be removed," CBP acting Commissioner Troy Miller said in a statement. "Individuals should not listen to the lies of smugglers and instead use lawful pathways to protection."

See App on page 18

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App

Waiting in no man's land for Border Patrol

On the eastern edge of Juárez on Monday, hundreds of migrants walked across the Rio Grande to U.S. soil and skirted a line of concertina wire that the state deployed as a blockade. They waited next to the river as a helicopter circled above them. Some carried bags of ice, gallons of water and boxes filled with food.

They have been waiting in this no man's land between the border fence and the river to surrender to Border Patrol agents in hopes that they'll be allowed to claim asylum rather than be returned to Mexico under Title 42.

But the agents haven't come.

One woman said she had been waiting a week on the U.S. side and is now making trips back to Juárez for food and water.

"They haven't picked us up, not even the kids," said the woman, who was wearing a hooded sweatshirt and aviator glasses. She declined to be identified.

Hundreds of migrants sat beneath a tree, seeking shade. Meanwhile, two Venezuelan men with a Styrofoam cooler were selling empanadas, bottled water and crackers to their fellow migrants.

One of the men, who also didn't give his name, said he crossed the river about two weeks ago, surrendered to agents and was quickly transported more than 700 miles to San Diego,

then expelled to Tijuana, Mexico.

He said he bought a bus ticket back to Juárez and does not want to try requesting asylum again because he's worried he'll get deported.

"This time I just hope that I get an appointment on the app," he said after throwing bags of food and water bottles over the razor wire to waiting migrants.

Others said they got tired of waiting for Border Patrol to apprehend them and returned to the Juárez migrant camp, where children run among tents and makeshift shelters made of blankets and towels.

One of the migrants in the camp was Sergio Ramos, a 36-year-old from El Salvador. He said he thought only Venezuelans could use the CBP One app. When told by a reporter that it was open to migrants from any country, he said he can't use it anyway — he doesn't have a cellphone.

"I guess I'll see if anyone here does me a favor of letting me borrow their phone," he said.

Rosie Hernández, 32, said she and her husband left Venezuela in January, leaving their two sons with her mother, and arrived in Juárez in April. Back home, she worked as a radiology technician and earned the equivalent of \$7 a month, she said. She wants to work in the U.S. so she can provide for her sons and remodel her mother's house.

Since arriving at the border, Hernández has been trying to fol-

low the rules and make an asylum appointment through the app. Every morning, she types in her biographical information, snaps a photo of herself as the app requires and presses the button. Then the app says there are no more appointments left and bounces her to the homepage.

"There's days I get desperate, I get depressed and I just cry," she said. "All I need is two years of work in the U.S., after that they can kick me out if they want."

A 700-mile round trip for an asylum appointment

Jiménez had the same frustration with the app after her family arrived in Juárez in January. After weeks of opening it every day and failing to get an appointment, she said one morning she opened the app and went through the motions without double-checking everything. This time the app gave her an appointment for March 6.

But she quickly realized that the appointment was only for her, not for her husband and children. And that it was in Nogales, Arizona, a 345-mile trip west.

She took a bus to Nogales, leaving her family in Juárez, and made it to her appointment. She was released in Tucson, Arizona, by immigration officials, and there she worked for a day spray-painting the metal bars on the windows of a house after she and other migrants were picked up at a local

church by the homeowner for the day job.

She used the money to get a bus ticket to El Paso and then spent six weeks going from one shelter to another — the shelters will allow migrants to stay only a certain number of nights — hoping her family could also get an appointment to legally cross.

She said she and her daughters speak on the phone every day.

"I feel such impotence and rage that they're so close but that I can't see them," Jiménez said as she waited for a bus to take her to Denver. She said she was told that she could stay up to three months in a shelter. She arrived Tuesday morning, and volunteers are helping her look for a shelter, she said.

Ana Pabón, the couple's 14-year-old daughter, said she doesn't want to go to the U.S. anymore. She said the obstacles the American government has put up have angered her and given her the impression the U.S. does not want to help vulnerable families like hers. She said she wants to reunite with her mother and move to Canada.

"When I talk to my mom, she gets sad and tells me she wants to come back to Mexico," Pabón said. "Every time I talk to her, I have to swallow my saliva to get rid of the lump in my throat."

The family thinks they have a strong argument for receiving U.S. asylum. In 2001, Guerrero said, his mother and younger brother were kid-

napped from their ranch by Venezuela's national guard. The incident made news there; their bodies were never found.

For years, Guerrero — who worked as a law enforcement officer in Venezuela's federal court system — pressured prosecutors to investigate. When nothing happened, he began to worry that he or his family could also be disappeared by authorities.


So, in May 2022, the family decided to make the treacherous trek to the U.S.

Guerrero brought newspaper clippings and police reports about the kidnappings with him to show to U.S. authorities. If he can get an appointment and U.S. officials let him enter the country — he says he respects America's rules and doesn't want to cross illegally — he plans to file a human rights complaint against the Venezuelan government.

"I want to take this case to the Americans," he said.

Uriel J. García is an Immigration Reporter with The Texas Tribune. The Texas Tribune is a nonprofit, nonpartisan media organization that informs Texans — and engages with them — about public policy, politics, government and statewide issues. This article is republished with permission from The Texas Tribune.

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Este verano en el DAM, "Gratis para Niños" incluye acceso a las nuevas y renovadas salas con en el Edificio Martin, con las colecciones de arte indígena de Norteamérica, arte latinoamericano, arte antiguo de las Américas, arte asiático, Fotografía, arte textil y moda, y arte del oeste de Estados Unidos. "Gratis para Niños" también permitirá acceder a las salas que abrirán próximamente en el Edificio Hamilton, donde se presentará arte de África, arte de Oceanía y arte modern y contemporáneo. Además, los miembros de Bellco obtienen entrada general gratuita al DAM durante todo el segundo fin de semana de cada mes.

Las exposiciones de este verano incluidas en "Gratis para Niños" son *Speaking with Light: Contemporary Indigenous Photography (Hablando con luz: Fotografía indígena contemporánea)* y *Near East to Far West: Fictions of French and American Colonialism (Del Cercano Oriente al Lejano Oeste: Ficciones del colonialismo francés y estadounidense)* (a la vista hasta el 22 de mayo y el 29 de mayo, respectivamente), *Her Brush: Japanese Women Artists from the Fong-Johnston Collection (Su pincel: Mujeres artistas japonesas de la Colección Fong-Johnston)* y *Desert Rider: Dreaming in Motion (Desert Rider: Soñando en movimiento)* (abre el 9 de julio). El programa "Gratis para Niños" también incluye actividades interactivas en las salas, además de proyectos de arte en el Centro de aprendizaje y participación Bartlit y en el Estudio de Paisajes.

"Gratis para Niños" es un programa presentado por Bellco Credit Union. Para obtener más información sobre el museo, visita denverartmuseum.org o llama al 720-865-5000.

