

08 de Junio 2023

THE WEEKLY ISSUE

# El Semanario

Digital Edition

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**Aura of Hope** 8  
*Aura de Esperanza*



**08 de Junio 2023**  
Volume No. XXXIII Issue 31

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**THE WEEKLY ISSUE / El Semanario**

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# Table of Contents

## Tabla de contenidos

Republicans Turn Their Cannons on Immigrants Once Again	4
Republicanos Apuntan de Nuevo Sus Cañones Contra los Migrantes	4
We Still Haven't Learned the True Price of War	5
It's Time to Get Real (Data) on Pollution Reductions	5
'Across the Spider-Verse' and the Latino Legacy of Spider-Man	6
Doctors, Shelters Connect Medical Care for Migrants Along Border	8
Médicos y Refugios Conectan la Atención Médica para los Migrantes a lo Largo de la Frontera	9
Statewide Gun Ban Demanded During Women-Led Sit-In at Colorado Capitol	10
Exigen la Prohibición de Armas en Todo el Estado Durante Una Sentada Liderada por Mujeres en el Capitolio de Colorado	11
A Panel Will Decide Whose Medicine to Make Affordable. Its Choice Will Be Tricky.	12
Internships Provide Paid Opportunities for New Mexico Youth	14
Trabajadores de la Primera Infancia y Padres Abogan por Mejores Salarios y Cuidado Infantil Asequible	14
Attorney General Raúl Torrez Files Lawsuit Against Major Manufacturing Companies	14







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# Republicans Turn Their Cannons on Immigrants Once Again

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

It's not *déjà vu*. Former president Donald Trump, the indisputable leader of the Republican Party and aspiring 2024 presidential nominee, once again declared his intention to issue an executive order denying automatic U.S. citizenship to children born in the United States to undocumented parents, which is protected by the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. He said it in 2015 and in 2018, and he said it again now because immigrants, with or without documents, continue to be his favorite target of attack for political and electoral gain.

They are his central target because immigrants, especially people of color and from poor nations, always find themselves in a vulnerable situation, which is attractive for bullies like the ex-president and those who continue to applaud his anti-immigrant rhetoric. Something that doesn't happen, of course, when speaking about people with power and money, whom Trump has praised, even if their regimes are known human rights offenders. Do the names Duterte, Putin, Abdulfatah el Sisi, Hun Sen sound familiar?

To tell the truth, this is not at all surprising. We already knew who Trump is and what he brings to the table. But what's outrageous is that the Republican Party—after the trail of blood that extremism and xenophobia have left and continue to leave in this country—has decided that this same extremism and xenophobia will be their public face, their message, and their campaign strategies.

It seems they have not realized that if these campaigns of hate and racism have shown us anything, it's that they are not successful in the long run, in that they are diluted by the U.S. national conscience, which is fortunately the majority, and always seems to be on the right side of history—accepting, more than rejecting, to welcome immigrants.

And although at this moment, Trump continues to be the central and dominant figure in this party, the anti-immigrant strategy is not exclusive to him, as he has various "Mini-me's"; among them the governor of Florida, Ron DeSantis, who just passed the harshest anti-immigrant law in the United States. The measure will take effect on July 1, but is already

generating fear among the people of Florida, and not only among undocumented people, since there are families with mixed migration statuses who could find themselves in trouble for transporting and helping undocumented people. It is affecting diverse industries like agriculture and construction, and currently the automotive industry. It will eventually impact tourism. It even affects non-governmental organizations that assist people who are undocumented.

The governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, is another of Trump's minions who has declared a merciless war against immigrant people, and has used the border as one of his favorite battering rams to attack the administration of the Democratic President, Joe Biden, labeling him ineffective at managing the border.

But his influence is no longer so large, and at any rate he lacks originality even in being racist and anti-immigrant, because, in the event he wanted to seek the Republican nomination, he would be appealing to the vote of another Republican sector, tired of the way in which their party has been vilified because of the most



extremist wing of conservatism in the United States. Competing for the same group of voters—xenophobic and anti-immigrant—turns Trump and DeSantis into the charlatans of modern Republican politics.

Even the Republican-majority House of Representatives is plagued by loyalties to Trump, ready to promote his anti-immigrant agenda, as they showed with the approval of the bill H.R. 2, centered on measures of border control and undermining asylum laws. And Trump's head cheerleader is the Speaker of the House, Kevin McCarthy, a Republican from California, who has indicated that this body will not consider any measure that may benefit undocumented immigrants.

Because the reality is that Republicans' full-frontal assault is not only against undocumented people. It's really against immigration and, at the same time, against the inclusive and compassionate United States that this

nation was starting to become, even before the fight for civil rights in the last century. The Title 42 battle also made it clear that people seeking asylum are not welcome, and while Republicans claim to love "legality," they do not seem to care that there are 11 million people without documents carrying out essential work in this country, without any light at the end of the tunnel that they will achieve regularization.

If anything is evident it's that the Republicans' 2024 presidential campaign, without additional political resources that truly transcend history for the common good, are once again lining up their cannons to face their favorite target: immigrants.

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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# Republicanos Apuntan de Nuevo Sus Cañones Contra los Migrantes

Maribel Hastings y David Torres

No se trata de un *déjà vu*. El expresidente Donald Trump, líder indiscutible del Partido Republicano y aspirante a la nominación presidencial en 2024, volvió a declarar su intención de emitir una orden ejecutiva para denegar la ciudadanía estadounidense automática a niños nacidos en Estados Unidos de padres indocumentados, lo que está amparado por la 14ta

Enmienda de la Constitución. Lo dijo en 2015, en 2018 y vuelve a decirlo ahora porque los inmigrantes, con o sin documentos, siguen siendo su objetivo de ataque favorito con fines políticos y electorales.

Y son su objetivo central porque los inmigrantes, especialmente los de color y de naciones pobres, se encuentran siempre en situación vulnerable, un aspecto atractivo para acosadores de minorías como lo es el expresidente y quienes siguen celebrando su retóri-

ca antiinmigrante. Algo que no ocurre, por supuesto, cuando se trata de gente de poder y de dinero, a quienes Trump ha alabado, incluso si sus regímenes son señalados como violadores de los derechos humanos. ¿Suenan familiares Duterte, Putin, Abdulfatah el Sisi, Hun Sen?

A decir verdad, no es sorprendente en lo absoluto. Ya sabemos quién es Trump y lo que da. Pero lo indignante es que el Partido Republicano, luego de la estela de sangre que han dejado y

siguen dejando el extremismo y la xenofobia en este país, haya decidido que su rostro, su mensaje y sus estrategias de campaña serán precisamente ese extremismo y esa xenofobia.

Tal parece que no se ha dado cuenta de que si alguna enseñanza ha dejado ese tipo de campañas de odio y de racismo es que, a la postre, no tienen éxito permanente, de tal modo que las va diluyendo la conciencia nacional estadounidense, que por fortuna es mayoritaria y siempre apunta a estar del lado correcto de la historia, aceptando, más que rechazando, dar la bienvenida a los inmigrantes.

Y aunque, de momento, Trump sigue siendo la figura central y dominante de ese partido, la estrategia antiinmigrante no es exclusiva de él, pues tiene varios *Mini-me*, entre otros, el gobernador de Florida, Ron DeSantis, quien acaba de promulgar la ley antiinmigrante más severa de Estados Unidos. La medida entra en vigor el 1 de julio, pero ya genera temor entre la población floridana y no únicamente entre los indocumentados, pues hay familias de situación migratoria mixta que pueden verse en aprietos por transportar y asistir a indocumentados. Está afectando a diversas industrias como la agrícola y la de construcción, y ahora mismo a la automotriz y eventualmente impactará a la del turismo; e incluso afecta a organizaciones no gubernamentales que asisten a los indocumentados.

El gobernador de Texas, Greg Abbott, es otro de los súbditos de Trump que ha declarado una guerra sin cuar-

tel contra los indocumentados y ha utilizado la frontera como una de sus armas favoritas para atacar al gobierno del presidente demócrata, Joe Biden, y tildarlo de ineficiente en el manejo de la franja fronteriza.

Pero su influencia no es aún tan amplia, y en todo caso carece de originalidad incluso siendo racista y antiinmigrante, pues si en realidad quisiera buscar la nominación republicana apelaría al voto de otro sector republicano, harto ya de la forma como se ha vilipendiado a su partido por parte del ala más extremista del conservadurismo de Estados Unidos. Competir por el mismo tipo de voto —antiinmigrante y xenófobo— convierte a Trump y a DeSantis en los saltimbanquis de la política moderna republicana.

Incluso la Cámara Baja de mayoría republicana está plagada de fieles a Trump, listos para promover su agenda antiinmigrante, como lo demostraron con la aprobación del proyecto HR 2, centrado en medidas de control fronterizo y en minar las leyes de asilo. Y el principal porrista de Trump es el presidente cameral, Kevin McCarthy, republicano de California, quien ha indicado que ese organismo no considerará ninguna medida que suponga beneficios para los indocumentados.

Porque la realidad es que el ataque frontal de los republicanos no es únicamente en contra de los indocumentados. Es realmente en contra de la migración y, al mismo tiempo, contra

Ve [Hastings y Torres/Esp](#), página 18

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# We Still Haven't Learned the True Price of War

Cesar Chalala

The Russian aggression against Ukraine shows that we have not learned the lessons of history and are paying a high price for it. Future generations will also pay a significant price for our generation's sins: fractured and destroyed families; poor social and health services; and a polluted environment. Children with mental and developmental problems are the clearest examples of the intergenerational effects of war.

The tremendous stress of war increases the chances of interpersonal violence, particularly against women. When the victims of violence are pregnant women, the intergenerational effect manifests as the increase of still births and premature births among them. Mothers who were the children of Holocaust survivors were shown

to have higher levels of psychological stress and less positive parenting skills. During the siege of Sarajevo, perinatal mortality and morbidity almost doubled, and there was a significant increase in the number of children born with malformations.

By analyzing the number of people killed indirectly by the "War on Terror" in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen, a report by the Costs of War Project at Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs estimates that the war in those countries resulted in 3.6 to 3.7 million indirect deaths, while the total death toll in those same countries could reach at least 4.5 to 4.6 million, and counting.

Stephanie Savell, the Costs of War's co-director and author of the report states, "wars often kill far more people indirectly than in direct combat, par-

ticularly young children." Almost all the victims, says Savell, are from the most impoverished and marginalized populations. Most indirect war deaths are due to malnutrition, pregnancy, and birth-related problems, and infectious and chronic diseases.

“

*Repeated violence has numbed us to its consequences, our senses overwhelmed by cruelty.*

According to the report, more than 7.6 million children under five in post-9/11 war zones are suffering from acute malnutrition. Malnutrition has serious long-time effects on children's health. Among those effects are increased vul-

nerability to diseases, developmental delays, stunted growth, and even blindness, reports UNICEF. Those children affected with malnutrition are also prevented from achieving success in school or having meaningful work as adults.

Although using doctors, patients, and civilians as a human shield is a war crime, they are frequent targets of uncontrolled violence. Now in Sudan, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) reports that their staff in multiple locations have been repeatedly confronted by fighters entering health facilities and stealing medicines, supplies, and vehicles. It is estimated that 70% of health facilities in areas in conflict are out of service, and 30 among them are targets of attacks.

