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Movilizando un Bloque Poderoso de Votantes

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SINCE 1989

CBP's Deterrence Policies Harm U.S. Citizens, Too

By María Hernández Pinto



A chilling exposé unveiled former President Trump's purported immigration policy plans, which would bring sweeping raids and mass deportations if he were to be re-elected.

The lethal consequences of border militarization and "prevention through deterrence" policies on migrants are well-documented. Prevention through deterrence, a staple of U.S. border policy since the mid-1990s, creates obstacles and intensifies the dangers of border crossing in an attempt to dissuade individuals from attempting the journey.

Prevention through deterrence has manifested in the form of razor wire on the border wall and the criminalization of individuals engaging in humanitarian acts. Since 1998, prevention through deterrence has led to 7,505 official migrant deaths, a number widely understood to be undercounted.

What proponents of these policies often fail to realize is that they not

only affect migrants but also, as forthcoming research reveals, jeopardize the safety of U.S. citizens, particularly Black and brown border residents and "anyone who looks Mexican."

Supporters of this approach have implemented policies such as the 100-mile border enforcement zone, which suspends ordinary constitutional rights related to search and seizure, granting U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials an extended reach over individuals within 100 miles of the border.

Many call this area, home to two-thirds of the U.S. population, the "Constitution-free zone."

Internal Department of Homeland Security reports uncovered by Human

Rights Watch include allegations of physical, sexual, and verbal abuse, as well as due process violations, denial of medical care, and discriminatory treatment at or near the border. A 2016 CBP report acknowledged rampant corruption and excessive use of force within the agency. U.S. citizens bear the brunt of this over-reach as they represent 96% percent of those crossing the U.S.-Mexico border annually.

Forthcoming research published in the American Behavioral Scientist examines the firsthand experiences of U.S. citizens living in the 100-mile border enforcement zone with CBP officials, illustrating the agency's failure to uphold its commitment to professionalism, courtesy, and respect for human dignity.

"I've had hostile interactions with Border Patrol ... I've had negative experiences with that agency ... my citizenship is constantly in question, based on how I look," said Sonia, a 28-year-old woman from Tucson.

Black and brown citizens reported being the subject of constant interrogations by CBP officials due to the pre-

sumptions of illegality and racialized policing in the United States.

Questioning and inspections transcend mere inconvenience, often escalating into unfounded assumptions of drug smuggling. Interview participants report feeling scared, intimidated, and vulnerable during these encounters. CBP has employed drug-sniffing dogs and subjected Latino American citizens to random car inspections, even destroying property without reason.

Black and brown U.S. citizens, in particular, face prolonged questioning and secondary inspections. These experiences erode their sense of safety, security, and belonging, as their citizenship does not shield them from CBP's intrusive measures.

The repercussions extend beyond the immediate border zone. A study published by JAMA Pediatrics found that U.S. citizens youth with family members detained or deported faced higher odds of developing suicidal ideation and alcohol use later in life.

Media coverage of immigration events, coupled with shared social ties among U.S. citizens and non-citizen

Latinos, have led immigration-related stressors and adversities to infiltrate the lives of U.S. citizen parents. Latino youth experiencing depression, anxiety, or other mental health issues in middle school have a greater chance of developing sleep problems, unhealthy weight gain, and sedentary behavior in high school, according to a study led by researchers at George Washington University.

Prevention through deterrence may purport to put "America first," but it does the opposite. These strategies impact American citizens, particularly children of immigrants, and render some second-class citizens. Without substantial changes, the rights of American citizens will continue to be disregarded, with disastrous impacts on their well-being.

María Hernández Pinto, a fellow at the Cisneros Hispanic Leadership Institute. This commentary is republished from El Paso Matters under a Creative Commons license.