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Caraveo/Esp

El pasado verano, el Tribunal Supremo de Estados Unidos anuló un precedente de 50 años que protegía el derecho federal al aborto con su decisión en el caso Dobbs contra la Organización de Salud de la Mujer Jackson, lo que significa que ahora los estados pueden decidir si permiten o no el procedimiento. Varias mujeres presentes en la mesa redonda hicieron hincapié en que el aborto legal, como en Colorado, no significa que sea accesible, especialmente en las zonas más rurales del estado, donde el lugar más cercano para acceder a servicios de salud reproductiva puede estar como mínimo a dos horas de distancia.

“Si tienes acceso legal al aborto y a los servicios de salud reproductiva, pero no puedes acceder a ellos, entonces no los tienes realmente”, dijo Kathia García, organizadora de asuntos públicos del PPRM. “Poder trabajar para ampliar eso sería algo que no sólo los habitantes de Colorado, sino los miembros de la comunidad de fuera del estado que vienen aquí para estar protegidos y obtener los servicios a los que no tienen acceso, creo que sería increíble”.

Jamie Rasmussen, directora de programas de BIPOC Alliance, una organización del norte de Colorado que defiende a las personas de color, dijo que le preocupa que los centros que dicen ofrecer servicios de aborto “se aprovechen” de la gente. Aurora Rousseau, estudiante de la Universidad del Norte de Colorado, dijo que un centro antiaborto de Greeley está llevando a cabo una gran campaña publicitaria dirigida a estudiantes que podrían no conocer otros recursos disponibles en la zona. Aunque el centro no anuncia que proporciona servicios de aborto, como se espera que prohíba una nueva ley de Colorado a finales de este año, anuncia revisiones previas al aborto, dijo.

“Hemos recibido informes de estudiantes que han acudido al centro y se han sentido avergonzadas y se les ha dicho que no deberían abortar”, explica Rousseau. “Es realmente frustrante porque parece que es muy accesible, ofrecen pruebas gratuitas de ITS, pero cuando llegas allí, es una experiencia muy diferente y causa mucho daño”.

Claudia Pérez, responsable de asuntos públicos del PPRM, dijo que los defensores quieren ver un trabajo más proactivo para proteger la atención del aborto, ya que últimamente se ha trabajado mucho en la defensa, como la mitigación de los daños. Dijo que esto implicaría un mayor esfuerzo para ampliar el acceso y la asequibilidad en todas las comunidades.

“Definitivamente tenemos miembros de la comunidad aquí en Colorado que han sido dejados de lado, y me frustra cuando estoy en la comunidad y escucho de la gente, ‘Bueno, estamos bien. Estamos en Colorado, ¿verdad?’”, dijo Pérez. “Y yo digo, no, esa no es la experiencia vivida por tanta gente en nuestro estado”.

Rahshida Pérez, directora ejecutiva interina de la Alianza BIPOC, dijo que como mujer negra tiene la experiencia de ir al médico y que le digan que no hay ningún problema o que no necesita ayuda. Dijo que es necesario que más médicos de color entren en el mundo de la atención de la salud reproductiva en Colorado.

“Nadie me pregunta por mi cuerpo. A nadie le importa lo que tengo que decir sobre mi cuerpo. Sólo quieren decirme qué hacer con él”, dijo Pérez. “Creo que mientras intentamos reclutar médicos y reforzar ese sistema... tenemos que mostrar a la gente que es un lugar cómodo en el que realmente serán atendidos por personas dispuestas a escuchar y personas que conocen su cuerpo, porque lo tienen”.

Ante la desinformación procedente de los centros antiaborto y otras fuentes contrarias al aborto, Pérez añadió que dar a conocer las organizaciones que realmente ayudan a las mujeres a acceder a la atención que necesitan es otra forma de mejorar el acceso.

Otro punto que resonó en Caraveo es la importancia de que la comunidad se una en nombre de la justicia reproductiva.

“A veces, cuando estamos en medio de una lucha en una sala o presentando un proyecto de ley, tienes que pararte a pensar en las mujeres sobre cuyos hombros estás, que han sido décadas de lucha que, lamentablemente, hemos visto derribadas por un esfuerzo concertado para arrebatar derechos a las mujeres”, dijo Caraveo. “Ellas siguen ahí fuera. Siguen luchando. Siguen llevando pancartas a las concentraciones. Siguen hablando con otras mujeres sobre cuáles son sus derechos y qué tenemos que hacer para restablecerlos, y cada paso que doy, hay todo un grupo de mujeres detrás de mí que me respaldan”.

García atribuyó el mérito a la comunidad de personas dedicadas a mejorar el acceso a la atención sanitaria reproductiva.

“Cuando nos ven a todos trabajando juntos, es cuando ocurre”, dijo García. “Todo vuelve a nuestra comunidad... tenemos que seguir apoyándonos mutuamente y seguir apoyando a las organizaciones de los demás, porque así es como la gente confía en ellas. Nos ven trabajar juntos, nos ven defender las mismas cosas, y eso funciona”.

Lindsey Toomer es periodista de Colorado Newsline. Este artículo fue publicado originalmente por Colorado Newsline.

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

Para Noticias de Colorado:
ElSemanarioOnline.com

Hastings y Torres/Esp

Y ahí están las consecuencias: vidas truncadas que alguna vez creyeron en el discurso de la salvación y de la bienvenida, pero que ahora se topan con un muro legislativo e ideológico que quizá siempre estuvo presente, pero que la realidad lo ha desnudado por completo y ha hecho ver a Estados Unidos como una nación más limitada de lo que se creía. En efecto, los tiempos de los migrantes no corren paralelos a los de quienes dicen legislar en torno al tema migratorio. De hecho, a estos les está quedando muy grande una noble y admirable migración que quizá no merecen.

El envío de tropas a la frontera tampoco ofrece una imagen compasiva para miles de personas que han cruzado selvas y desiertos huyendo de miseria, violencia, abusos y corrupción. Si es para disuadirlos, no creemos que sea tan efectivo.

Porque pase lo que pase después del Título 42, los flujos migratorios siempre serán una constante en la frontera sur. El reto que no han sabido enfrentar los políticos es cómo avanzar leyes que hagan de ese flujo algo cotidiano y normal, y cuando haya incrementos la situación no se torne en una crisis. Además, que existan visas para quienes quieren venir a ofrecer una muy necesitada mano de obra; que se legalice a los millones de indocumentados que llevan décadas aquí; que ciudadanos y residentes puedan solicitar a familiares sin que pasen décadas para reunificarse; que las leyes de asilo sean fortalecidas para garantizar que todo el

que lo necesite pueda solicitarlo y que sus casos no se despachen sin una verdadera revisión de las razones que los llevaron a solicitar ese asilo.

Esos son todos los componentes de una reforma migratoria amplia que durante décadas ha sido víctima de la politiquería con repercusiones nefastas sobre millones de vidas humanas y sobre nuestra economía.

Decir que la administración Biden se diferencia de la de Trump porque aborda el tema de forma más humana de nada sirve si las medidas que aplica son tan similares, como cuando el republicano envió tropas a la frontera ante el arribo de caravanas de migrantes.