In U.N.-sponsored health missions, I was able to see the consequences of war in countries such as Mozambique, Malawi, Angola, El Salvador, and Nic-



aragua, a sobering experience that left painful memories. The sadness and feeling of helplessness I saw in the eyes of women and children still haunt me.

Repeated violence has numbed us to its consequences, our senses overwhelmed by cruelty. Faced with the tragic complexity of life, we are unable to savor its sweet moments of care and tenderness. Eager to escape brutal reality, we watch the latest TV news and then mindlessly change the channel to a baking show.

See [Chelala](#) on page 18

## It's Time to Get Real (Data) on Pollution Reductions

Andrew Klooster

Oil and gas operations emit pollution that harms health and worsens the climate crisis. There neither is nor will there ever be such a thing as "zero-pollution" oil and gas operations. Emitting pollution is built into how this industry operates. However, there are existing technologies and practices that are tried and true for dramatically reducing how much harm oil and gas is causing.

Many of these things have been done over the last decade with residents, advocates and experts working with the Colorado Legislature and two different administrations to reign in polluters. But there remains one of the largest challenges to making sure industry is actually cutting pollution and reducing harm: accurately measuring and verifying emissions.

On this matter Colorado has not done a great job so far.

In 2021, to the disappointment of environmental justice advocates and other community groups, the state Air Quality Control Commission adopted a "greenhouse gas intensity program." The program has two major problems. The first is simple. Reducing pollution "intensity" is *not* a guarantee that total emissions will go down. Intensity just requires an operator to not leak as large a percentage of pollution into the air per unit of production — in other words, pollute less of the total gas that has been extracted. But the company's total pollution can still increase as they expand operations. And that's a problem, because total pollution is the number that matters to climate and health.

The second issue is something the AQCC has a chance to fix in July: ensuring Coloradans can trust the data

oil and gas companies provide to claim they're reducing pollution.

The current proposal would defer proof of these reductions to the same companies and operators that would be found in violation if these reductions were not achieved. As someone whose whole job it is to hold industry accountable with a pollution finding camera, I can show you that oil and gas companies are failing to cut pollution and that they have an abysmal record of self-policing.

“

*Colorado cities continue to have some of the worst air quality in the country.*

The state Air Pollution Control Division should work with stakeholders to put forward a stronger proposal that would shape how the APCD gets an accurate assessment of whether oil and gas companies are actually reducing greenhouse gases and health-harming pollution.

We need to use all the tools we have now in the tool box, including clear requirements to directly measure emissions. It is critical that the APCD review industry plans prior to implementation and meet key criteria for both direct measurement and monitoring.

Gov. Jared Polis has made a promise to address climate change and ozone pollution through robust rules. This is an opportunity to live up to that promise and demonstrate national leadership on the emerging issue of directly measuring emissions.

The oil and gas industry is a business concerned about one thing — profits, not people. It is the job of our

state government to do more than merely trust that operators will do the right thing. Because the right thing for their business is often the worst thing for our health.

Our requests are reasonable and serve to better protect the people of Colorado.

Currently, oil and gas operators are not actually measuring their emissions, they are simply estimating. In order to know the real level of pollution that Coloradans are exposed to, operators must be required to directly measure greenhouse gas emissions at their facilities. The measurement technologies used should be proven by independent peer review to meet minimum detection standards and uphold industry best practices, and the data from these measurements should be provided in a way that it can be publicly and independently verified.

Earthworks has shown over and over again what happens when rules are designed to place trust in this industry. Most recently, we released a report showing how Coloradans are being misled by unproven and insufficient monitoring at sites across the Front Range. Over seven months we used our industry-standard optical gas imaging cameras to record a total of 22 pollution events at sites with fenceline monitors. When we compared our data to the monitors on site, we found that they had missed the pollution all 22 times.

These findings aren't to dismiss monitoring technologies in general. They are an indictment of the thinking that oil and gas and oil and gas monitoring businesses can be trusted to design and implement monitoring programs without clear guidelines and proper oversight

This should be an easy one. Colorado cities continue to have some of the worst air quality in the country. The American Lung Association reports air quality in Colorado failed to improve, and in some cases is actively worsening. That is what Colorado gets when you let oil and gas do the job of protecting health and climate.

By finally requiring that oil and gas pollution be directly measured, we

can hold those accountable who worsen our air and threaten our health and climate.

*Andrew Klooster is Earthworks' Colorado field advocate. This commentary is republished from Colorado Newswire under a Creative Commons license.*

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# 'Across the Spider-Verse' and the Latino Legacy of Spider-Man

Regina Marie Mills

As a Latino literature and media scholar, a lifelong gamer and a Guatemalan-American girl whose dad read her comics every night, I quickly became a fan and then scholar of Miles Morales, the Afro-Puerto Rican Spider-Man who first appeared in comic book form in 2011's "Ultimate Fallout #4."

Just seven years after his introduction, Morales swung into theaters in "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," a visually stunning, 3D-animated film that won an Academy Award for best animated feature.

Now, its sequel, "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse," features two

Latino Spider-Men in starring roles. Irish-Latino Spider-Man Miguel O'Hara of "Spider-Man 2099," voiced by Oscar Isaac, is jumping into the fray. And although he was a well-received Spider-Man as a Marvel comic book character in the 1990s, there's a good chance you've never heard of him.

## Breaking the mold

Latino characters, particularly ones who have a starring role, have traditionally been underrepresented in mainstream comics.

Marvel's first Latino hero, Hector Ayala, debuted in 1975, after the success of "Black Panther." Written by Bill Mantlo and drawn by legendary comic artist George Pérez, Ayala, known as

White Tiger, was a Puerto Rican college student living in New York. His powers came from a magical amulet that bestowed him with speed and martial arts expertise.

As Latino comics scholar Frederick Luis Aldama argues, Mantlo and Pérez avoided many of the stereotypes that plagued Latinos in comics, which often cast Latinos as criminals or drug dealers. Later iterations of White Tiger included his niece Angela del Toro and his sister, Ava Ayala.

The first Marvel Latina superhero, also co-created by Mantlo, was Firebird – real name, Bonita Juárez – who first appeared in 1981. A Catholic social worker from New Mexico, she represented a departure from the Black and



Latino comic characters who predominantly come from big cities like New York.

## Spider-Man's web extends into Latin America

In Latin America, Spider-Man has been a popular character since the hero first appeared in his own series, "Amazing Spider-Man," in 1963.

Marvel licensed Mexican publisher La Prensa to print Spanish translations of Spider-Man issues just a few months after its release in the U.S.

La Prensa also extended Spider-Man's reach to Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Perú. In Mexico, Spider-Man quickly became more popular than any other Marvel character, save for his girlfriend, Gwen Stacy.

So in the 1970s, La Prensa began to create its own Spider-Man stories on weeks when Marvel didn't release a new Spider-Man issue. These new stories, like an issue where Peter Parker dreams that he married Gwen Stacy, only appeared in Mexico.

Perhaps Spider-Man's popularity in this part of the world is due to the fact that he's scrappy, hardworking, and trying to help his family. Or maybe Latin Americans love his luchador-esque costume – Peter Parker did, after all, debut his Spider-Man title and threads as a professional wrestler.

## An Irish-Latino swings into the Spider-Verse

Firebird and White Tiger never headlined their own series, though. And the Spider-Man who Latin Americans embraced in the 1960s and 1970s was white.

So it was a big deal when Miguel O'Hara took on the mantle of Spider-Man in his own series, which ran for four years.

While the multiverse is a recent development in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, multiple Earths – each with its own versions of Marvel superheroes – have existed for decades in the comics.

This has allowed for different iterations of the same superhero.

Peter Parker is the Spider-Man of Earth-616, the official Marvel universe. Miles Morales began as the Spider-Man of Earth-1610.

Miguel O'Hara is the future Spider-Man of Earth-616 in the year 2099, a post-apocalyptic future run by greedy corporations.

When O'Hara first appeared in 1992 as the main star of the "2099" series, fans embraced him, with little controversy.

It's possible that O'Hara was uncontroversial because questions of race and racism didn't factor explicitly into the

plots of each issue. And perhaps O'Hara's light skin made it easy for readers to forget that he was Latino in the first place.

Yet comics scholar Kathryn M. Frank argues in the collection "Graphic Borders" that the writers of "Spider-Man 2099" were aware of their hero's ethnic identity and subtly incorporated commentaries on race into the series.

In the comics, O'Hara has an accent due to his elongated, spiderlike teeth, which may reflect the assumed foreignness of Latino citizens in the U.S. and the discrimination they suffer for it. He also embraces his difference in his own style. As fans have pointed out, his costume mixes a Day of the Dead skull with the classic spider insignia in an explicit connection to his Mexican heritage.

## Recasting Spider-Man as an Afro-Latino

Then, in 2011, Marvel announced Miles Morales, the first Spider-Man who was both Black and Latino.

This time, the responses were more polarizing.

Former Fox News pundit Glenn Beck blamed then-first lady Michelle Obama for the creation of Morales, pointing to a clip of her saying, "We're going to have to change our traditions."

However, to some fans, recasting Spider-Man as Black made perfect sense. Walter Moseley, a popular crime novelist, has provocatively argued that the original Spider-Man of the 1960s is actually "the first Black superhero," since his backstory – raised by his extended family, growing up in poverty and demonized by the media – was more relatable to Black New Yorkers.

When Morales came on the scene, he wasn't merely a carbon copy of Peter Parker, though. He was raised by his African American father – an ex-con who had turned his life around – and Puerto Rican mother in Brooklyn.

How Morales' race and ethnicity would play into the stories has been a point of contention. As English professor Jorge J. Santos, Jr. argues in the collection "Mixed-Race Superheroes," the first comics series featuring Morales "barely makes any mention of Miles's ethnicity." He didn't seem to speak Spanish, nor did he have any Puerto Rican or Latino friends. He even resisted being seen as a Black Spider-Man.

That somewhat changed in the following series, which came out in 2018 and was written by Saladin Ahmed and drawn by Javier Garrón. In December 2022, Cody Ziglar, a Black comic writer, took over as the head writer of Morales' story.

Latino representation in the Spider-Verse is still somewhat lacking. Araña, a Mexican-Puerto Rican Spider-Girl conceived in 2004, is the only other major Latino Spidey character.

Marvel has tried to highlight Latino diversity in its other comics. In 2021, the comics publisher released an entire collection showcasing Latino characters titled "Marvel's Voices: Comunidades #1."

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# Doctors, Shelters Connect Medical Care for Migrants Along Border

By Ariana Araiza

The migrants seeking a new land have traveled for weeks and many miles, some with toddlers and babies, most with an aura of hope and faith that the journey will be worth it. The ills and medical conditions many arrive with span the mundane to the horrific.

A young child with bone cancer. Someone suffering from a hard fall from the border wall. Others with sniffles from a cold. People weighted with anxiety and depression from being robbed or assaulted as they made their way to the border.

They come to an El Paso, Texas, clinic like Centro de los Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizo, a squat, soil-brown building surrounded by single-family homes and tucked alongside a Catholic church. Here, volunteer doctors and other health-care professionals provide care for migrants who need medical attention.