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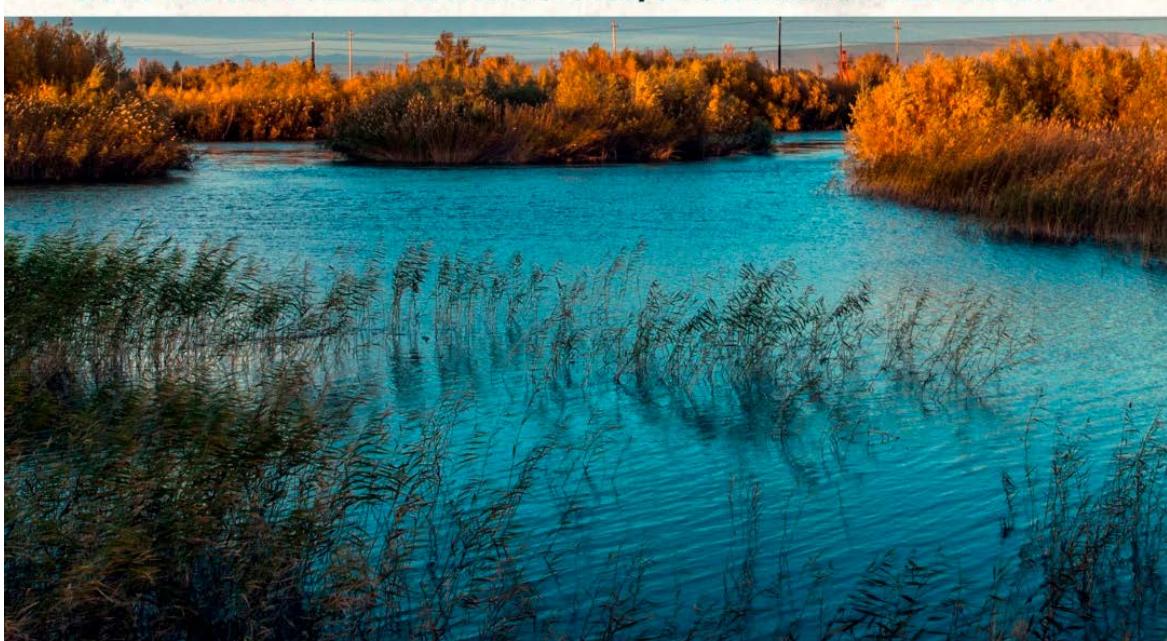
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CHC Urge Administration to Investigate TX Governor Obstructing Border Patrol

Congressional Hispanic Caucus

Editor's Note: Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland and Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, U.S. Department of Homeland Security on Jan 31, 2024, to demand the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) investigate the State of Texas and the Texas Department of Public Safety for impeding Border Patrol from performing its duties at Eagle Pass, Texas, following the drowning of a mother and her children.

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) demands that the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security investigate the State of Texas and the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for their actions to restrict access to the Rio Grande River that prevent U.S. Border Patrol agents from performing their duties.

The CHC was outraged to see reports about the tragic drowning deaths of 33-year-old Victorina de la Sancha Cerros, 10-year-old Yorlei Rubí, and 8-year-old Jonathan Agustín Briones de la Sancha as they attempted to cross the Rio Grande along the U.S.-Mexico border near Shelby Park in Eagle Pass, Texas.

See CHC on page 19

Tackling Racism Across Turtle Island

Tokata Iron Eyes

Racism is alive and well in America. As we enter Black History Month and Super Bowl week, let's take a quick inventory. Racist place names still exist all over the map. This year's big game will be played between the Kansas City Chiefs (a name appropriated from Native culture) and the San Francisco 49ers (a name celebrating miners who colonized the westernmost portion of Turtle Island). Meanwhile, the right wing keeps talking about a "border crisis," because its stock in trade is stoking fear of the other (mostly Black and Brown People).

That's why it's up to all of us to do whatever we can to promote justice for all BIPOC (Black/Indigenous/People of Color) right now. We must be the good guys, build a coalition through people power, and direct our representatives to make changes. In that spirit, if you have not already done so, please take our action to rename racist and other offensive place names, then share it widely with your networks.