Como dijo en 2 de mayo el senador demócrata de Nueva Jersey, Bob Menéndez, “la administración ha tenido más de dos años para planificar el eventual fin de esta política de la era Trump de una manera que no comprometa la integridad de nuestros valores como país. Les he ofrecido un plan estratégico e integral, que en gran medida han ignorado. Tratar de anotar puntos políticos o intimidar a los migrantes al enviar tropas a la frontera, solo da cabida a fortalecer los ataques xenófobos del Partido Republicano contra nuestro sistema de asilo”.

Maribel Hastings es Asesora Ejecutiva de América's Voice. David Torres es Asesor en Español de América's Voice.

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Yo Importo.

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 cómo puede verse afectada tu cobertura médica mediante el taller ¿Qué está en juego?

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El Semanario

Edlin & Norden/Esp

que dijeron la verdad sobre la seguridad de las elecciones. En algunos estados, promulgaron nuevas leyes que exigen sanciones penales contra funcionarios por cometer pequeñas infracciones o tomar medidas proactivas para ayudar al electorado a votar.

Como resultado, ha habido un éxito de profesionales experimentados de la administración electoral, y es probable que el mismo continúe durante el próximo año. La encuesta reveló que el 12 por ciento de los funcionarios electorales locales encuestados comenzó a desempeñar sus funciones después del ciclo electoral de 2020. Y otro 11 por ciento de las autoridades actuales dicen que es bastante o muy probable que abandonen sus puestos antes de noviembre de 2024. Si lo hacen, entre las elecciones de noviembre de 2020 y las de 2024, habremos perdido aproximadamente a 1.5 funcionarios por día.

La pérdida de conocimiento institucional que acompaña una rotación de personal o tasa de cambio de empleados tan alta puede significar que las autoridades electorales no conozcan todos los recursos que existen para ayudarles en la administración y seguridad de las elecciones. Una gran cantidad de renuncias también puede dar como resultado más errores administrativos, que a la vez pueden fomentar la propagación de teorías conspirativas y amenazas, y así perpetuar el círculo vicioso que, al principio de todo, motivó las renuncias.

Los hallazgos de nuestra encuesta dan ciertas explicaciones sobre los motivos por los que tantas autoridades electorales siguen dejando sus puestos, y apuntan hacia posibles soluciones para frenar la hemorragia y ofrecer apoyo donde más se necesite, en especial a los funcionarios más nuevos.

Los peligros del trabajo

Las amenazas, el abuso y el acoso siguen siendo un problema importante en este campo. Cathy Darling Allen, secretaria a cargo del registro de votantes en el condado de Shasta, California, afirmó sentir miedo por la seguridad de su personal después de descubrir una cámara de vigilancia colocada en la puerta trasera de su oficina, por donde los funcionarios electorales entraban durante las elecciones primarias de 2022. Y por lo menos un funcionario más descubrió una cámara de video inalámbrica instalada frente a la puerta de entrada de su casa. En el condado de Gillespie, Texas, el personal electoral sufrió varios tipos de acoso, por ejemplo, cuando algunos observadores electorales voluntarios llamaron a la policía y filmaron al personal electoral en un estacionamiento en la oscuridad, intentaron abrir a la fuerza una bóveda segura donde se guardaban boletas, y persiguieron y amenazaron a algunos empleados. En agosto de 2022, todo el personal renunció, y al menos una persona mencionó en su carta de renuncia que había recibido amenazas.

Este problema no se limita a tan solo unos pocos sitios: nuestra encues-

ta demuestra que casi una de cada tres autoridades electorales ha recibido acosos, ataques o amenazas debido a su puesto de trabajo. Y lo que es muy alarmante, más de una de cinco está preocupada de recibir algún ataque físico en próximas elecciones. Las autoridades electorales también se preocupan por sus colegas: el 45 por ciento dijo estar preocupado por la seguridad de otros funcionarios y trabajadores electorales en próximas elecciones. Por eso, es lógico que más de la mitad de las personas encuestadas hayan dicho, con preocupación, que seguramente estos ataques dificulten la retención o contratación de trabajadores electorales en el futuro.

La falta de fondos perjudica la seguridad de las elecciones

Al mismo tiempo, el 74 por ciento de las autoridades electorales locales señala que necesitan un aumento en su presupuesto anual para satisfacer necesidades en materia de seguridad y administración electoral durante los próximos cinco años. Los sistemas electorales son una infraestructura fundamental para nuestra democracia y seguridad nacional, y la falta de voluntad del Congreso de brindar los fondos necesarios es un enorme fracaso. Si bien el anuncio del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS) en el que exige que se asigne más dinero de los subsidios federales a la seguridad de las elecciones fue un paso hacia adelante, nuestra encuesta demuestra que aún queda más por hacer.

Las autoridades electorales dicen que una mayor asignación de fondos les permitiría invertir en más trabajadores en los sitios de votación y en mejores equipos de votación, así como también fortalecer la ciberseguridad y la seguridad física en las oficinas electorales. Muchos funcionarios electorales, tras recibir amenazas, procuraron aumentar la seguridad de sus oficinas. Una funcionaria electoral del condado de Jackson, Oregón, solicitó al estado un presupuesto de unos \$80,000 para instalar vidrio resistente a las balas y ventanillas para atender al público en algunas oficinas, después de que el estacionamiento hubiera aparecido pintado con mensajes amenazantes. El Brennan Center ha calculado que implementar medidas básicas de seguridad física para proteger a trabajadores electorales podría costar unos \$300 millones durante los próximos cinco años.

Nuestra encuesta demuestra que las autoridades electorales no pueden adoptar medidas básicas de seguridad física y ciberseguridad porque no tienen los fondos para hacerlo. De las 49 autoridades electorales entrevistadas que aprovecharon los análisis de ciberseguridad gratuitos que brinda la Agencia de Seguridad de Infraestructura y Ciberseguridad (CISA) del DHS y las 54 autoridades que recibieron gratis sus evaluaciones de seguridad física, la gran mayoría implementó al menos algunas de las mejoras recomendadas. Pero, en cada categoría, solo 10 personas ejecutaron todas las recomendaciones.

De las personas que no adoptaron más recomendaciones, la falta de recursos fue el motivo principal.

La interferencia política

Las autoridades electorales siguen expresando su preocupación por la interferencia política en cantidades alarmantes. Luego de las elecciones de 2020, muchas autoridades electorales fueron presionadas por líderes políticos para certificar ciertos resultados. Uno de los casos más notorios fue protagonizado por el entonces presidente Trump, cuando llamó al secretario de estado de Georgia, Brad Raffensperger, para pedirle que "le encuentre 11,780 votos". En 2021, la legislatura de Arizona transfirió el poder de la secretaria de estado demócrata a la fiscalía general del estado, aparentemente para evitar la resolución de juicios que procuren mejorar el acceso al voto. En Wisconsin y Arizona, una serie de revisiones partidistas engañosas sobre las elecciones de 2020 se utilizó para darle mala reputación al trabajo de los funcionarios electorales y generar dudas sobre los resultados electorales legítimos.