One migrant sits on the exam table. The doctor speaks with him in Spanish, translating the conversation to a medical student who takes notes.

“He said his construction job back home left him with an eye infection. But he’s mainly concerned that his left hand hurts,” the doctor says.

One more patient in an overflow of need.

A humanitarian blend of medical, shelter and government workers reach out, day after day, to try to help some of the thousands who cross into this Texas city, across the border from its municipal twin, Ciudad Juárez in Chihuahua, México. El Paso city officials estimate that an average 250 people daily – up to 1,000 daily during surges – make their way from half a dozen countries, mainly from South America. It’s a familiar scenario repeated in other border states that officials feared would rise even further after U.S. regulations to slow the tide expired this month. Those who advocate for such help applaud the efforts but say it is not enough – in particular,



A migrant waits in the intake room before being taken into an exam room at a clinic in El Paso. Advocates say hope and faith is a common denominator among migrants who leave home and make their way through hardships on their journey to the U.S. / Un migrante espera en la sala de admisión antes de ser llevado a una sala de reconocimiento en una clínica de El Paso, Texas. Los activistas afirman que la esperanza y la fe son un denominador común entre los migrantes que abandonan sus hogares y atraviesan dificultades en su viaje hacia Estados Unidos. (Photo/Foto: Paula Soria/Cronkite News)

there aren’t enough psychologists or therapists to deal with the emotional and psychological damage of migrants’ journey. Even the help that is offered is under siege, as conservatives and others conflicted about immigration seek to make it more difficult to offer help.

Dylan Corbett, founding executive director of Hope Border Institute,

which operates a clinic in a shelter in México, said migrants often encounter trauma.

“Some people are going to go through a number of obstacles, they’ll be harassed by the police, they might be vulnerable to gangs, and a lot of women are subjected to abuse,” Corbett said.

#### A tide of people asking for help

The flow of migrants needing medical care in the border states of California, Arizona, New México and Texas is like a spigot that doesn’t shut off. Current numbers are difficult to come by but the National Library of Medicine, in a [2022 study](#), estimated that from October 2018 to February 2020, volunteers provided care from 15,736 and 19,236 times, at a cost between \$1.9 million and \$4.4 million.

Migrant services have become so central to El Paso, a Hispanic-majority city of nearly 680,000, that the city government devotes a website page to the “[Migrant Crisis](#).” It offers a dashboard of data, suggestions on how to donate and FAQs on a situation where people “come from all parts of the world to escape economic devastation and extreme crime.”

Soroush Omidvarnia, a second-year medical student at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, migrated to the U.S. from Iran in 2017 because, as a gay man, he feared violence.

Omidvarnia said he chose the university’s medical school specifically because he could help migrants. He relates to their need for resources and access to care.

“That human-to-human interaction is a great part of this clinic,” Omidvarnia said. “Just hearing about all of these struggles that they go through is really personal.”

Migrants spend a few days to a few weeks visiting the El Paso clinic for serious problems, like diabetes or physical injuries, until they are ready to move on to other parts of the country.

“It’s really important for us to not just provide care for the condition that just brings them to us, but also find out what other needs they have,” Omidvarnia said.

Dr. Glenn Fennelly, who chairs pediatrics at the health sciences center, said migrants are simply trying to seek a better way of life and need help along the way.

“

“Many have very pressing health-care needs – in certain instances, addressing the trauma of literally falling off the wall.”

Dr. Glenn Fennelly

“There are people that face a literal and figurative barrier of getting from where they’re trying to escape from, to a place where they see better opportunity and better safety,” Fennelly said.

“Many have very pressing health-care needs – in certain instances, addressing the trauma of literally falling off the wall,” he said.

The common route migrants take from South America runs through the [Darién Gap](#), the crossing between Colombia and Panama. It’s a route of diverse and often vicious topography – mountains, jungle, rivers and swamps, where carnivorous animals roam.

Some predators are humans.

Migrants are subject to violence, rape and robbery.

“For each of the different experiences, they’re going to be exposed to different types of trauma along the way,” Corbett said.

Illness and injury are common.

Migrants become more susceptible to severe infections and diseases, while





# Médicos y Refugios Conectan la Atención Médica para los Migrantes a lo Largo de la Frontera



Un médico examina a un migrante, trabajador de la construcción, que tiene una infección ocular y la mano izquierda herida. / A doctor examines a migrant, a construction worker who has an eye infection and an injured left hand. (Foto/Photo: Paula Soria/Cronkite News)

Por Ariana Araiza

Los migrantes que buscan una nueva tierra han viajado durante semanas y muchos kilómetros, algunos con niños pequeños y bebés, la mayoría con un aura de esperanza y fe en que el viaje valdrá la pena. Las enfermedades y dolencias con las que muchos llegan van de lo mundano a lo horrible.

Un niño pequeño con cáncer de huesos. Alguien que sufre una dura caída desde el muro fronterizo. Otros resfriados. Personas con ansiedad y depresión por haber sufrido robos o agresiones en su camino hacia la frontera.

“

*"Muchos tienen necesidades sanitarias muy acuciantes: en algunos casos, abordar el trauma de haberse caído literalmente del muro".*

*Dr. Glenn Fennelly*

Acuden a una clínica de El Paso, Texas, como el Centro de los Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizo, un edificio pequeño, de color marrón tierra, rodeado de casas unifamiliares y situado junto a una iglesia católica. Aquí, médicos voluntarios y otros profesionales de la salud atienden a los inmigrantes que necesitan atención médica.

Un inmigrante se sienta en la camilla. El médico habla con él en español y traduce la conversación a un estudiante de medicina que toma notas.

"Dice que su trabajo en la construcción en su país le dejó una infección

ocular. Pero lo que más le preocupa es que le duele la mano izquierda", dice el médico.

Un paciente más en un desbordamiento de necesidades.

Día tras día, una mezcla humanitaria de trabajadores médicos, de los refugios y del gobierno intenta ayudar a algunos de los miles de personas que llegan a esta ciudad de Texas, al otro lado de la frontera con su gemela municipal, Ciudad Juárez, en Chihuahua (México). Las autoridades de El Paso calculan que una media de 250 personas al día -hasta 1.000 durante las oleadas- llegan desde media docena de países, principalmente de Sudamérica. Es un escenario familiar que se repite en otros estados fronterizos y que las autoridades temen que aumente aún más tras expirar este mes la normativa estadounidense para frenar la marea. Quienes abogan por este tipo de ayuda aplauden los esfuerzos, pero afirman que no son suficientes; en concreto, no hay suficientes psicólogos ni terapeutas para tratar los daños emocionales y psicológicos del viaje de los migrantes. Incluso la ayuda que se ofrece está siendo asediada, ya que los conservadores y otras personas en conflicto con la inmigración intentan dificultar la prestación de ayuda.

Dylan Corbett, director ejecutivo fundador de Hope Border Institute, que gestiona una clínica en un refugio de México, dijo que los migrantes a menudo se encuentran con traumas.

"Algunas personas van a pasar por una serie de obstáculos, van a ser acosados por la policía, pueden ser vulnerables a las bandas, y muchas mujeres son objeto de abusos", dijo Corbett.

## Una marea de gente pidiendo ayuda

El flujo de migrantes que necesitan atención médica en los estados fronterizos de California, Arizona, Nuevo México y Texas es como una espita que no se cierra. Las cifras actuales son difíciles de conseguir, pero la Biblioteca Nacional de Medicina, en un estudio de 2022, estimó que de octubre de 2018 a febrero de 2020, los voluntarios proporcionaron atención de 15,736 y 19,236 veces, a un costo de entre 1.9 y 4.4 millones de dólares.

Los servicios para migrantes se han vuelto tan centrales en El Paso, una ciudad de mayoría hispana de casi 680,000 habitantes, que el gobierno de la ciudad dedica una página web a la "Crisis Migrante." Ofrece un panel de datos, sugerencias sobre cómo hacer donaciones y preguntas frecuentes sobre una situación en la que la gente "viene de todas partes del mundo huyendo de la devastación económica y la delincuencia extrema."

Soroush Omidvarnia, estudiante de segundo año de medicina en el Centro de Ciencias de la Salud de la Universidad Tecnológica de Texas en El Paso, emigró a Estados Unidos desde Irán en 2017 porque, como hombre gay, temía la violencia.

Omidvarnia dijo que eligió la facultad de medicina de la universidad específicamente porque podría ayudar a los migrantes. Él se relaciona con su necesidad de recursos y acceso a la atención.

"Esa interacción de persona a persona es una gran parte de esta clínica", dijo Omidvarnia. "El mero hecho de oír hablar de todas esas luchas por las que pasan es realmente personal".

Los migrantes pasan de unos días a unas semanas en la clínica de El Paso para tratar problemas graves, como diabetes o lesiones físicas, hasta que están listos para trasladarse a otras partes del país.

"Para nosotros es muy importante no sólo atender la afección que les trae hasta nosotros, sino también averiguar qué otras necesidades tienen", afirma Omidvarnia.

El Dr. Glenn Fennelly, catedrático de pediatría del centro de ciencias de la salud, dijo que los inmigrantes simplemente intentan buscar una forma de vida mejor y necesitan ayuda en el camino.

"Hay personas que se enfrentan a una barrera literal y figurada para llegar desde donde están tratando de escapar a un lugar donde ven mejores

oportunidades y una mayor seguridad", dijo Fennelly.

"Muchos tienen necesidades sanitarias muy acuciantes: en algunos casos, abordar el trauma de haberse caído literalmente del muro", añadió.

La ruta habitual que siguen los emigrantes desde Sudamérica pasa por el Paso del Darién, el cruce entre Colombia y Panamá. Es una ruta de topografía diversa y a menudo despiadada: montañas, selva, ríos y pantanos, donde deambulan animales carnívoros.

Algunos depredadores son humanos.

Los migrantes son objeto de violencia, violaciones y robos.

"Por cada una de las diferentes experiencias, van a estar expuestos a

Vea **Migrantes**, página 20



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# Statewide Gun Ban Demanded During Women-Led Sit-In at Colorado Capitol

COLORADO

By Sara Wilson

Hundreds of women gathered at the Colorado Capitol Monday, some arriving before sunrise, to demand a complete firearm ban and buyback program in the state.

They spread out on the Capitol lawn in camping chairs and on picnic blankets, reading, meeting one another and holding signs urging action to reduce firearm violence — many displaying the text “Here 4 The Kids,” the name of the national organization behind the effort.

“People say ‘It’s not guns, it’s people.’ Well, I would say that if I had a giant magnet today that could suck up all the guns in the city, there would be fewer dead people tomorrow,” said Edna Nichols, a retired high school English teacher who took the first train into Denver Monday morning to sit in.

Nichols, who described herself as a survivor of childhood gun violence, said she largely agrees with Here 4 The Kids’ ultimate goal: an executive order from Gov. Jared Polis banning guns, as

well as a statewide gun buyback program.

That proposed executive order would declare a state of emergency due to gun violence risk in the state and ban the use, loading, possession or carrying of any gun in the state, including for hunting and law enforcement. The buyback program would be administered by local sheriff offices and would attempt to reclaim every gun in the state.

Firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States, surpassing car accidents and other injuries. From 1999 to 2019, Denver and the surrounding metro area had more school shootings per 1 million people than any other large metro area. In 2021, 1,059 people died in Colorado from gun violence.

“The obsession over the Second Amendment is saying that the right to bear arms somehow trumps children’s right to life. That’s not a country with a soul,” said Here 4 The Kids co-founder Saira Rao told Newsline. “We’re doing what civil rights activists and heroes have done in the past, which is civil disobedience. We’re demanding our elected officials to save our children.”

Rao is a former lawyer, author and activist who ran unsuccessfully to replace U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette of Denver in the 2018 primary. She co-founded Here 4 The Kids with advocate and activist Tina Strawn.

On Monday, the women — though there were some men, children and dogs also present — gathered on the Capitol steps for 10 minutes of silence every hour and listened to the names of people who have died from gun violence.

Polis’ office said that, on constitutional and legal grounds, he would not sign the executive order.

“The Governor supports our Second Amendment right to bear arms and also shares the concerns about improving public safety including reducing gun violence, which is why the Governor is committed to making Colorado one of the top ten safest states,” his office said in a statement. “The Governor takes the weighty responsibility of executive action and the trust Coloradans placed in him to govern responsibly seriously, and will not issue an unconstitutional order that will be struck down in court simply to make a public



Demonstrators hold signs during a Here4TheKids gun violence prevention sit-in at the Colorado Capitol on June 5, 2023. / Manifestantes sostienen pancartas durante una sentada de prevención de la violencia armada Here4TheKids en el Capitolio de Colorado el 5 de junio de 2023. (Photo/Foto: Chloe Anderson for Colorado Newsline)

relations statement — he will continue to focus on real solutions to help make Colorado one of the ten safest states.”

Additionally, a buyback program would require action from state lawmakers and appropriated funds. The legislative session adjourned for the year in early May.

“Our elected officials have failed us. It’s intellectually dishonest for them to say they can’t (ban guns.) Of course they can. They abolished slavery. Women got the right to vote. Women got the right to an abortion and then lost it. We can do all sorts of things,” Rao said.

The abolishment of slavery and women’s suffrage were both achieved through constitutional amendment, which requires congressional action and approval from 38 states.

Polis, a Democrat, did sign a series of firearm regulations into law this year.

Last week, he signed a ban on unserialized firearms, also known as ghost guns, that can be assembled at home without a background check. The new laws also include a three-day waiting period to possess a gun after purchasing it and an increase of the minimum age to buy a gun to 21. A new law also expands eligible petitioners who can ask a judge to temporarily take away a potentially dangerous person’s firearm under the state’s extreme risk protection order statute. Doctors, educators and district attorneys are now among the people, in addition to law enforcement and household members, who can ask a judge to take that action. Another new law makes it easier for victims to sue gun manufacturers and dealers by removing a state liability protection for the industry.

A bill to ban so-called assault weapons died during its first committee hearing during the most recent legislative session.

“The piecemeal state legislation is not working,” Rao said.

## ‘They all need to go’

Barbara Harrell, a Denver-area human resource professional, heard about the sit-in through social media and sat near the Capitol reading Rao’s book on white women’s role in dismantling white supremacy.

Monday’s sit-in was a specific call to action for white women. Organizers say white women are privileged and less likely to be the target of law enforcement for showing civil disobe-

dience. Rao and Strawn are both women of color.

“I strongly believe that women of color have been on the front lines for so long. As a white woman, I had no excuse not to be here, so I canceled everything, I had to be here,” Harrell said.

She said her 3-year-old daughter went through her first lockdown drill this year when a person known to police was acting strangely around the school. She imagined her child in a closet with her classmates unaware, and without the right language, of what was going on. No student was harmed that day as a threat did not make it onto campus, but Harrell teared up imagining the horror of parents who lost their children to mass shootings.

“Obviously, kids dying isn’t enough for (a gun ban) to get passed through, so I don’t know what it’s going to take for guns to be outlawed in this country,” she said.

Danya Firestone, a dean in Denver Public Schools, sat on a plaid blanket, cheering on the honking cars passing on Lincoln Street. She said she does at least one daily search on students who have safety plans in place, similar to the student at East High School who shot two deans as they searched him in March. She said she has little to no training on how to respond if a student has a weapon, but the search is still part of her job.

“I don’t want to have to go to work every day thinking about that. I want to go to work thinking about kids and what I can do to give them the best chance of success when they leave high school. That’s my job,” she said. “My job isn’t to think about how to defend my students. It’s not thinking about what my exit strategy is. It’s not what I’m good at and not what I prepared for.”

Emily, a gifted and talented teacher from Littleton who preferred not to share her last name, feels the same. She said teachers and educators were put on the “front lines” of the gun violence crisis without their permission. The steps taken to strengthen school security and harden campuses to outside threats aren’t enough to eradicate the violence and place the responsibility on educators.

“We can put as many security locks on doors and systems in place as possible. But at the end of the day, whoever

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# Exigen la Prohibición de Armas en Todo el Estado Durante Una Sentada Liderada por Mujeres en el Capitolio de Colorado



Rhiannon Sergienko, a la izquierda, y Cassie Uhl sostienen una pancarta que dice "Prohibir las armas y recomprarlas" durante una sentada de prevención de la violencia armada Here4TheKids en el Capitolio de Colorado el 5 de junio de 2023. / Rhiannon Sergienko, left, and Cassie Uhl hold a banner that reads "Ban guns and buy them back" during a Here4TheKids gun violence prevention sit-in at the Colorado Capitol on June 5, 2023. (Foto/Photo: Chloe Anderson for Colorado Newswire)

## COLORADO

Por Sara Wilson

Cientos de mujeres se reunieron en el Capitolio de Colorado el lunes, algunas llegaron antes del amanecer, para exigir una prohibición total de las armas de fuego y un programa de recompra en el estado.

Se extendieron por el césped del Capitolio en sillas de camping y mantas de picnic, leyendo, reuniéndose y sosteniendo carteles que instaban a la acción para reducir la violencia con armas de fuego - muchos de ellos con el texto "Here 4 The Kids", el nombre de la organización nacional detrás del esfuerzo.

"La gente dice: 'No son las armas, son las personas'. Pues bien, yo diría que si hoy tuviera un imán gigante que pudiera aspirar todas las armas de la ciudad, mañana habría menos muertos", dijo Edna Nichols, una profesora de inglés jubilada de secundaria que tomó el primer tren a Denver el lunes por la mañana para sentarse.

Nichols, que se describe a sí misma como una superviviente de la violencia armada en la infancia, dijo que está de acuerdo en gran medida con el objetivo final de Here 4 The Kids: una orden ejecutiva del gobernador Jared Polis prohibiendo las armas, así como un programa estatal de recompra de armas.

Esa propuesta de orden ejecutiva declararía el estado de emergencia debido al riesgo de violencia con armas de fuego en el estado y prohibiría el uso, la carga, la posesión o la portación de cualquier arma en el estado, incluso para la caza y la aplicación de la ley. El programa de recompra sería administrado por las oficinas locales de los sheriffs e intentaría recuperar todas las armas del estado.

Las armas de fuego son la principal causa de muerte de niños y adolescentes en Estados Unidos, superando a los accidentes automovilísticos y otras lesiones. De 1999 a 2019, Denver y el área metropolitana circundante tuvieron más tiroteos escolares por cada millón de habitantes que cualquier otra gran área metropolitana. En 2021, 1.059 personas murieron en Colorado por violencia armada.

"La obsesión por la Segunda Enmienda está diciendo que el derecho a portar armas de alguna manera supera el derecho de los niños a la vida. Ese no es un país con alma", dijo a Newswire la cofundadora de Here 4 The Kids, Saira Rao. "Estamos haciendo lo que los activistas por los derechos civiles y los héroes han hecho en el pasado: desobediencia civil. Estamos exigiendo a nuestros funcionarios electos que salven a nuestros niños".

Rao es una ex abogada, autora y activista que se postuló sin éxito para reemplazar a la representante estadounidense Diana DeGette de Denver en las primarias de 2018. Ella cofundó Here 4 The Kids con la defensora y activista Tina Strawn.

El lunes, las mujeres -aunque también había algunos hombres, niños y perros- se reunieron en las escalinatas del Capitolio durante 10 minutos de silencio cada hora y escucharon los nombres de las personas que han muerto a causa de la violencia armada.

La oficina de Polis dijo que, por motivos constitucionales y legales, no firmaría la orden ejecutiva.

"El Gobernador apoya nuestro derecho de la Segunda Enmienda a portar armas y también comparte las preocupaciones sobre la mejora de la seguridad pública, incluyendo la reducción de la violencia armada, por lo que el Gobernador se ha comprometido a hacer de Colorado uno de los diez estados más seguros", dijo su oficina en

un comunicado. "El Gobernador toma en serio la pesada responsabilidad de la acción ejecutiva y la confianza que los habitantes de Colorado depositaron en él para gobernar de manera responsable, y no emitirá una orden inconstitucional que será anulada en los tribunales simplemente para hacer una declaración de relaciones públicas - seguirá centrándose en soluciones reales para ayudar a hacer de Colorado uno de los diez estados más seguros."

Además, un programa de recompra requeriría la acción de los legisladores estatales y fondos apropiados. La sesión legislativa se cerró a principios de mayo.

"Nuestros funcionarios electos nos han fallado. Es intelectualmente deshonroso que digan que no pueden (prohibir las armas). Abolieron la esclavitud. Las mujeres obtuvieron el derecho al voto. Las mujeres obtuvieron el derecho al aborto y luego lo perdieron. Podemos hacer todo tipo de cosas", afirmó Rao.

Tanto la abolición de la esclavitud como el sufragio femenino se consiguieron mediante una enmienda constitucional, que requiere la acción del Congreso y la aprobación de 38 estados.

Polis, demócrata, ha aprobado este año una serie de normas sobre armas de fuego.

La semana pasada, firmó la prohibición de las armas de fuego no serializadas, también conocidas como armas fantasma, que pueden montarse en casa sin necesidad de una comprobación de antecedentes. Las nuevas leyes también incluyen un periodo de espera de tres días para poseer un arma después de comprarla y un aumento de la edad mínima para comprar un arma a 21 años. La nueva ley también amplía los solicitantes que pueden pedir a un juez que retire temporalmente el arma de fuego a una persona potencialmente peligrosa en virtud del estatuto estatal de orden de protección de riesgo extremo. Médicos, educadores y fiscales de distrito se encuentran ahora entre las personas, además de las fuerzas del orden y los miembros del hogar, que pueden pedir a un juez que adopte esa medida. Otra nueva ley facilita a las víctimas demandar a los fabricantes y vendedores de armas al eliminar una protección estatal de responsabilidad civil para el sector.

Un proyecto de ley para prohibir las llamadas armas de asalto murió durante su primera audiencia en el comité durante la sesión legislativa más reciente.

"La legislación estatal fragmentaria no funciona", afirmó Rao.