I am happy to report that some of our tribal leaders are doing their part. This week, following xenophobic comments she made about potentially supplying razor wire to keep people from crossing the United States' southern border, the Oglala Nation banned



South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Again.

I hope you'll agree with Oglala Nation President Frank Star Comes out when he says that mostly Indigenous people seeking a better life "don't need to be put in cages, separated from their children like during the Trump administration, or be cut up by razor wire furnished by, of all places, South Dakota." (As a reminder, Lakota Law lent media support to the Oglala Nation a few years back when it first told

Noem to stay away because of her support for the since-defeated Keystone XL pipeline.)

I'm grateful that people like you and other organizations are also taking a stand. Since we launched our action to change offensive place names, several good things have happened. Thanks to outreach from our social media coordinator Nadia Brewer, Black Lives Matter of Greater New York co-sponsored our campaign. And Lily Joy Winder of People, Not Mascots gave her support, quotes for our press release, and a video for social media.

Finally, we've also heard back directly from the Interior Department's Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names. They told us to keep the messages coming and route your emails to them. They are maintaining a list and looking into next actions. So let's take heart and remain vigilant, despite all the problems we

“

We must be the good guys, build a coalition through people power, and direct our representatives to make changes.

Wopila tanka — thank you for standing tall for what is right!

Tokata Iron Eyes is a Spokesperson and Organizer with The Lakota People's Law Project.

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We Ignore the Ongoing Collapse of American Democracy at Our Peril

Thom Hartmann

Like an alcoholic family that won't discuss alcoholism (proving Don Quixote's warning never to mention rope in the home of a man who's been hanged), far too many Americans are unwilling to acknowledge or even discuss the ongoing collapse of democracy in the United States.

We see it in everything from our last two Republican presidents having lost the national vote but taking office anyway, to the extreme gerrymandering happening in every Red state in the country, to the naked bribery of our legislators and Supreme Court justices.

“

American democracy can't afford many more years of corruption before it's dead: our time to act is now.

And our media exclude it from almost every conversation. Networks run promotions mentioning Trump's indictments, but completely fail to point out that he is calling for the end of democracy in America, the suspension of the Constitution, and playing the role of a "dictator" on day one.

President Jimmy Carter took it head-on when he told me on my radio program that the Citizen's United decision, which brought us this crisis: "[V]iolates the essence of what made America a great country in its political system. Now it's just an oligarchy, with unlimited political bribery being the essence of getting the nominations for president or to elect the president. And the same thing applies to governors and U.S. senators and congress mem-

bers. So now we've just seen a complete subversion of our political system as a payoff to major contributors, who want and expect and sometimes get favors for themselves after the election's over."

This "complete subversion of our political system" grew, in large part, out of Richard Nixon's 1972 appointment of tobacco lawyer and rightwing extremist Lewis Powell to the Supreme Court.

Powell, in 1971, had authored the infamous Powell Memo for the US Chamber of Commerce, strongly suggesting that corporate leaders needed to get politically involved and, essentially, take over everything from academia to our court system to our political system.

In 1976, in the Buckley case, Powell began the final destruction of American democracy by declaring that when morbidly rich people or corporations own politicians, all that money that got transferred to the politicians wasn't bribery but, instead, was Constitutionally-protected First Amendment-defined "Free Speech."

Powell expanded that when he personally authored the decision in the 1978 Bellotti case, which acknowledged corporations as "persons" with full access to the Bill of Rights, including their own "free speech" right to own politicians. Five corrupt and in-the-bag Republicans on the Supreme Court radically expanded that doctrine in 2010 with Citizens United.

As a result, there's really very little democracy left in our democracy.

- Our votes are cast in districts so gerrymandered that a 50/50 electorate can produce an 70/30 outcome in congressional representation.

- Our laws are written, more often than not, by corporate lawyers/lobbyists or representatives of billionaire-level wealth.

- And our media is owned by the same class of investors/stockholders, so it's a stretch to expect them to do much critical reporting on the situation.