Muchos funcionarios electorales locales ven este tipo de interferencia política como una amenaza constante: el 56 por ciento informa que está bastante o muy preocupado por el esfuerzo de la clase dirigente política de interferir en el trabajo de sus colegas. Y más de uno de nueve funcionarios electorales dice que está preocupado por las presiones que pueda sufrir para certificar un resultado electoral a favor de un determinado partido político o candidato en próximas elecciones.

El respaldo federal

A la mayoría de los funcionarios electorales le parece que el gobierno federal podría ayudar más: solo el 27 por ciento dice que el gobierno federal está haciendo un "buen trabajo" a la hora de respaldar sus funciones en la administración electoral. Y tienen motivos para quejarse. Además de los \$300 millones de dólares antes mencionados que se estiman necesarios para proteger a trabajadores electorales de nuevas amenazas y actos de violencia, el Brennan Center también ha calculado que el costo de proteger a la administración electoral de amenazas internas como consecuencia de la mayor propagación de teorías conspirativas sobre las elecciones también podría exceder los \$300 millones. Además, calculamos en 2022 que el costo de reemplazar las máquinas de votación de los sitios de votación que están poniéndose viejas es de casi \$600 millones durante los próximos 5 años. A pesar de estos costos astronómicos, el año pasado el Congreso proporcionó tan solo \$75 millones de dólares en nuevos fondos para las elecciones.

Si bien este fracaso es frustrante, también cabe señalar que muchas autoridades electorales no conocen los múltiples servicios federales que existen para ayudarles, tales como programas de subsidios federales y guías de comunicación. Esta falta de conocien-

to también es una oportunidad para el gobierno federal. Las agencias federales que brindan recursos a los funcionarios electorales deberían elaborar lo más pronto posible un plan de comunicación exhaustivo y coordinado para establecer un contacto continuo con las autoridades electorales durante todo el ciclo electoral de 2024, promover los recursos y las oportunidades federales de financiación, y ofrecerles una vía adecuada para aclarar dudas y dificultades.

A grandes rasgos, las elecciones de 2022 fueron un éxito para la administración electoral. Hubo muy pocos actos de violencia, las cortes no se dejaron llevar por los intentos de negarse a certificar las elecciones, y las personas que rechazaban los resultados de las últimas elecciones presidenciales perdieron contiendas fundamentales para la gobernatura y la secretaria de estado.

De cara a las elecciones presidenciales de 2024, ahora es el momento de preguntarnos qué podemos hacer para seguir fortaleciendo la administración electoral. Es evidente que muchas autoridades electorales siguen sintiendo que viven en un entorno profesional hostil: más de una de cada diez personas afirma que es bastante o muy probable que abandonen sus puestos en el corto plazo, antes de noviembre de 2024. Debemos fortalecer la seguridad física y la ciberseguridad en las oficinas electorales, incrementar sus fondos y ampliar los recursos disponibles

para los funcionarios electorales.

Nota sobre la metodología: Nuestro cálculo de la tasa de rotación del personal en la administración electoral se realizó de la siguiente manera. Hay aproximadamente 10,000 funcionarios electorales locales en los Estados Unidos. En nuestra encuesta, el 12 por ciento afirmó estar reemplazando a un predecesor después de noviembre de 2020, lo cual suma una cantidad de 1,200 funcionarios. Pasaron unos 900 días entre las elecciones de noviembre de 2020 y la fecha en que se realizó la encuesta: 1,200 funcionarios dividido por 900 días equivale aproximadamente a 1.34 funcionarios por día. El 11 por ciento de los funcionarios dijeron que probablemente no iban a seguir en sus puestos para noviembre de 2024, lo cual suma unos 1,100 funcionarios. Por lo tanto, 1,100 funcionarios dividido por 560 días hasta noviembre de 2024 equivale aproximadamente a 1.96 funcionarios por día.

Traducción de Ana Lis Salotti.

Ruby Edlin es Coordinadora de Campañas de Defensa en el Programa de Democracia con el Centro Brennan para la Justicia. Lawrence Norden es el director sénior del Programa de Elecciones y Gobierno del Centro Brennan para la Justicia. Este comentario es reproducido con permiso de Brennan Center for Justice.

Traducción de Ana Lis Salotti.

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Kids

academic achievement, and a greater sense of empathy and cultural understanding."

"This partnership allows Belco and the Denver Art Museum to engage families, teens, schools, community groups and youth organizations across Colorado through the museum's learning and engagement programs that leverage exhibitions and collections to engage youth visitors," said Belco Board Chair Steven Angelier.

This summer at the DAM, Free for Kids includes access to the museum's new and renovated collection galleries in the Martin Building, featuring Indigenous arts of North America, Latin American art, arts of the ancient Americas, arts of Asia, photography, textile arts and fashion and western American art. The soon-to-open galleries in the Hamilton Building, featuring arts of Africa, arts of Oceania and modern and contemporary art will be accessible with Free for Kids. Additionally, Belco

members receive general admission to the DAM on the second full weekend of each month.

Exhibitions on view this summer included with Free for Kids are *Speaking with Light: Contemporary Indigenous Photography and Near East to Far West: Fictions of French and American Colonialism (closing May 22 and May 29, respectively)*, *Her Brush: Japanese Women Artists from the Fong-Johnston Collection and Desert Rider: Dreaming in Motion* (opening July 9). Free for Kids also includes hands-on gallery activities as well as artmaking in the Bartlit Learning and Engagement Center and the Landscape Studio. Free for Kids is presented by Belco Credit Union.

For museum information, visit denverartmuseum.org or call 720-865-5000.

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CdeBaca/Esp

ofrecí ejemplos hipotéticos de cómo podrían ser a nivel local, incluyendo la posibilidad de que nuestros distritos fiscales especiales para empresas (distritos de mejora empresarial, o BID) pudieran desempeñar un papel. Todos los candidatos presentes en el foro se declararon partidarios de algún tipo de reparación racial.

La cuenta de [odio de extrema derecha](#) [Libs of TikTok](#), difundió un fragmento de mi respuesta sin contexto alguno, animando a sus seguidores nacionalistas blancos a acosarme y amenazarme sistemáticamente, y se amplificó aún más por la cobertura inicial de los medios de comunicación, principalmente dentro del ecosistema de noticias de extrema derecha, pero también por algunos medios de noticias locales. Fieles al libro de jugadas de los liberales de TikTok, miles de comentarios abusivos y amenazas inundaron las redes sociales y los correos electrónicos y mensajes de voz tanto a mi campaña como a nuestra oficina del Distrito 9 durante el fin de semana.

El vídeo que circuló es sólo un pequeño fragmento de información

de un foro de candidatos que se sacó completamente de contexto. Mis palabras fueron una respuesta sobre el terreno acerca del tipo de estructuras que ya existen y que podrían tenerse en cuenta en una conversación a nivel local. No es algo que yo proponga, y no es algo que haya sido examinado por la comunidad.

Pero seamos claros: creo que las reparaciones son necesarias, tanto a nivel local como nacional. Y mucha gente ya lleva mucho tiempo hablando de ello. Un ejemplo local es el trabajo del [Denver Black Reparations Council](#). A nivel nacional, la Coalición Nacional de Negros por las Reparaciones en América (N'COBRA) existe desde 1987. El ensayo de Ta-Nehisi Coates [The Case for Reparations](#) se publicó hace casi diez años. Más recientemente, ha habido muchas grandes ideas sobre cómo podrían ser las reparaciones, incluyendo [la recomendación del panel que se presentó en California este fin de semana pasado](#).