### 'Todos deben desaparecer'

Barbara Harrell, una profesional de recursos humanos del área de Denver, se enteró de la sentada a través de las redes

sociales y se sentó cerca del Capitolio a leer el libro de Rao sobre el papel de las mujeres blancas en el desmantelamiento de la supremacía blanca.

La sentada del lunes fue una llamada específica a la acción para las mujeres blancas. Los organizadores afirman que las mujeres blancas son privilegiadas y tienen menos probabilidades de ser el blanco de las fuerzas del orden por mostrar desobediencia

civil. Rao y Strawn son mujeres de color.

"Creo firmemente que las mujeres de color han estado en primera línea durante mucho tiempo. Como mujer blanca, no tenía excusa para no estar aquí, así que lo cancelé todo, tenía que estar aquí", afirmó Harrell.

Dijo que su hija de 3 años vivió su primer simulacro de encierro este año cuando una persona conocida por la policía actuaba de forma extraña en el colegio. Se imaginó a su hija en un armario con sus compañeros de clase sin saber, y sin el lenguaje adecuado, lo que estaba ocurriendo. Ningún alumno resultó herido ese día, ya que la amenaza no llegó a entrar en el campus, pero Harrell lloró al imaginar el horror de

Vea **Prohibición**, página 16



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# A Panel Will Decide Whose Medicine to Make Affordable. Its Choice Will Be Tricky.

**COLORADO**

By Markian Hawryluk

Catherine Reitzel's multiple sclerosis medication costs nearly \$100,000 a year. Kris Garcia relies on a drug for a blood-clotting disorder that runs \$10,000 for a three-day supply. And Mariana Marquez-Farmer would likely die within days without her monthly \$300 vial of insulin.

At best, a Colorado panel of medical and pharmacy experts seeking to cut the costs of expensive drugs will be able to help only one of them.

Starting this summer, the state's Prescription Drug Affordability Board will choose up to 18 high-cost drugs for review over the next three years to determine if the medications are unaffordable and whether to cap what health plans and consumers pay for them.

But with hundreds of expensive drugs to choose from, the board members face tough decisions about who will get help now and who will have to wait.

Do they tackle drugs with extremely high costs taken by only a handful of

patients, or drugs with merely very high costs taken by a larger group? Should they consider only out-of-pocket costs paid by consumers, such as for insulin, whose copays Colorado caps at \$50 a month, or the total cost of the drug to

“*The reality is there's more people who are being affected by not being able to afford their insulin and a lot of people who are dying because of them rationing insulin.*”  
*Mariana Marquez-Farmer*

the health system? Will they weigh only drug prices, or will they try to right social wrongs with their choices?

And what does “affordable” even mean?

“That question alone is a lot harder to answer than it might seem at face value,” said Jennifer Reck, project director for the National Academy for State Health Policy's Center for State Prescription Drug Pricing. “You immediately get into how utterly complex our drug supply chain is, how opaque it

is, how many different prices there are,” she said.

Maryland was the first state to establish a drug affordability board in 2019, but funding challenges and the pandemic have slowed its progress. Colorado passed a bill creating its board in 2021 and has already moved ahead of Maryland in the process. Washington followed in 2022 but is still in its early phases of implementation.

Maine, New Hampshire, Ohio, and Oregon have also established boards, but they lack the power to limit drug payments. And at the federal level, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 included a provision requiring the Health and Human Services secretary to negotiate prices with drug companies for a small number of the most costly medications covered by Medicare.

It's taken years for the Colorado and Maryland board members to create all the rules and regulations to govern their work before getting to the point of looking at specific drugs.

“It's just a long, tortuous government process to get things up and running,” said Gerard Anderson, a professor of health policy and management at Johns Hopkins University, and a member of Maryland's board. “You basically



A Colorado panel of medical and pharmacy experts seeking to cut the costs of expensive drugs will be able to help only one of them. (Photo: Adobe Stock)

have to dot every ‘i’ and cross every ‘t’ in order not to get sued.”

**Setting Priorities**

On May 12, Colorado released its first list of hundreds of drugs eligible for review, mostly because they each cost more than \$30,000 for a course of treatment. Next month, they'll release a dashboard ranking those drugs according to the board's priorities. The dashboard can also be used to examine which drugs have the highest price tags, which have had the largest increases in price, and which the state spends the most on. That would allow the board to begin affordability reviews this summer and set payment limits for the first four to eight drugs sometime in 2024. But board members will first have to set their priorities, and those could change from year to year.

“Maybe one year we focus on the impact to the system, and another year we focus on out-of-pocket costs, and one year we focus on a lifesaving drug that has smaller utilization,” said Lila Cummings, director of the Colorado board.

Such approaches could pit one group of patients against others looking for cost relief. But Cummings said not all groups are eager to see payment limits.

“Some of them said, ‘We want the board to focus on our drugs,’ and others said, ‘Please leave us alone,’” she said.

That reluctance likely reflects the close ties that some patient groups have with the manufacturers of their medications, including receiving funding from the drugmakers.

“We have seen cases in public hearings — it seems counterintuitive or surprising — where a patient group, instead of being thrilled that they might have access to the drugs at a lower price, instead are arguing against upper payment limits,” Reck said. “But in most cases, there's a pretty clear financial connection to drug manufacturers.”

Maryland has also received input from patient groups as it finalizes its regulations.

“So far it has not been, ‘Pick me! Pick me! Pick me!’” Anderson said. But that could change once the Maryland board begins its affordability reviews this fall.

The drug that Garcia, 47, of Denver, takes did not make the board's list. Diagnosed with four bleeding disorders, including von Willebrand disease, he needs the medication Humate-P, made by CSL Behring, to replace one of the clotting factors missing in his blood. This winter, driving home from his job at the airport, Garcia hit a patch of black ice, spun out, and careened into a concrete barrier at 75 mph. He needed the expensive medication every day for the first five days after the accident, and then every other day for a full month.

“It's not like I can just sit there and say no to this medication, because my bloods get so bad,” he said.

According to Perry Jowsey, executive director of the National Hemophilia Foundation's Colorado chapter, about 300 to 400 individuals are be-

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.

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# Marriagepalooza

6.10.23



Want to tie the knot with your significant other this June?  
Consider joining the Adams County Clerk & Recorder for the  
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This event is brought to you by Adams County Clerk & Recorder Josh Zygielbaum.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 10 | 2 P.M.**

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#### TO PARTICIPATE:

- Marriage and/or civil union licenses must be purchased at the Adams County Clerk & Recorder's Office between May 9 and June 9, 2023. No appointment is necessary for this time period. Marriage and civil union licenses will not be provided at the park.
- Complete the marriage license application then stop by the Recording Department (address below) to receive your exclusive, limited-edition marriage license to be used at the ceremony.
- Once you've been issued a license, you will be registered to attend the mass ceremony.
- Couples must be checked in by 1:30 p.m., and the ceremony begins promptly at 2 p.m.
- All couples are welcome.

For more information, visit [adco.gov/marriagepalooza](https://adco.gov/marriagepalooza),  
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ADAMS COUNTY  
COLORADO



# Internships Provide Paid Opportunities for New Mexico Youth

## NEW MÉXICO

For the third summer in a row, the New Mexico Public Education Department is proud to share an opportunity for high school students across the state to learn on the job – and receive a paycheck.

Overseen by the College and Career Readiness Bureau, the 2023 Summer Enrichment Internship program is taking place in 30 government and tribal entities across the state. Earlier this year, the New Mexico Legislature approved \$8 million for the initiative.

In 2022, the paid internships grew by 60% over the previous year. More than 500 community members hosted

2,100 high school and at-risk interns. The students spent up to 30 hours per week for six to 10 weeks with government agencies and community organizations, including county, tribal and municipal placements. Initial interest this spring likely means the program will continue to blossom this summer.

“This is the ideal time to engage our youth in these types of summer opportunities, helping them see how their education can lead them down career paths they never considered before,” said PED Secretary Arsenio Romero.

In Sandoval County, all 20 of its intern positions are filled already. The third summer in the program, types of

jobs available will vary from office settings to outdoors.

“This is a great opportunity for our youth, because it allows them to gain the hands-on experience they will need in the workforce, meaning that they are learning to communicate and work as a team when needed,” said Ana T. Chávez, Sandoval County Human Resources analyst. “This also allows them to stay active and motivated throughout the summer while earning some money.”

To the south in Valencia County, officials anticipate 40 interns this summer, doing administrative and clerical assistance jobs in various departments. Some will distribute meals to seniors



The New Mexico Public Education Department is offering paid internships for high school students. / El Departamento de Educación Pública de Nuevo México ofrece prácticas remuneradas para estudiantes de secundaria. (Photo/Foto: Courtesy of Doña Ana County.)

while others will walk dogs and interact with the public.

See [Internships](#) on page 18

# Trabajadores de la Primera Infancia y Padres Abogan por Mejores Salarios y Cuidado Infantil Asequible

## NEW MÉXICO

Por tercer verano consecutivo, el Departamento de Educación Pública de Nuevo México se enorgullece de compartir una oportunidad para que los estudiantes de secundaria de todo el estado aprendan mientras trabajan y además reciban un pago.

Supervisado por la Oficina de preparación universitaria y profesional, el programa de pasantías de enriquec-

imiento de verano de 2023 se lleva a cabo en 30 entidades gubernamentales y tribales en todo el estado. A principios de este año, la Legislatura de Nuevo México aprobó \$8 millones para esta iniciativa.

En 2022, las prácticas remuneradas crecieron un 60% respecto al año anterior. Más de 500 miembros de la comunidad acogieron a 2100 pasantes de secundaria y en riesgo. Los estudiantes pasaron hasta 30 horas

por semana durante seis a 10 semanas con agencias gubernamentales y organizaciones comunitarias, incluidas ubicaciones en condados, tribus y municipios. El interés inicial de esta primavera probablemente signifique que el programa continuará floreciendo este verano.

“Este es el momento ideal para involucrar a nuestros jóvenes en este tipo

Vea [Pasantías](#), página 17



Los estudiantes de secundaria pueden ganar hasta 3.000 dólares durante el verano a través de un programa de prácticas. / High school students can earn up to \$3,000 for the summer through an internship program. (Foto/Photo: Courtesy of Doña Ana County.)

# Legislative Town Hall

6.21.23 | 6:30PM - 8PM

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# Attorney General Raúl Torrez Files Lawsuit Against Major Manufacturing Companies

Attorney General Raúl Torrez announced the filing of a lawsuit against twenty-one chemical manufacturing companies, including 3M and DuPont, for contaminating our state’s natural resources and jeopardizing public health by manufacturing and distributing polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).



New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez (Photo: Office AG Torrez)

“I will not permit our air and water to be polluted or public health to be jeopardized by corporations who care more about quarterly profits than the well-being of our communities.”  
Attorney General Raúl Torrez

Developed in the 1940s, PFAS chemicals have been widely used for

See [PFAS](#) on page 18



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shower

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**REGISTER:**

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[nmeccd.org/babyshowers](https://nmeccd.org/babyshowers)



Medicine

ing treated for von Willebrand disease in Colorado. That's far fewer than the roughly 10,000 Coloradans with MS or the 74,000 who manage their diabetes with insulin.

"In my shoes, I would target what would help the most people," Garcia said. "You have to find a balance, especially starting out. You're not going to be able to help everyone."