In his book The Decline of the West, first published in German in 1918 and then in English in 1926, Oswald Spengler suggested that what we call Western civilization was then beginning to enter a "hardening" or "classical" phase in which all the nurturing and supportive structures of culture would become, instead, instruments for the exploitation of a growing peasant class to feed the wealth of a new and strengthening aristocracy.

Culture would become a parody of itself, average people's expectations would decline while their wants would grow, and a new peasantry would emerge, which would cause the culture to stabilize in a "classic form" that, while Spengler doesn't use the term, seems very much like feudalism — the medieval system in which the lord owned the land and everyone else was a vassal (a tenant who owed loyalty to the landlord).

Or its more modern incarnation: fascism, a word that didn't even exist when Spengler wrote Decline.

Spengler, considering himself an aristocrat, didn't see this as a bad thing. In 1926 he prophesied that once the boom of the Roaring Twenties was over, a great bust would wash over the Western world. While this bust had the potential to create chaos, its most likely

outcome would be a return to the classic, stable form of social organization, what Spengler calls "high culture" and I call neofeudalism and/or fascism.

He wrote: "In all high Cultures, therefore, there is a peasantry, which is breed stock, in the broad sense (and thus to a certain extent nature herself), and a society which is assertively and emphatically 'in form.' It is a set of classes or Estates, and no doubt artificial and transitory. But the history of these classes and estates is world history at highest potential."

Twentieth and 21st century cultural observers, ranging from billionaire George Soros in his book The Crisis of Global Capitalism, to professor Noreena Hertz in The Silent Takeover: Global Capitalism and the Death of Democracy,

See [Hartmann](#) on page 17



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Those Who Care About Florida's Children Must Defend Them

Barrington Salmon

As we watch the sustained attacks, the pain and the suffering Florida's so-called leaders continue to inflict on our children, I often think of the African proverb, "The child who is not embraced by the village will burn it down to feel its warmth."

A major part of our responsibility as adults is to care, protect, feed, nurture and raise them to be decent, considerate, loving and compassionate human beings. Which is why caring adults

across the Sunshine State should be deeply distressed and infuriated at what is transpiring. Distressed and angry to witness the spate of multi-pronged attacks against teens, children and young people, but more importantly, the concern about the psychological, emotional and psychic damage these attacks are causing.

Florida's children and teens are enduring intense pressure on several fronts: the evisceration of public education; the reluctance by Gov. Ron DeSantis and far-right conservatives to even

consider sensible gun-safety policies and legislation; banning of books about and by African American, Latino and LGBTQ authors; working to systematically erase Black history; gagging and attacking teachers with threats of prosecution or running them from their jobs; incessant bullying and intimidating of students and young people; pulling apart of diversity, equity and inclusion programs in colleges and businesses and more.

But that's not all.

Lust for power ahead of children's needs

DeSantis and conservative/Trumpian/MAGA public officials have been disassembling Florida's social service safety net.

This is illustrated by them refusing to allocate money or enough of it for school lunch programs to feed hungry children; rejecting no-strings-attached federal government dollars to expand Medicaid that would allow the state to enroll 1.4 million people; not prioritizing access to quality healthcare; continuing to siphon off money from traditional public schools to give to church-affiliated and private schools, and passing punishing draconian laws to further alienate and marginalize gay, transgender and LGBTQ children and teens.

This pointless cruelty and the lack of empathy and compassion is by design. DeSantis and villains like Texas Gov. Greg Abbott revel in the heartlessness and appear to be trying to one-up each other in the malevolence sweepstakes.

DeSantis, his co-conspirators in the legislature and political allies, have abrogated their sacred responsibility to our children by putting their political ideology and lust for power ahead of children's needs.



Anyone through whom streams of compassion, decency and humanity flow, must fight back, fight hard, fight relentlessly and stand their ground in their struggle to restore lost humanity.



Anyone through whom streams of compassion, decency and humanity flow, must fight back, fight hard, fight relentlessly and stand their ground in their struggle to restore lost humanity.