Si el concepto de reparaciones no le resulta familiar, le animo a que consulte la información que le he pro-

porcionado en este boletín, y a que lea y reflexione.

Tenemos que mantener una conversación sincera sobre la justicia racial en una ciudad que perderá a más residentes de color si no respondemos con urgencia. Pero en última instancia será la comunidad la que tenga que aportar esas ideas. Cuéntenme sus ideas para la reparación. ¿Cómo podemos reparar el daño causado a la comunidad negra a nivel local y nacional? ¿Cómo puede ser aquí, en Denver? ¿Cómo podemos pensar de forma diferente sobre lo que nuestro gobierno puede hacer para reparar este daño? ¿A quién más se le deben reparaciones y cómo sería reparar ese daño? Háganmelo saber. Para eso estoy aquí.

Candi CdeBaca es concejala del distrito 9 de Denver. Es la candidata titular en las elecciones municipales de Denver del 6 de junio.

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

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Prieshoff

We must retire the use of this inflammatory rhetoric, which distracts from real [solutions](#) that would actually serve survivors arriving at our borders.

Migrants expelled back to their home countries are [at grave risk of severe harm or death](#) at the hands of their persecutors. Those forced to [remain in Mexico](#) as they await entry to the United States are increasingly vulnerable to organized crime or abusive and dangerous conditions in detention.

And those who have no choice but to desperately navigate dangerous routes to the United States to avoid apprehension are increasingly [dying by dehydration, falling from cliffs, and drowning in rivers](#).

The words we use in everyday discourse mean something — they can spell out life or death for those among

who are most vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Now more than ever, I'd urge the public and the media to retire the use of sensationalizing, stigmatizing, and misleading imagery and rhetoric surrounding immigration.

Now is the time to apply accuracy and humanity in our depictions of migrants. Let's not repeat the errors of our past.

Daniella Prieshoff is a Senior Supervising Attorney at the Tahirih Justice Center, a nonprofit that supports immigrant survivors of gender-based violence. She thanks Phoebe Quinteros for her contributions to the research for this piece. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

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Caraveo

With misinformation coming from anti-abortion centers and other anti-abortion sources, Pérez added that raising awareness of the organizations that actually do help women access the care they need is another way to improve access.

Another point that resonated with Caraveo is the importance of the community coming together in the name of reproductive justice.

"Sometimes when we're in the middle of a fight on a floor or introducing a bill, you have to stop and think of the women whose shoulders you're standing on — that this has been decades of struggle that sadly, we have seen taken down by a concerted effort to take rights away from women," Caraveo said. "They're still out there. They're still fighting. They're still holding signs up at rallies. They're still talking to other women about what their rights are and what we need to do to restore them,

and that every step that I take, there's a whole group of women behind me that are backing me up."

García gave credit to the community of people dedicated to improving access to reproductive health care.

"When they see us all working together, that's where it happens," García said. "It all comes back to our community ... we need to continue to be there for each other and continue to lift each other's organizations, because that's how people trust them. They see us working together, they see us standing for the same things, and it works."

Lindsey Toomer is a reporter with Colorado Newsline. This article is republished from Colorado Newsline under a Creative Commons license.

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Hastings & Torres

As if that were not enough, the Biden administration announced it is sending 1,500 additional troops to the border to provide support and administrative services, but not detain migrants.

Some weeks ago, in this same space, we published a column where we stated that this measure, Title 42, was put into place in March 2020 by the Donald Trump administration, and therefore the current U.S. government has had time to plan its response to the anticipated increase in migrants once they were allowed to apply again. But for politicians, the issue of immigration is like a pebble in your shoe that you want to remove and continue on your way, so their solutions are usually inadequate and ill-timed.

And that is where the consequences lie: lives cut short for people who once believed in the rhetoric of safety and welcome, but now face a legislative and ideological wall that might have always been there, but which reality has completely exposed and shown the United States to be a smaller-minded nation than what was once believed. Essentially, the timeline for immigrants doesn't run parallel to that of those who are supposed to do their job and legislate on the immi-

gration issue. In fact, they are experiencing a noble and admirable migration that they may not deserve.

Sending troops to the border also does not offer a compassionate face to thousands of people who have crossed through jungles and deserts, running from misery, violence, abuse, and corruption. If it is to dissuade them, we don't think it will be very effective.

Because no matter what happens post-Title 42, migration flows will always be a constant at the southern border. The challenge that politicians have not known how to face is to put forward laws that make this flow something regular and normal, and when there are increases, the situation does not become a crisis. Moreover, that visas exist for those who want to come and offer their very much needed labor; that the millions of undocumented immigrants who have been here for decades get legalized; that citizens and residents can apply for relatives to immigrate without having to wait decades to reunite; that asylum laws are strengthened so that everyone who needs it can apply for it and their cases are not decided without a true review of the reasons that brought them to seek asylum.

These are all the components of

the broad immigration reform that, over decades, has been the victim of politicking, with terrible repercussions for millions of human lives and our economy.

To say that the Biden administration distinguishes itself from Trump's because it is tackling the issues in a more humane fashion doesn't mean anything, if the measures they implement are so similar, like when the Republican sent troops to the border before the arrival of migrant caravans.

As the Democratic Senator from New Jersey, Bob Menéndez, [said](#) on May 2nd: "The Administration has had over two years to plan for the eventual end of this Trump-era policy in a way that does not compromise our values as a country. I have offered them a strategic and comprehensive [plan](#), which they have largely ignored. Trying to score political points or intimidate migrants by sending the military to the border caters to the Republican Party's xenophobic attacks on our asylum system."

Maribel Hastings is a Senior Advisor to América's Voice. David Torres is a Spanish-language Advisor at América's Voice.

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CdeBaca

[panel recommendation that was put forward in California this past week-end](#). If the concept of reparations is unfamiliar to you, I encourage you to click through the information I've provided in this newsletter message, and to read and reflect.

We need to have an honest conversation about racial justice in a city that will lose more of its residents of color if we don't respond with urgency. But what that ultimately looks like will be up to the community to bring those ideas forward. So tell me your ideas for reparations. How do we repair the

harm to the Black community locally and nationally? What can it look like here in Denver? How can we think differently about what our government is able to do in repairing this harm? Who else is owed reparations, and what would repairing *that* harm look like? Let me know. That's what I'm here for.

Candi CdeBaca is a Denver Councilwoman for District 9. She is the incumbent in Denver's Municipal Run-Off election on June 6.