The Colorado and Maryland boards will rely on data from state databases that show how much various public and private health plans pay for drugs. That data, however, doesn't capture what uninsured patients pay, and it doesn't give any insight into how much manufacturers pay for research and development.

"The goal is not to stifle innovation," Anderson said. "But we can't get any public data, so we have to ask the pharmaceutical industry, and they're not required to give us the data."

The boards want to ensure that patients like Reitzel still have access to new and better therapies. Reitzel, 38, of Highlands Ranch, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2008 and has switched medications several times seeking one whose side effects she could tolerate. "They're all terrible in their own special way," she said.

In 2021, she began taking a relatively new drug from Biogen and Alkermes called Vumerity, which was included on Colorado's list of eligible drugs. But the cost of a three-month supply was

nearly \$24,000, including a copay of more than \$7,000. Biogen provides up to \$20,000 in annual copay assistance through a debit card she can use at the pharmacy. But now her health plan no longer credits those payments toward her deductible. It makes it almost impossible for her to meet the \$25,000 out-of-pocket maximum under her plan.

"Primarily for this reason, I am no longer taking any medication," Reitzel said, "and have to only hope my disease does not progress."

Colorado legislators passed a bill to require health plans to count copay assistance programs toward patients' deductibles for drugs with no generic equivalents, but that provision does not take effect until 2025.

**Insulin as an Outlier?**

Just a couple of years ago, insulin may have been a higher priority for drug affordability boards, but now it's not so clear. Both Colorado and Maryland have established insulin copay caps that provide pocketbook relief, at least for patients with coverage. And manufacturers are making their own moves to lower insulin prices. That could prompt the boards to bypass insulin and concentrate their limited resources on other high-cost drugs.

Copay caps do not lower the actual cost of insulin but instead spread it among members of the health plan through higher premiums. The Colorado copay caps don't help new state

residents and initially did not help those without insurance, either. Both of those hurdles would have applied to Marquez-Farmer when she moved from California to Colorado Springs a couple of years ago.

"I got married to my husband during covid because I didn't have insurance," she said. "I loved him, and it all worked out, but a big reason for me to marry him was because I would not be able to afford insulin."

Marquez-Farmer, 34, said that while insulin may not be the most expensive drug on the market, many Coloradans, particularly those from marginalized communities who have higher rates of diabetes, struggle to afford it.

"I'm not saying the other medicines are not important, because obviously they are," she said. "The reality is there's more people who are being affected by not being able to afford their insulin and a lot of people who are dying because of them rationing insulin."

Andrew York, executive director of the Maryland board, said the payment limits should be viewed as a last resort, a tool that can be used when other cost-control measures haven't worked.

"The goal is for folks to never be able to say that they can't afford their insulin. And I think we may get there soon enough just because of how much is happening in that space," he said. "So if that's the case, then maybe boards don't need to use the upper payment limit tool."

At least one form of insulin was included on Colorado's list of drugs eligible for review, but not the most commonly taken brand-name insulins. That precludes the Colorado board from addressing insulin costs more broadly.

The pharmaceutical industry has pushed back against the concept of payment limits, warning that drug-makers could pull out of states that set payment limits.

"The boards are acutely aware of this discussion point. The interest and the purpose of these boards is to increase access to the drugs, not decrease it," York said. "But there's kind of this game theory element of: How will manufacturers react?"

Reck discounted the notion that a payment limit would prompt a manufacturer to abandon a profitable market.

"Unfortunately, it's kind of a scary message and it can be impactful on patients," she said.

*Markian Hawryluk Senior Colorado Correspondent for KFF Health News. This story was produced by KFF Health News, a national newsroom that produces in-depth journalism on health issues and is one of the principal operating programs of KFF, the independent source for health policy research, polling and journalism.*

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Prohibición

los padres que perdieron a sus hijos en tiroteos masivos.

"Obviamente, que mueran niños no es suficiente para que se apruebe (una prohibición de armas), así que no sé qué hará falta para que se ilegalicen las armas en este país", dijo.

Danya Firestone, decana de las escuelas públicas de Denver, se sentó en una manta de cuadros, animando a los coches que tocaban el claxon al pasar por la calle Lincoln. Dijo que realiza al menos un registro diario de los estudiantes que tienen planes de seguridad, similar al del estudiante del East High School que disparó a dos decanos mientras le registraban en marzo. Ella dijo que tiene poco o ningún entrenamiento sobre cómo responder si un estudiante tiene un arma, pero la búsqueda sigue siendo parte de su trabajo.

"No quiero tener que ir a trabajar todos los días pensando en eso. Quiero ir a trabajar pensando en los niños y en lo que puedo hacer para darles la mejor oportunidad de éxito cuando salgan del instituto. Ese es mi trabajo", dijo. "Mi trabajo no es pensar en cómo defender a mis alumnos. No es pensar en cuál es mi estrategia de salida. No es lo que se me da bien y no es para lo que me preparé".

Emily, una profesora de superdotación y talento de Littleton que prefirió no compartir su apellido, piensa lo mismo. Dijo que a los profesores y edu-

cadores se les puso en la "primera línea" de la crisis de la violencia armada sin su permiso. Las medidas adoptadas para reforzar la seguridad en las escuelas y endurecer los campus ante amenazas externas no bastan para erradicar la violencia y hacen recaer la responsabilidad en los educadores.

"Podemos poner tantos cierres de seguridad en las puertas y sistemas como sea posible. Pero al fin y al cabo, quien quiera pasar con cualquier tipo de arma -especialmente una que pueda matar a varios profesores y alumnos a la vez- seguirá siendo un problema", afirmó.

"Podemos hacer referencia a muchos otros países que no viven de esta manera", dijo. "No parece tan agresivo prohibir las armas, porque otras sociedades ciertamente viven sin ellas y prosperan sin ellas y siguen teniendo una sensación de seguridad".

Caitlynn Davis, que se sentó con Firestone, dijo que una prohibición total de armas tiene sentido para ella, porque la violencia armada es más que tiroteos masivos con un arma de asalto. Señaló los casos de violencia doméstica y la prevalencia de las armas cortas en esos casos.

"Creo que prohibir todas las armas elimina el matiz de qué arma mata a qué persona", dijo. "Todas matan a personas y todas deben desaparecer".

*Sara Wilson es periodista de Colorado Newsline. Este artículo fue publicada originalmente por Colorado Newsline.*

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

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COLORADO Department of Human Services



## Pasantías

de oportunidades de verano, ayudándolos a ver cómo su educación puede llevarlos por caminos profesionales que nunca antes consideraron”, dijo el secretario de PED, Arsenio Romero.

En el condado de Sandoval, los 20 puestos de pasantía ya están ocupados. En el tercer verano del programa, los tipos de trabajos disponibles variarán desde entornos de oficina hasta exteriores.

“Esta es una gran oportunidad para nuestros jóvenes, porque les permite obtener la experiencia práctica que necesitarán en la fuerza laboral, lo que significa que están aprendiendo a comunicarse y trabajar en equipo cuando sea necesario”, dijo Ana T. Chavez, Analista de recursos humanos del condado de Sandoval. “Esto también les permite mantenerse activos y motivados durante todo el verano mientras ganan algo de dinero”.

Al sur, en el condado de Valencia, los funcionarios anticipan 40 pasantes este verano, realizando trabajos de asistencia administrativa y de oficina en varios departamentos. Algunos distribuirán comidas a personas mayores, mientras que otros pasearán perros e interactuarán con el público.

“Esta es una gran oportunidad para exponer a los jóvenes el funcionamiento del gobierno local y mostrar las ‘habilidades blandas’ que se necesitan para servir de manera efectiva a los electores, al mismo tiempo que obtienen capacitaciones y certificaciones que pueden acompañarlos durante toda su carrera”, dijo Jeremias Silva, Valencia. Director de subvenciones del condado.

Aún más al sur, en el condado de Doña Ana, donde el programa se ha arraigado desde que comenzó en 2021, los jóvenes son considerados empleados del condado y están cubiertos por compensación y seguro de trabajadores. Pueden ganar hasta \$3,000 durante el verano haciendo cosas como trabajar en oficinas, agricultura, hospitales, servicios de animales, empresas de transporte, restaurantes y catering, y entornos sin fines de lucro.

Como se indica en el [sitio web del condado](#), a partir de esta semana, los estudiantes se ubicarán en función de sus “intereses y necesidades de la organización”. Es probable que el condado tenga más de 1900 pasantes.

“A través de este programa de pasantías de enriquecimiento, los jóvenes del condado de Doña Ana y de todo Nuevo México tienen la oportunidad de aprender, crecer y desarrollar sus habilidades junto con profesionales de la industria y adquirir experiencia que los beneficiará a lo largo de sus carreras académicas y profesionales”, dijo la Junta de Comisionados del Condado. Presidenta Susana Chaparro.

Para obtener más información sobre el Programa de pasantías de enriquecimiento de verano, [haga clic aquí y aquí](#).

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

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## Ban

wants to walk by with any sort of weapon — especially one that can take out multiple teachers and students at a time — that’s going to still be a problem,” she said.

“We can reference so many other countries that don’t live this way,” she said. “It doesn’t seem that aggressive to ban weapons, because other societies certainly live without them and thrive without them and still have a sense of safety.”

Caitlynn Davis, who sat with Firestone, said that a total gun ban makes sense to her, because gun violence is more than mass shootings with an assault-style weapon. She pointed to instances of domestic violence and the prevalence of handguns in those cases.

“I think banning all guns takes away the nuance of what gun is killing what person,” she said. “They are all killing people and they all need to go.”

Sara Wilson is a Reporter with Colorado Newslite. This article is republished from Colorado Newslite under a Creative Commons license.

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## Mills

The sequel to “Into the Spider-Verse” is sure to make viewers of color in the U.S. cheer. As Latino media scholar [Isabel Molina-Guzmán](#) argues, while race complicates Hollywood casting and writing, Black and Latino viewers reacted very positively to Morales. But she insists that the movie also invites longtime fans and audiences of all backgrounds “to stand in Miles Morales’s space” and root for the mixed-race teen trying to save the world.

To me, that’s what makes superhero films starring characters of color so compelling. These characters are, in many senses, outcasts searching for community — in their real lives and in costume.

As Frank, the comics scholar, notes, these differences can lead to feelings of alienation.

But they can also be a source of empowerment.

Regina Marie Mills, Assistant Professor of Latinx and U.S. Multi-Ethnic Literature, Texas A&M University. This commentary is republished from *The Conversation* under a Creative Commons license.

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PFAS

decades in a wide variety of water- and grease-proof products like nonstick cookware, carpets, clothing, and outdoor gear. Because of that, they are ubiquitous, commonly found in the environment and in the blood of nearly all Americans.

Known as “forever chemicals,” PFAS are mostly known for their resistance to oil, heat, water and other elements. PFAS have contaminated our air, soil, surface water, groundwater, drinking water, wetlands and other natural resources. Once PFAS are introduced into our environment, they quickly spread and easily dissolve into our water systems, making them extremely difficult and expensive to remove. PFAS has also been scientifically

proven to increase the risk of liver damage, thyroid disease, obesity, infertility and cancer.