That means standing up to these bullies, tormenting them the way they delight in doing others. It also means that those fighting against DeSantis, domestic terrorists and the MAGA horde must squash their differences and coalesce around shared values and goals.

It means using every instrument in the toolbox – voting, the courts, organizing, protests, counter-protests, fundraising and new and innovative strategies to crush these reprobates.

Stop ceding elections to Republicans

To counter this burgeoning right wing wave, allies of those who're being targeted and singled out need to build broad-based coalitions across the left, far-left and moderate constituencies; organize; raise lots of money; and stop ceding elections to Republicans.

See **Salmon** on page 25

a means of political theater to express policy differences. As documented by scholars such as Daniel Ziblatt and Steven Levitsky in "How Democracies Die," the erosion of norms limiting the use of tactics intended to be reserved for extreme cases, such as impeachment, is one of the hallmarks of rising authoritarianism and a danger to democracy.

Impeachment must be reserved to address officials' significant wrongdoing and should not be conflated with legitimate Congressional oversight or to prosecute policy or political fights. If Congress repeatedly abuses the impeachment power, it will lead to an erosion of constitutional norms and bring the regular functions of government to a standstill.

The articles of impeachment accuse Secretary Mayorkas of failing to fulfill his statutory responsibility to secure the border because, for example, he terminated the construction contracts on the ineffective border wall. They do not allege that he exceeded his authority to do so, much less that he has committed an impeachable offense.

The case against Secretary Mayorkas relies heavily on DHS's alleged failure to heed statutory detention mandates. As explained in an ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) amicus brief to the Supreme Court, however, every administration has exercised prosecutorial discretion regarding

See **Zamore** on page 18

The Danger of Abusing Impeachment

Mike Zamore

Last week, the House Homeland Security Committee passed articles of impeachment against Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on a party-line vote. To make the case for impeachment, the Committee majority has issued five impeachment reports and conducted two committee hearings, all dominated by the false claim that the border is "open." These efforts have featured blatant scapegoating of immigrants for serious problems confronting the nation, including the fentanyl crisis.

The Committee majority has profound policy disagreements with the current administration's immigration and border management, as do we. Robust congressional oversight of DHS—a sprawling agency we have called to dismantle—is appropriate. But impeachment is an inappropriate and dangerous mechanism to use as a weapon in policy disputes and has no place where, as here, no "Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors" are even conceivably on the table.

Impeachment is a critical tool for accountability in limited circumstances, not a sledgehammer for grandstanding about policy disputes

Government officials and judges occupy positions of public trust and significant power. When an officer abuses that power by committing "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors," the Constitution provides impeachment to hold them to account and remove them from office.



Impeachment must be reserved to address officials' significant wrongdoing and should not be conflated with legitimate Congressional oversight or to prosecute policy or political fights.

But because it removes officers selected by our elected representatives, impeachment is constitutionally circumscribed and is not appropriate as

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Locals Say Eagle Pass Is Being Invaded by Christian Nationalists — Not Migrants



An organizer from the No Border Wall Laredo Coalition poses with a sign in San Juan Park on February 4, 2024, in Eagle Pass, Texas.
(Photo: Candice Bernd)

By Candice Bernd

Residents of the border town at the center of an ongoing feud between Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and the Biden administration made it clear over the weekend that the only people they see as “invaders” in their community are 14 Republican governors and a convoy of Christian nationalists calling themselves “God’s Army.”

“There has been an invasion, but I’m not talking about the immigrants. The invasion is from Governor Abbott and his political rhetoric,” said Juanita Martínez, an Eagle Pass resident and chair of the Maverick County Democratic Party, on Friday outside the Maverick County Courthouse.

The state and federal government continue to face off over the town’s 47-acre municipal park, where Texas has for months been laying razor wire along the Rio Grande to prevent asylum seekers from crossing as part of Operation Lone Star. Late last month, the Supreme Court sided with the Biden administration in allowing Border Patrol agents to cut the wire to apprehend people crossing the river. The 5-4 decision didn’t specify that the state had to stop laying new wire, creating a legal loophole Abbott has exploited in the standoff.