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Immigration



A Haitian woman washes and dries her clothes near the unfinished Dominican border wall. In the background, clothes hang to dry on the wall near Dajabón, Dominican Republic, on March 4, 2023. / Una mujer haitiana lava y seca su ropa cerca del muro fronterizo dominicano sin terminar. Al fondo, ropa colgada para secar en el muro cerca de Dajabón, República Dominicana, el 4 de marzo de 2023. (Photo/Foto: Roxanne De La Rosa/Cronkite Borderlands Project)



A Haitian mother and her child wait to get off a deportation bus in Dajabón, Dominican Republic, on March 4, 2023. / Una madre haitiana y su hijo esperan a bajar de un autobús de deportación en Dajabón, República Dominicana, el 4 de marzo de 2023. (Photo by Roxanne De La Rosa/Cronkite Borderlands Project)

and young children in their arms are forced back into Haiti. Some have their only possessions in their hands. Under Abinader's presidency, there has been a massive increase in Haitian deportations, including some deportees who are legally in the country.

Both Dominicans and Haitians are deeply affected by the current anti-Haitian movement in the country.

Carlos Zepeda is a rancher who needs Haitians to work his land. He isn't convinced his country needs a new border fence. Instead he thinks what's needed is comprehensive immigration reform.

"I want to help reform it (immigration), for us to have it as it should be," Zepeda said. "Since I am a rancher, we need Haitian workers just as they are needed in the construction sector."

Zepeda has found it difficult to keep and find workers to work his land due to anti-Haitian sentiments in the Dominican Republic. He says homes where Haitian migrants live are being raided in the middle of the night by government agents and workers are being detained and deported regardless of their legal status. Zepeda says during the night raids women are awakened and aren't allowed to dress

themselves before they are detained, and Haitian children scream and cry out of fear.

"There's no need to create so much panic. But to avoid that, you have to reform it," Zepeda said. "So that they (Haitians) don't have to live that way with everything that is happening all over the country."

Hector Perea and Zepeda are part of a group called Defensa Civil, or "Civil Defense," which protects and fights for immigrant rights. Perea has been involved with this work for around 30 years and says his faith called on him to help.

"Protecting human beings, because human beings have no race or color, they must be defended wherever they go," Perea said.

Perea, too, has seen the raids, which he says are a violation of human rights. He says Haitians are robbed by border officials of anything of value they own, including cell phones and televisions.

Another section of the wall is being constructed not far from El Partido where Zepeda and Perea live. When asked about the border wall being constructed Perea said:

"That's practically not going to solve anything. Because the wall itself is about money. We have to unite our ideals and work, share the little we have because we are human beings. Our creator has no border, he has no color, we are all his children and his creation."

Haiti has been plagued with gang violence and upheaval since the assassination of the country's president in July 2021. Thousands of Haitians have been displaced due to the ongoing turmoil, which has been compounded by deadly natural disasters. While many Haitians have left the island in search of stability, the bulk of the displaced have looked to the Dominican Republic, sometimes overwhelming government services. At the same time, the Dominican Republic relies heavily on Haitians for labor and Haiti is the country's key trade partner.

"Although the Dominicans do not like to admit it, this is an island in which both sides are needed," said Zinnia Martinez, a communications coordinator for the International Organization for Migration. "That is why it is a longstanding relationship and despite that the Haitian economy is very, very crippled, they continue to be our main buyers."

The country depends on Haitian workers like Julbeon Sainvilien who has lived in the Dominican Republic for the past 23 years. Sainvilien works the sugarcane fields of a Dominican landowner and also works in construction, training other workers to build homes.

Sainvilien lives with his wife and children in a small wooden shack of a home on the land he works. Nonetheless, Sainvilien is grateful to work and says his life in El Partido has been tranquil for the most part. Every morning he gets up around 3 a.m. to cut weeds and work in the sugar fields.

"Thanks to God. We live here peacefully," Sainvilien said.

Across the street from Sainvilien home is a different story. Sainvilien has witnessed Haitian migrants living

there being raided by border law enforcement in the middle of the night.

Sainvilien's wife, Elimene Onexile, says Haitian migrants in the home are detained and deported whether they are documented or not. Onexile fears one day, even though her family is documented, border officials may come knocking on her door in the middle of the night.

"It is an abuse. I feel very bad that they are detaining documented Haitian immigrants. I came here (Dominican Republic) to make a life," Onexile said.

“

"Here in the Dominican Republic the majority of the workers are immigrants. The Dominicans have no reason to detain immigrants who are working all day and all night."

Elimene Onexile, Haitian Immigrant

Onexile and Sainvilien say they are protected because of the Dominican land owner. Onexile works cooking, cleaning and washing in the Dominican landowner's home and also cares for an elderly woman at night.

"Here in the Dominican Republic the majority of the workers are immigrants," Onexile said. "The Dominicans have no reason to detain immigrants who are working all day and all night."

Onexile says in all her years living in the Dominican Republic she has never seen or experienced anything like what is going on.

"These have been the worst times ever," Onexile said.

Onexile and Sainvilien are both nearing their 50s and worry about the day one of them is unable to work anymore. Onexile says an immigrant who cannot work, cannot eat.

"No employer is going to help an immigrant who cannot work," she said.

Roxanne De La Rosa is a News Broadcast Reporter with Cronkite Noticias. This article is produced by the Cronkite Borderlands Project is a multimedia reporting program in which students cover human rights, immigration and border issues in the U.S. and abroad in both English and Spanish.

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Learn more at co4kids.org



SNAP SUPPORTS COLORADANS GET HEALTHY FOOD ON YOUR DINNER TABLE

WHAT'S SNAP?

SNAP, federally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, exists to ensure families and individuals can purchase groceries. It supports working families, children and older adults to help weather life storms.

- **SNAP is like social security:** A portion of your tax dollars funded SNAP, and now it's here to help you!
- **SNAP supports the economy:** When you spend SNAP dollars you support local business owners and grocers. In 2018, SNAP contributed more than \$1 billion to Colorado's economy.
- **SNAP is guilt free:** SNAP exists to help you make ends meet during tough times. The program is large enough to help you, your family & your neighbors!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

SNAP, previously known as food stamps, is run by the USDA and provides qualifying households with monthly funds to help purchase groceries. The amount received depends on household size, income, and expenses.

Every month, funds are loaded onto a Quest Electronic Benefit Transfer (or EBT) card. EBT cards are then used like a debit card* at grocery stores, convenience stores and select farmers markets.

**EBT cards do not allow for cash withdrawals.*

BENEFITS OF SNAP



Supports better health, overall well-being and happiness



Lowers health care costs and improves long-term health



Enhances work productivity



Keeps older adults stable and independent



Supports local farmers, ranchers, producers and business owners



Improves academic achievement



Increases the likelihood of completing high school

SNAP FUELS HAPPIER, HEALTHIER LIVES!

Contact the Food Resource Hotline to speak with a food assistance navigator and get help finding food resources, like food pantries, in your area and assistance with your SNAP application. The hotline is free, bilingual and confidential. Call for immediate assistance (Monday – Friday, 8 am – 4:30 pm), no appointments necessary.