The twenty-one defendants named in the lawsuit filed by Attorney General Torrez have all contributed to the contamination of New Mexico’s environment through their continued production and distribution of PFAS. They have continued to manufacture these deadly chemicals despite knowing for decades that these substances pose a significant risk to human health.

“I will not permit our air and water to be polluted or public health to be jeopardized by corporations who care more about quarterly profits than the well-being of our communities,” said AG Torrez. “This lawsuit will change

the way large companies do business in our state—they need to know that we are watching and will fight to protect New Mexicans and our natural resources.”

The defendants knowingly marketed and advertised their products, aware that they would harm human health and the environment. The defendants concealed the harmful side effects of their products containing PFAS and publicly contradicted the risks to gain enormous profits. In addition to their intentional deceptiveness, manufacturers never advised their customers how to properly dispose of PFAS, resulting in the product being stockpiled at some of the known contaminated sites in New Mexico.

The effect of PFAS is put into context as their impact on the Highland Dairy in Clovis resulted in the euthanization of their entire herd (3,665 cows) because their milk was contaminated as a result of the PFAS that they had

ingested. The estimated loss of revenue and increased expenses was nearly 6 million dollars.

“PFAS manufacturers profited at the expense of the health of New Mexicans for decades,” said New Mexico Environment Cabinet Secretary James Kenney. “This lawsuit aims to stop the ongoing damage to the people, environment, and economy of our state while holding those who reaped the financial rewards of this contamination accountable.”

“PFAS chemicals are not called ‘forever chemicals’ for nothing. They do not degrade, these poisons are everywhere in our environment, even in our bodies. The suit by Attorney General Torrez and Cabinet Secretary Kenney is an important step to forcing companies to reign in the use of these chemicals and find alternatives,” said Camilla Feibelman, Director of the Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter.

“New Mexico’s air, land, waters, wildlife, and communities are regularly—and knowingly—assaulted by toxic pollution from oil and gas production, mining, weapons production, and commercial activities like dry cleaning,” said Conservation Voters New Mexico Executive Director Demis Foster. “We applaud the Attorney General for taking on this tough but necessary fight to hold PFAS manufacturers accountable for the damage these insidious chemicals have caused and will continue to cause.”

The lawsuit is alleging public nuisance, negligence, products liability, violations of the unfair practices act and other claims. The state is seeking for defendants to pay all costs associated with the cleanup and treatment of our natural resources.

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Hastings y Torres/Esp

el Estados Unidos incluyente y compasivo en que se estaba convirtiendo esta nación incluso antes de la lucha por los derechos civiles en el siglo pasado. La batalla por el Título 42 plasmó que los solicitantes de asilo tampoco son bienvenidos, y aunque los republicanos dicen amar la “legalidad” parece tenerles sin cuidado que en la nación haya 11 millones de indocumentados realizando trabajos esenciales, sin que haya una luz al final del túnel para lograr su regularización.

Si algo es evidente es que en la campaña presidencial de 2024 los republicanos, sin más recursos políticos de verdadera trascendencia histórica por el bien común, enfilan sus cañones una vez más contra su objetivo favorito: los inmigrantes.

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

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Chelala

But does war only produce negative effects? What we see now in Ukraine is that the Russian aggression against people of all ages—both soldiers and civilians—has produced millions of displaced people, but it has also given rise to the solidarity of Ukraine’s neighbors, who at high personal and social cost have provided refuge to tens of thousands of families fleeing the war.

Ukrainian women of all ages have also taken up arms to defend their country from Russian aggression. Currently, more than 60,000 Ukrainian women serve in the military, while tens of thousands more are helping their country as journalists, paramedics, teachers, and politicians. At the same time they continue being the center of support for their families. Because men are on the front lines, women must keep hospitals, schools and even villages themselves in operation, often without basic supplies.

Although these actions are an example of the best of the human spirit, they do not erase the harrowing cruelty of war.

Dr. Cesar Chelala is an international public health consultant, co-winner of an Overseas Press Club of America award and two national journalism awards from Argentina. This commentary is republished from *Common Dreams* under a Creative Commons license.

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Internships

“This is a great opportunity to expose youth to the workings of local government and show the ‘soft skills’ that are needed to effectively serve constituents, while also obtaining trainings and certification that can follow them their entire career,” said Jeremias Silva, Valencia County Grants Director.

Still further south in Doña Ana County, where the program has taken root since it started in 2021, young people are considered county employees and are covered by workers’ compensation and insurance. They can earn up to \$3,000 for the summer doing such things as working in offices, agriculture, hospitals, animal services, transportation companies, restaurants and catering, and non-profit settings.

Noted on the county’s website, starting this week, students are being placed based on their “interests and the needs of the organization.” The county will likely have more than 1,900 interns.

“Through this enrichment internship program, youth in Doña Ana County and across New Mexico have the opportunity to learn, grow and develop their skills alongside industry professionals and gain experience that will benefit them throughout their academic and professional careers,” said Board of County Commissioners Chair Susana Chaparro.

For more information about the Summer Enrichment Internship Program, [click here](#) and [here](#).

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## Migrants



Soroush Omidvarnia, a second-year medical student at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, is an immigrant from Iran who said he relates to migrants' need for resources and care. / Soroush Omidvarnia, estudiante de segundo curso de medicina en el Centro de Ciencias de la Salud de la Universidad Tecnológica de Texas en El Paso, es un inmigrante iraní que dice sentirse identificado con la necesidad de recursos y atención que tienen los inmigrantes. (Photo/Foto: Paula Soria/Cronkite News)



Diana Ureña, a migrant from Ecuador, said her family's journey to the U.S. started when gangs demanded money. But the family didn't have any. Fear of being murdered sent the family through the Darien Gap. / Diana Ureña, emigrante ecuatoriana, cuenta que el viaje de su familia a Estados Unidos empezó cuando las bandas le exigieron dinero. Pero la familia no tenía. El miedo a ser asesinados hizo que la familia atravesara el Darien Gap. (Photo/Foto: Paula Soria/Cronkite News)

others travel thousands of miles without daily medications.

"Many have walked in shoes that don't have proper soles. They have cactus needles in their feet," Fennelly said. "Worst-case scenario, individuals choose to try to climb over the wall and they fall off and that ends badly. There is nothing to absorb that impact other than the hard ground."

The health crisis was growing as early as 2019, according to a [Harvard Global Health Institute](#) study that year, with undiagnosed or untreated diseases and frayed mental health the norm.

"By the time asylum seekers arrive at the border, many have already faced

traumatic experiences in their home country and during their journeys." the study said. "The living environment makes migrants vulnerable to new infections and violence and exacerbates existing health conditions. Inaccessible housing forces asylum seekers into overcrowded shelters, rented rooms, or tent encampments, which often lack sufficient access to basic sanitation, putting asylum seekers at risk for infectious diseases."

#### Shelter after a grueling journey

Another El Paso shelter that was once home to U.S. citizens who experienced homelessness opened its doors in August to migrants.

The Centro de los Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizos sits just a few blocks from the border wall, facing Ciudad Juárez.

The signs of a 60-mile trail through jungle and mountains scatter around the white walls of shelter. Blankets serve as makeshift beds on the floor, with dirt-marked backpacks and shoes tucked nearby.

One family huddled in a corner, laughing and smiling as a newborn baby sleeps. A daughter rubs her father's feet.

Diana Ureña, a migrant from Ecuador, said her family's journey to the U.S. started when gangs demanded money that their family

didn't have. Fear of being murdered sent the family through the Darién Gap.

Ureña, her husband and six children fled shortly after she gave birth to a son, now 1 month old. They brought only belongings they could stuff into a few backpacks and duffel bags. She sat on a bench, speaking in Spanish about her journey.

"Can you imagine living through that, in the jungle one sees dead people, one sees everything," Ureña said. "There are girls they rape, so one comes with that fear the whole journey. I have my 13-year-old daughter, imagine that, it's horrible."

The trip took two months and they were robbed twice, leaving them with little money.

"A lot happened because everything happens to you on the way, arriving in Juárez I couldn't take it anymore, I had a lot of anxiety," Ureña said. "Then in Ciudad Juárez, I was anxious, I wanted to scream, I didn't even know what I had."

Another migrant, Solangi Uscategi, traveled with her husband and her two children from Colombia.

"There were agents who were abusive, they touched you, they groped you to see if you had money," Uscategi said in Spanish. "The way you felt, it felt horrible, obviously. It didn't feel well."

#### Help provided on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border

Texas Tech's volunteer doctors and those who run shelters like the one in El Paso and the Hope Institute in Ciudad Juárez, work to treat migrants on both sides of the border. Some leaders feel a moral obligation to step in to supplement a system where the government either can't, or won't, step in.

Some organizations are just getting started.

Hope Border Institute opened its clinic in September, inside one of the largest Mexican shelters in Ciudad Juárez.

The clinic is largely staffed by El Paso doctors and psychologists who volunteer their time to drive into the border city on Saturday mornings.

One day in April, Corbett teared up when asked why he does this work, thinking of the trauma he's witnessed.

"The burden falls on civil society and community organizations to stand up because this is a population that's largely been forgotten by our governments," Corbett said.

Fennelly said one small solution is a three-way collaboration with Texas Tech El Paso, Doctors of the World, and Annunciation House that created the [Border Health Program](#). Volunteer doctors and students offer free exams and other medical attention at

See [Migrants1](#) on page 21

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Migrantes



El Dr. Glenn Fennelly, catedrático de pediatría del Centro de Ciencias de la Salud de la Universidad Tecnológica de Texas en El Paso, dijo que muchos migrantes "tienen necesidades de atención sanitaria muy acuciantes: en ciertos casos, abordar el trauma de haberse caído literalmente del muro." / Dr. Glenn Fennelly, who chairs pediatrics at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, said many migrants "have very pressing health-care needs - in certain instances, addressing the trauma of literally falling off the wall." (Foto/Photo: Paula Soria/Cronkite News)

diferentes tipos de trauma a lo largo del camino", dijo Corbett.