On January 24, Abbott moved to block Border Patrol agents from accessing Shelby Park in defiance of a separate federal court order, characterizing his defiance as based on the state’s right to self-defense against a “foreign invasion.” Twenty-five Republican governors, House Speaker

Mike Johnson and former President Donald Trump have expressed support for Abbott’s rebellion.

While local residents with the Eagle Pass Border Coalition told reporters and supporters that they of course welcome all visitors to the community who respect their culture and diversity in a civil manner, they believe the recent arrival of Republican governors and a trucker convoy of Christian nationalists in support of Abbott’s violent rhetoric helped to spread “hate and dissension” in their community over the weekend.

“

It’s a staging area for hate, a false narrative and something that we want back.

Jesse Fuentes

Some of the residents are also organizers with the Border Vigil, who regularly memorialize the hundreds of asylum seekers who have died trying to cross Rio Grande, including a mother with two children who drowned in Shelby Park in January about an hour before the Texas National Guard denied Border Patrol access to render aid to two other struggling migrants.

For Jessie Fuentes, whose canoe and kayak business along the Rio Grande in Eagle Pass has taken a hit since the state of Texas revoked the business’s access to the only publicly available boat ramp for miles, what was once a community park has transformed into something else entirely.

“It’s not a park. It’s a staging area for hate, a false narrative and something that we want back. I’ll tell you personally, I want my river back. I want my park back. I want control in our com-

munity. I want to say in our community,” he told reporters Friday.

Fuentes is suing the state of Texas, the Department of Public Safety and the Texas National Guard not only over the access issues, but also over the state’s placement of floating buoys linked together with razor-sharp saw-blades to deter asylum seekers from crossing the river.

He saw the arrival of far right militia groups, Texas secessionists, Christian nationalists, and the delegation of GOP governors and state legislators as an effort to put the town’s culture and community down. “This is not the type of attention that we were looking for, to be the resurrection of a secession of a state. We do not, in no way stand for that,” he said outside the courthouse.

Christian Nationalist Convoy

The “God’s Army” trucker convoy was organized by conservative radio hosts Scotty Saks and Kim Yeater, the latter of whom is affiliated with the Awaken megachurch in San Diego, California.

The church hosted former national security adviser and retired Army Gen. Mike Flynn’s Reawaken America Tour, a political tour fusing Christian revivalism and far right conspiracy theories. Another main organizer is former Army Lt. Col. Pete Chambers, who promoted the convoy on conspiracy theorist Alex Jones’s “InfoWars” and former Fox News anchor Tucker Carlson’s podcast. Saks, Yeater, Chambers and three other patriot movement influencers began organizing the convoy weeks before Abbott’s standoff with Biden, which further emboldened the movement.

The MAGA caravan, which began its multistate journey in Virginia Beach last week, initially signaled mixed intentions. Some organizers advertised

See [Eagle Pass](#) on page 20

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Community Steps Up to Address Migrant Needs

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Poor People's Campaign Vows to 'Wake the Sleeping Giant' of Low-Wage Voters

By Brett Wilkins

The Poor People's Campaign on Monday launched a 42-week nationwide mobilization of poor and low-income Americans to "wake the sleeping giant" of a voting bloc with the potential to determine the outcome of the 2024 elections.

ber II said during a press conference in Washington, D.C. "We must engage poor and low-income people to change the political landscape."

"For far too long extremists have blamed poor people and low-wage people for their plight, while moderates too often have ignored poor people, appealing instead to the so-called middle class," he continued. "Meanwhile, poor and low-income people have become nearly half of this country and we are here today to make one thing clear: Poor and low-wage brothers and sisters have the power to determine and decide the 2024 elections and elections beyond."

Poor People's Campaign co-chair Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis stressed that "economic justice and saving this democracy are deeply connected."