HUNGER FREE COLORADO
FOOD RESOURCE
HOTLINE
 STATEWIDE, TOLL-FREE
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Hunger Free Colorado connects families and individuals to food resources and fuels change in policies, systems and social views, so no Coloradan goes hungry.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This project has been funded at least in part with Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Inmigración



Haitianos hacen cola durante horas antes de que se abran las puertas de Dajabón para vender sus artículos en el mercado dominicano el 5 de marzo de 2023. / Haitians line up for hours before the gates of Dajabón open to sell their items in the Dominican marketplace on March 5, 2023. (Foto/Photo: Roxanne De La Rosa/Cronkite Borderlands Project)



El alcalde de Dajabón, Santiago Riverón, ante la puerta de su casa, cerca de su pueblo, en la República Dominicana, el 4 de marzo de 2023. / Dajabón Mayor Santiago Riverón stands outside a door in his home near his town in the Dominican Republic on March 4, 2023. (Foto/Photo: Roxanne De La Rosa/Cronkite Borderlands Project)

“Se ha convertido en un desastre. Haití es un país que no tiene autoridad. Es un país que está siendo gobernado por bandas criminales, muchas de las cuales están siendo financiadas por políticos de su propio país”, dijo Riverón. “Esos políticos prefieren el desorden y se aprovechan de ese desorden. Esa es la situación en Haití. Desgraciadamente, Haití no está preparado para ser un país democrático. Tiene que ser un país dominado con mano dura”.

Pero la interdependencia de ambas economías va mucho más allá de los pequeños mercados y hunde sus raíces en la necesidad de mano de obra barata. Los inmigrantes haitianos constituyen una gran parte de la mano de obra en la agricultura, la construcción y otros sectores de trabajos manuales mal pagados en la República Dominicana. En un informe de febrero, el Colegio Dominicano de Economistas (Codeco) estimó que 700.000 haitianos están empleados en la República Dominicana, un país de unos

11 millones de habitantes. Los defensores de la inmigración afirman incluso que el muro fronterizo está siendo construido por las mismas personas a las que se pretende mantener alejadas: haitianos que huyen de su patria debido a la pobreza, la violencia y la inestabilidad.

A lo largo de una parte del muro fronterizo, el río Dajabón -también conocido como río de la Masacre, por la matanza de bucaneros franceses a manos de españoles en el siglo XVIII- discurre entre los dos países. En la actualidad, cientos de haitianos acuden a diario al río para lavar su ropa y tenderla a secar en las rocas cercanas. Los haitianos cruzan el río y cuelgan su ropa para que se seque en el bajo saliente de hormigón de un muro fronterizo casi inacabado.

A diario se deportan autobuses llenos de haitianos, a la vista de las puertas fronterizas de Dajabón. Madres con bebés y niños pequeños en brazos son obligadas a regresar a Haití. Algunos tienen en sus manos sus únicas posesiones.

Bajo la presidencia de Abinader, se ha producido un aumento masivo de las deportaciones de haitianos, incluidos algunos deportados que se encuentran legalmente en el país.

Tanto los dominicanos como los haitianos se ven profundamente afectados por el actual movimiento antihaitiano en el país.

Carlos Zepeda es un ganadero que necesita haitianos para trabajar sus tierras. No está convencido de que su país necesite una nueva valla fronteriza. En cambio, cree que lo que se necesita es una reforma integral de la inmigración.

“Quiero ayudar a reformarla (la inmigración), para que la tengamos como debe ser”, dijo Zepeda. “Como soy ganadero, necesitamos trabajadores haitianos igual que se necesitan en el sector de la construcción”.

A Zepeda le ha resultado difícil mantener y encontrar trabajadores para trabajar sus tierras debido a los sentimientos antihaitianos en la República

Dominicana. Afirma que los agentes del gobierno hacen redadas en mitad de la noche en las casas donde viven migrantes haitianos y detienen y deportan a los trabajadores sin tener en cuenta su situación legal. Zepeda afirma que durante las redadas nocturnas se despierta a las mujeres y no se les permite vestirse antes de detenerlas, y que los niños haitianos gritan y lloran de miedo.

“No hay necesidad de crear tanto pánico. Pero para evitarlo, hay que reformarlo”, dijo Zepeda. “Para que ellos (los haitianos) no tengan que vivir así con todo lo que está pasando en todo el país”.

Héctor Perea y Zepeda forman parte de un grupo llamado Defensa Civil, que protege y lucha por los derechos de los inmigrantes. Perea ha estado involucrado en este trabajo durante unos 30 años y dice que su fe le llamó a ayudar.

“Proteger al ser humano, porque el ser humano no tiene raza ni color, hay que defenderlo allá donde vaya”, afirma Perea.

Perea también ha sido testigo de las redadas, que considera una violación de los derechos humanos. Dice que los agentes fronterizos roban a los haitianos cualquier cosa de valor que posean, incluidos teléfonos móviles y televisores.

Otra sección del muro se está construyendo no lejos de El Partido, donde viven Zepeda y Perea. Cuando se le preguntó por el muro fronterizo que se está construyendo, Perea dijo:

“Eso prácticamente no va a solucionar nada. Porque el muro en sí es cuestión de dinero. Tenemos que unir nuestros ideales y trabajar, compartir lo poco que tenemos porque somos seres humanos. Nuestro creador no tiene fronteras, no tiene color, todos somos sus hijos y su creación”.

Haití está asolado por la violencia de las bandas y la agitación desde el asesinato del presidente del país en julio de 2021. Miles de haitianos se han visto desplazados debido a la agitación actual, que se ha visto agravada por desastres naturales mortales. Aunque muchos haitianos han abandonado la isla en busca de estabilidad, el grueso de los desplazados ha buscado refugio en la República Dominicana, desbordando en ocasiones los servicios gubernamentales. Al mismo tiempo, la República Dominicana depende en gran medida de la mano de obra haitiana y Haití es el principal socio comercial del país.

“Aunque a los dominicanos no les guste admitirlo, ésta es una isla en la que ambas partes se necesitan”, afirma Zinnia Martínez, coordinadora de comunicaciones de la Organización Internacional para las Migraciones. “Por eso es una relación de muchos años y a pesar de que la economía haitiana está muy, muy paralizada, siguen siendo nuestros principales compradores”.

El país depende de trabajadores haitianos como Julbeon Sainvilien, que vive en la República Dominicana desde hace 23 años. Sainvilien trabaja en los campos de caña de azúcar de un terrateniente dominicano y también trabaja en la construcción, formando a otros trabajadores para que construyan casas.

Sainvilien vive con su mujer y sus hijos en una pequeña choza de madera en la tierra que trabaja. No obstante, Sainvilien está agradecido por trabajar y dice que su vida en El Partido ha sido tranquila en su mayor parte. Todas las mañanas se levanta sobre las tres para cortar la hierba y trabajar en los campos de azúcar.

“Gracias a Dios. Aquí vivimos tranquilos”, dice Sainvilien.

Enfrente de la casa de Sainvilien hay una historia diferente. Sainvilien ha sido testigo de cómo las fuerzas de seguridad fronterizas hacían redadas en mitad de la noche contra los inmigrantes haitianos que vivían allí.

La esposa de Sainvilien, Elimene Onexile, afirma que los migrantes haitianos que viven en su casa son detenidos y deportados tanto si están documentados como si no. Onexile teme que un día, aunque su familia esté documentada, los agentes fronterizos llamen a su puerta en mitad de la noche.