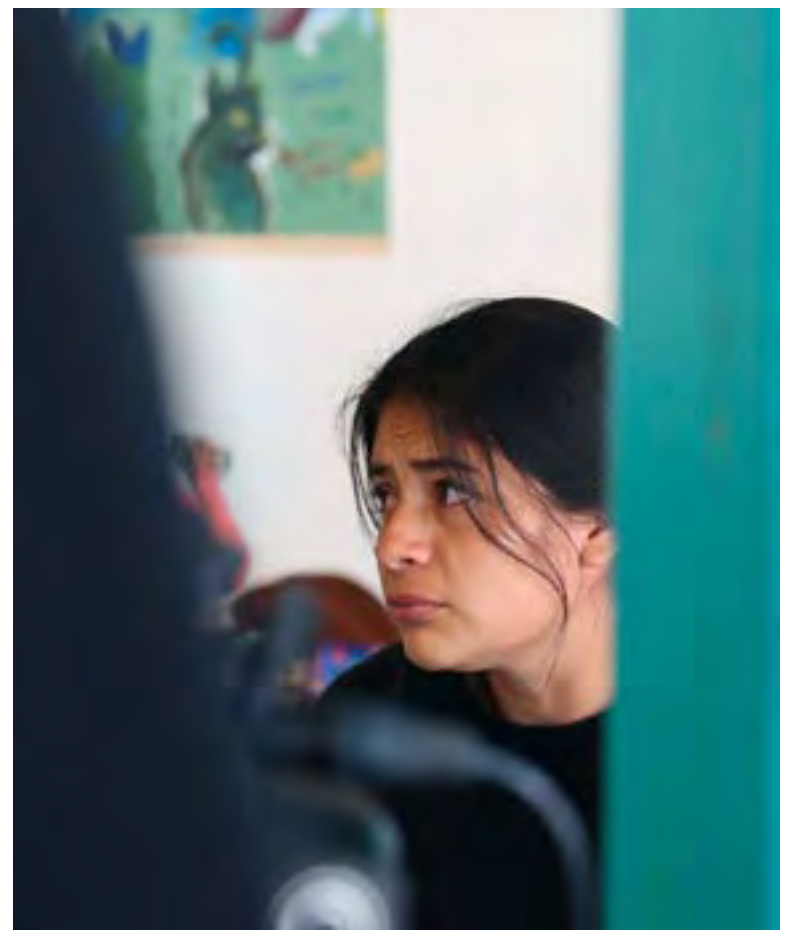
Las enfermedades y lesiones son frecuentes.

Los migrantes se vuelven más susceptibles a infecciones y enfermedades graves, mientras que otros viajan miles de kilómetros sin medicamentos diarios.

"Muchos han caminado con zapatos que no tienen suelas adecuadas. Tienen agujas de cactus en los pies", explica Fennelly. "En el peor de los casos, los individuos deciden intentar trepar por el muro y se caen y eso acaba mal. No hay nada que absorba ese impacto aparte del duro suelo".

La crisis sanitaria crecía ya en 2019, según un estudio del Harvard Global Health Institute de ese año, con enfermedades no diagnosticadas o no tratadas y una salud mental deteriorada como norma.

"Cuando los solicitantes de asilo llegan a la frontera, muchos ya se han



Solangi Uscategi viajó con su marido y sus dos hijos desde Colombia. "Había agentes que eran abusivos, te tocaban, te manoseaban para ver si tenías dinero", dijo Uscategi. / Solangi Uscategi traveled with her husband and her two children from Colombia. "There were agents who were abusive, they touched you, they groped you to see if you had money," said Uscategi. (Foto/Photo: Paula Soria/Cronkite News)

enfrentado a experiencias traumáticas en su país de origen y durante sus viajes", decía el estudio. "El entorno en el que viven hace que los migrantes sean vulnerables a nuevas infecciones y a la violencia, y agrava los problemas de salud ya existentes. Las viviendas inaccesibles obligan a los solicitantes de asilo a alojarse en refugios superpoblados, habitaciones alquiladas o campamentos de tiendas de campaña, que a menudo carecen de acceso suficiente a servicios básicos de saneamiento, lo que expone a los solicitantes de asilo al riesgo de contraer enfermedades infecciosas."

**Refugio tras un penoso viaje**

Otro refugio de El Paso que antes albergaba a ciudadanos estadounidenses sin hogar abrió sus puertas en agosto a los migrantes.

El Centro de los Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizos se encuentra a pocas manzanas del muro fronterizo, frente a Ciudad Juárez.

Las señales de un camino de 100 kilómetros a través de la selva y las montañas se esparcen alrededor de las blancas paredes del refugio. Las mantas sirven de camas improvisadas en el suelo, con mochilas y zapatos sucios cerca.

Una familia se acurruca en un rincón, riendo y sonriendo mientras duerme un recién nacido. Una hija frota los pies de su padre.

Diana Ureña, emigrante ecuatoriana, cuenta que el viaje de su familia a Estados Unidos comenzó cuando las bandas les exigieron un dinero que no tenían. El miedo a ser asesinados hizo

que la familia atravesara el paso del Darién.

Ureña, su marido y sus seis hijos huyeron poco después de que ella diera a luz a un niño, que ahora tiene un mes. Sólo llevaban las pertenencias que podían meter en unas pocas mochilas y bolsas de lona. Sentada en un banco, habla en español sobre su viaje.

"Te imaginas vivir eso, en la selva uno ve muertos, ve de todo", dijo Ureña. "Hay niñas que violan, entonces uno viene con ese miedo todo el viaje. Yo tengo a mi hija de 13 años, imagínate, es horrible".

El viaje duró dos meses y sufrieron dos robos que les dejaron con poco dinero.

"Pasaron muchas cosas porque todo te pasa en el camino, llegando a Juárez ya no podía más, tenía mucha ansiedad", dijo Ureña. "Luego en Ciudad Juárez, estaba angustiada, quería gritar, no sabía ni lo que tenía".

Otra migrante, Solangi Uscategi, viajó con su marido y sus dos hijos desde Colombia.

"Había agentes que eran abusivos, te tocaban, te manoseaban para ver si tenías dinero", dijo Uscategi en español. "Lo que sentías era horrible, obviamente. No te sentías bien".

**Ayuda a ambos lados de la frontera entre EE.UU. y México**

Los médicos voluntarios de Texas Tech y los que dirigen albergues como el de El Paso y el Instituto Esperanza de Ciudad Juárez, trabajan para tratar a los migrantes a ambos lados de la frontera.



Migrants

the El Paso clinic, which opened in January.

Although experts applaud the efforts, they say it is not enough – in particular, there aren't enough psychologists or therapists to treat migrants' emotional and psychological damage.

"The amount of people requiring mental-health services has gone up," Corbett said. "People just need psychological assistance, they need therapy."

Determination rises with political controversy

The political waters swirling around care for migrants, medical and otherwise, continued even as Title 42 expired in early May. The U.S. border-policy restricted immigration and a tide of migrants was expected to swell El Paso once again.

More migrants, more help needed.

El Paso city officials on May 8 declared a state of emergency. The declaration lists 34 "whereas" of disaster headed its way, as if a 100-year flood is bearing down on the city. It notes, again and again, of the desperation for shelter:



Dylan Corbett, founding executive director of Hope Border Institute, which operates a clinic in a shelter in Mexico, said migrants often encounter trauma. / Dylan Corbett, director ejecutivo fundador de Hope Border Institute, que gestiona una clínica en un albergue de México, dijo que los migrantes suelen encontrarse con traumas. (Photo/Foto: Paula Soria/Cronkite News)

"Whereas, there are significant public safety and security concerns related to the wave of migration, including but not limited to the risk of injury or loss of life with migrants in El Paso streets with little or no resources on days that reach extremely high or freezing low temperatures and the inherent risks that come with increased demand on local shelters."

It's unknown what happens next for the city.

But amid the uncertainty, certain things continue for migrants. Donors are still being sought, volunteers trained, shelters opened.

The Hope Border Institute, where Corbett works, launched a new shelter, according to a [May 12 statement](#).

"We are ready," the statement says. "While these will be days of challenge ... we're continuing to provide essential humanitarian aid to those in need."

Ariana Araiza is a Reporter with Cronkite News. Reproduced with permission by Cronkite News.

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**Migrantes1**

Algunos líderes sienten la obligación moral de intervenir para complementar un sistema en el que el gobierno no puede o no quiere intervenir.

Algunas organizaciones acaban de empezar.

Hope Border Institute abrió su clínica en septiembre, dentro de uno de los mayores albergues mexicanos de Ciudad Juárez.

El personal de la clínica está formado en gran parte por médicos y psicólogos de El Paso que se desplazan voluntariamente a la ciudad fronteriza los sábados por la mañana.

Un día de abril, a Corbett se le saltaron las lágrimas cuando le preguntaron por qué hace este trabajo, pensando en el trauma del que ha sido testigo.

“El peso recae sobre la sociedad civil y las organizaciones comunitarias para que den la cara, porque se trata de una población que ha sido olvidada en gran medida por nuestros gobiernos”, dijo Corbett.

Fennelly dijo que una pequeña solución es una colaboración a tres bandas con Texas Tech El Paso, Médicos del Mundo y Annunciation House que crearon el Programa de Salud Fronteriza. Médicos y estudiantes voluntarios ofrecen exámenes gratuitos y otro tipo de atención médica en la clínica de El Paso, que abrió sus puertas en enero.

Aunque los expertos aplauden los esfuerzos, dicen que no es suficiente - en particular, no hay suficientes psicólogos o terapeutas para tratar los daños emocionales y psicológicos de los migrantes.

“Ha aumentado el número de personas que necesitan servicios de salud mental”, afirma Corbett. “La gente sólo necesita asistencia psicológica, necesita terapia”.

**La determinación aumenta con la controversia política**

Las aguas políticas que se arremolinan en torno a la atención a los migrantes, médica y de otro tipo, continuaron

incluso cuando el Título 42 expiró a principios de mayo. La política fronteriza estadounidense restringía la inmigración y se esperaba que una marea de migrantes volviera a inundar El Paso.

Más migrantes, más ayuda necesaria.

El 8 de mayo, las autoridades municipales de El Paso declararon el estado de emergencia. La declaración enumera 34 “considerando” de desastre que se dirigen hacia ella, como si una inundación de 100 años se cerniera sobre la ciudad. Se señala, una y otra vez, la desesperación por encontrar refugio:

“Considerando que existen importantes problemas de seguridad pública relacionados con la oleada migratoria, entre los que se incluyen el riesgo de lesiones o pérdida de vidas con migrantes en las calles de El Paso con pocos o ningún recurso en días que alcanzan temperaturas extremadamente altas o bajas bajo cero y los riesgos inherentes que conlleva el aumento de la demanda en los refugios locales.”

Se desconoce qué ocurrirá a continuación en la ciudad.

Pero en medio de la incertidumbre, algunas cosas continúan para los migrantes. Se siguen buscando donantes, formando voluntarios, abriendo albergues.


El Hope Border Institute, donde trabaja Corbett, puso en marcha un nuevo refugio, según un comunicado del 12 de mayo.

“Estamos preparados”, dice el comunicado. “Si bien estos serán días de desafío ... seguimos proporcionando ayuda humanitaria esencial a los necesitados”.

*Ariana Araiza es reportera de Cronkite News. Reproducido con permiso de Cronkite News.*

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

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La Autoridad de Vivienda de Albuquerque (AHA) tomará la pre-solicitud para los programas de Sección 8 Housing Vouchers del 1 a 30 de Junio 2023.

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**IMPORTANTE:** no está obligado a visitar la oficina de Autoridad de Vivienda de Albuquerque al 1840 University Blvd SE para aplicar. Para asistencia con los programas de Sección 8 no necesita documentos para la pre-solicitud. Su solicitud previa puede completarse en cualquier momento de forma gratuita entre el 1 al 30 de Junio 2023 por medio el internet o teléfono inteligente en [www.abqha.org](http://www.abqha.org). Si no tiene acceso al Internet o necesita asistencia para completar y enviar su pre-solicitud en línea o si requiere ajustes razonables u otra asistencia especial, por favor de llamar 505-764-3953 o 505-764-3920 o al correo electrónico [update@abqha.org](mailto:update@abqha.org). AHA se compromete a ayudar a las personas con discapacidades.

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