"In this rich nation that has the wherewithal to end poverty tomorrow where there's the political will, we must not overlook the voices and votes of poor and low-income people," she added.

"It is time for a resurrection and not an insurrection," Poor People's Campaign co-chair Rev. Dr. William Barber II said during a press conference in Washington, D.C. "We must engage poor and low-income people to change the political landscape."

We are here today to make one thing clear: Poor and low-wage brothers and sisters have the power to determine and decide the 2024 elections."

Rev. Dr. William Barber II



Rev. Dr. William Barber II speaks during the launch of a 2024 election mobilization campaign on February 5, 2024 in Washington, D.C. / El reverendo Dr. William Barber II habla durante el lanzamiento de una campaña de movilización para las elecciones de 2024 el 5 de febrero de 2024 en Washington, D.C. (Photo/Foto: Poor People's Campaign/X)



The Poor People's Campaign launched a 42-week nationwide mobilization of poor and low-wage Americans. / La Campaña de los Pobres puso en marcha una movilización nacional de 42 semanas de duración de los estadounidenses pobres y con salarios bajos. Photo/Foto: Susan Melkisethian/flickr/cc

ed. "We are mobilizing and organizing, registering and educating people for a movement that votes... for healthcare and debt cancellation. Votes for living wages and strong anti-poverty programs. Votes for fair taxes and demilitarization of our communities and our world. Votes for immigrant rights and more."

Democratic pollster Celinda Lake said at the press conference: "In 2024, the election is going to be about mobilization... Democrats have an enthusiasm gap today and the progressive alliance and Democrats have fissures within their constituencies that make getting out the vote even more important."

"The biggest bloc of potential voters by far is low-income, low-wage voters," Lake noted. "Where the margin of

victory is projected to be less than 3% in 2024, 30-45% of the voters are low-wage voters or low-income families... The turnout among low-wage voters and low-income voters today is... 20-22% below the average turnout. This is a huge bloc of voters, and it is a bloc of voters that votes 58-60%—at minimum—progressive, no matter how conservative the state."

"You're talking about a huge number—a game-changing number—of voters," she added.

The campaign's main scheduled events are a Mass Poor People's & Low-Wage Workers' Moral March to State House Assemblies on March 2 and a rally and march in Washington, D.C. on June 15.

"I have been struggling to pay my bills since I've been working at 16 years

old. I work full time, 64 hours a week, seven days a week," said Beth Schafer of Raise Up for \$15 during a video promoting the new campaign. "I am exhausted."

Crow Roberts, an organizer with the Indiana Poor People's Campaign, said in the video that "our government finds it necessary to ban abortion to say that they are saving our children, but more children die as a result of poverty in this country."

Guadalupe de la Cruz of the Florida Poor People's Campaign asserted that "we should not be cornered and forced to choose between one necessity or another."

Speaking at the press conference, Alabama activist Linda Burns said that



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See Campaign on page 18

La Campaña de los Pobres Promete "Despertar al Gigante Dormido" de los Votantes Con Salarios Bajos



"Lucha contra la pobreza, no contra los pobres" es el mensaje destacado de la Campaña de los Pobres. / "Fight Poverty, Not the Poor" is the prominent message for the Poor People's Campaign. (Foto/Photo: Susan Melkisethian/flickr/cc)

Por Brett Wilkins

La Campaña de los Pobres lanzó el lunes una movilización de 42 semidanas en todo el país de estadounidenses pobres y de bajos ingresos para “despertar al gigante dormido” de un bloque de votantes con el potencial de determinar el resultado de las elecciones de 2024.

“Es hora de una resurrección y no de una insurrección”, dijo el copresidente de la Campaña de los Pobres, el reverendo Dr. William Barber II, durante una conferencia de prensa en Washington, D.C. “Debemos involucrar a las personas pobres y de bajos ingresos para que la gente se levante”.