Los dominicanos no tienen motivos para detener a inmigrantes que trabajan todo el día y toda la noche".
Elimene Onexile, Inmigrante Haitiana

“Es un abuso. Me siento muy mal de que detengan a inmigrantes haitianos documentados. Vine aquí (República Dominicana) para ganarme la vida”, dijo Onexile.

Onexile y Sainvilien dicen que están protegidos gracias al propietario dominicano de las tierras. Onexile trabaja cocinando, limpiando y lavando en casa del terrateniente dominicano y también cuida a una anciana por las noches.

“Aquí en la República Dominicana la mayoría de los trabajadores son inmigrantes”, dijo Onexile. “Los dominicanos no tienen motivos para detener a inmigrantes que trabajan todo el día y toda la noche”.

Onexile afirma que en todos los años que lleva viviendo en la República Dominicana nunca había visto ni experimentado nada parecido a lo que está ocurriendo.

“Han sido los peores momentos de mi vida”, afirma Onexile.

Onexile y Sainvilien se acercan a los 50 años y se preocupan por el día en que uno de ellos ya no pueda trabajar. Onexile dice que un inmigrante que no puede trabajar no puede comer.

“Ningún empleador va a ayudar a un inmigrante que no puede trabajar”, afirma.

Roxanne De La Rosa es reportera de Cronkite Noticias. Este artículo reproducido con permiso de Cronkite News.

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

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Edlin & Norden

security measures to protect election workers would cost about \$300 million over the next five years.

Our survey shows that election officials are unable to adopt basic physical and cybersecurity measures because they do not have the funds to do so. Of the 49 election officials we interviewed who availed themselves of free cyber hygiene scans provided by DHS's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the 54 who received their free physical security assessments, the vast majority implemented at least some of the recommended improvements. But in each category, only 10 adopted all recommendations. Of those who did not adopt more recommendations, lack of funds was the top reason why not.

Political interference

Election officials continue to express concern about political interference in alarmingly high numbers. In the aftermath of the 2020 election, many election officials faced pressure from political leaders to certify certain election outcomes. President Trump notoriously called Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to ask him to "find 11,780 votes." In 2021, Arizona legislators transferred powers from the state's Democratic secretary of state over to the attorney general, apparently to prevent the settlement of lawsuits aiming to improve voter access. In Wisconsin and Arizona, sham partisan reviews of the 2020 election were used to mis-

represent the work of election officials and cast doubt on legitimate results.

Many local election officials see this threat of political interference as ongoing, with 56 percent reporting that they are either somewhat or very worried about political leaders engaging in efforts to interfere with how their fellow election officials do their jobs. And more than one in nine say they are concerned about facing pressure to certify election results in favor of a specific candidate or party in future elections.

Federal support

Most election officials feel that the federal government could be doing more to help, with only 27 percent saying that the federal government is doing a "good job" supporting them in their roles. Election officials have reason to complain. In addition to the \$300 million mentioned above for protecting election workers from new threats and violence, the Brennan Center has also estimated the cost of protecting against insider threats as a result of growing belief in conspiracy theories around elections could similarly exceed \$300 million. Further, we estimated in 2022 that the cost to replace polling place voting machines that are aging out is nearly \$600 million over the following 5 years. Despite these massive numbers, Congress provided just \$75 million in new money for elections last year.

While this failure is frustrating, it's also worth noting many election officials

aren't aware of the full range of federal services available to them, such as federal grant programs and communications toolkits. This lack of awareness is also an opportunity for the federal government. As soon as possible, federal agencies that provide resources to election officials should develop a comprehensive and coordinated communications plan to establish regular contact with election officials through the 2024 election, promote federal funding opportunities and resources, and provide election officials with a venue to highlight questions and concerns.

By and large, the 2022 election was a success for election administration. There was limited violence, courts pushed back on efforts to refuse to certify elections, and election deniers lost key governor and secretary of state contests.

With the 2024 presidential election approaching, now is the time to ask what we can do to further strengthen election administration. It's clear that many election officials still feel they face a hostile environment, with more than 1 in 10 saying they very or somewhat likely to exit their office in the relatively short time before November 2024. We should work to strengthen cyber and physical protections for election offices, increase funding, and elevate available resources for election officials.

Note on Methodology: Our calculation for the rate of turnover among election officials was made as follows:

there are approximately 10,000 local election officials in the United States. In our survey, 12 percent of election officials stated they had replaced their predecessors after November 2020, amounting to 1,200 officials. About 900 days passed between the November 2020 election and when the poll was conducted: 1,200 officials divided by 900 days equals roughly 1.34. 11 percent of officials are unlikely to continue serving through November 2024, amounting to 1,100 officials. 1,100 officials divided by

560 days until the November 2024 election equals roughly 1.96.

Ruby Edlin is an Advocacy Campaign Coordinator in the Democracy Program with the Brennan Center for Justice. Lawrence Norden is the senior director of the Elections and Government Program, Brennan Center for Justice. This commentary republished with permission by the Brennan Center for Justice.

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Rice Lake West, Inc. (formerly Stanek Constructors) is soliciting bids from self-certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Subcontractors and Suppliers for: City of Aurora, 42-inch Quincy Pipeline Appearance Rehabilitation, Project No. 5930A.
Bid Date: May 24, 2023 by 2:00 p.m. Scopes of Work include but are not limited to: Site preparation, earthwork, asphalt pavement, revegetation, cast-in-place concrete, reinforcement, and grout, shop applied coatings for metals (Zinc), metal fabrications, painting, polyurethane coating, cathodic protection, and site utilities.
For plans and specifications please email: estimating@rlwest.org or call 303-980-8233.
For assistance with bonding, credit, or insurance, please contact Dustin Foss at 303-339-2442.
EEO/affirmative action employer

Frésquez

their egos aside" and work together to create a work of art that gives back. Teaching the murals class has been one of the most rewarding aspects of his career, he says, and he hopes to come back after he's retired to do it again.

Looking out of his office window on the Auraria Campus, he sees St. Cajetan's, where he was baptized, and it's an emotional moment.

"I have no trouble moving on," he said. "But I know I will miss it. ... This is where I was born, baptized and have been my whole career. As an Art student, a professor, it's all here."

Watch a video interview with Frésquez [here](#).

Polina Saran is a Visual Storyteller and Laura Miller is a Managing Editor for MSU RED. This story originally appeared on MSU Denver RED.

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SHOPPING EVENT
MAY 13th, 2023
10AM-4PM

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MAY

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ON-SITE PAINTING WORKSHOP**

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May 13, from 10AM - 4PM

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@ Hijos del Sol (2715 W. 8th Avenue)

May 20, from 4PM - 10PM

SUN VALLEY VIADUCT NIGHT MARKET

@ Colfax Viaduct near Empower Field

JUNE

June 10, from 10AM - 4PM

FATHER'S DAY SHOPPING EVENT

@ Hijos del Sol (2715 W. 8th Avenue)

SUN VALLEY VIADUCT NIGHT MARKET

UNDER THE COLFAX VIADUCT NEAR EMPOWER FIELD

MAY 20TH, 4PM-10PM

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