“Durante demasiado tiempo, los extremistas han culpado a los pobres y a las personas con salarios bajos de su difícil situación, mientras que los moderados, con demasiada frecuencia, han ignorado a los pobres, apelando en su lugar a la llamada clase media”, continuó. “Mientras tanto, las personas pobres y de bajos ingresos se han convertido en casi la mitad de este país y estamos aquí hoy para dejar una cosa clara: los hermanos y hermanas pobres y de bajos salarios tienen el poder de determinar y decidir las elecciones de 2012”, declaró el presidente.”

La copresidenta de la Campaña de los Pobres, la reverenda Dra. Liz Theoharis, subrayó que "la justicia

económica y salvar esta democracia están profundamente conectadas".

“En esta nación rica que tiene los medios para acabar con la pobreza mañana, donde existe la voluntad política, no debemos pasar por alto las voces y los votos de los pobres y de las personas con bajos ingresos”, añadió. “Estamos movilizando y organizando, registrando y educando a la gente para un movimiento que vote... por la sanidad y la cancelación de la deuda. Votos para salarios dignos y programas fuertes contra la pobreza. Votos por unos impuestos justos y la desmilitarización de nuestras comunidades y nuestro mundo. Votos por los derechos de los inmigrantes y mucho más”.

La encuestadora demócrata Celia Lake dijo en la rueda de prensa: "En 2024, las elecciones van a ser sobre movilización... Los demócratas tienen hoy una brecha de entusiasmo y la alianza progresista y los demócratas tienen fisuras dentro de sus circunscripciones que hacen que salir a votar sea aún más importante."

“El mayor bloque de votantes potenciales es, con diferencia, el de los votantes con bajos ingresos y salarios”, señaló Lake. “Donde se prevé que el margen de victoria sea inferior al 3% en 2024, entre el 30% y el 45% de los votantes son votantes con salarios bajos o familias con ingresos bajos.... La participación entre los votantes con

salarios bajos y los votantes con bajos ingresos es hoy... un 20-22% inferior a la participación media. Se trata de un enorme bloque de votantes, y es un bloque de votantes que vota en un 58-60% -como mínimo- progresista, no importa lo conservador que sea el estado”.

66

Estamos aquí hoy para dejar una cosa clara: los hermanos y hermanas pobres y de bajos salarios tienen el poder de determinar y decidir las decisiones de 2024.”

elecciones de 2024.
Dr. William Barber II

“Estamos hablando de un gran número de votantes que cambiará las reglas del juego”, añadió.

reglas del juego", añadió.

Los principales actos programados de la campaña son una Marcha Moral Masiva de los Pobres y los Trabajadores con Salarios Bajos a las Asambleas de los Estados el 2 de marzo y una concentración y marcha en Washington D.C. el 15 de junio.

Vea **Campaña** página 23



Colorado Legal Settlement Would Up Care and Housing Standards for Trans Women Inmates

COLORADO

By Moe K. Clark

Taliyah Murphy received a letter in early 2018 about a soon-to-be-filed class-action lawsuit brought on behalf of transgender women like her who were housed in men's prisons in Colorado. It gave her hope.

Murphy and other trans women in Colorado had faced years of sexual harassment and often violence from staff members and fellow incarcerated people. They were denied requests for safer housing options and medical treatment, including surgery, for gender dysphoria, the psychological distress that some trans people experience because of the incongruence between their sex assigned at birth and their gender identity, according to the lawsuit.

"We were targets for victimizing, whether it was sexual assault, extortion, you name it," said Murphy, who was released from prison in 2020. Most of the time, she added, "The guards just looked the other way."

A historic legal settlement called a consent decree, expected to be finalized by early March, would establish two new voluntary housing units for incarcerated trans women, making Colorado the first state to offer a separate unit, according to attorneys in the case. A federal law states such units are prohibited unless court-ordered. The plan outlined in the agreement, which received preliminary approval last fall, would mandate the Colorado Department of Corrections pay a \$2.15 million settlement to affected trans women; update its protocols and staff training; improve medical and mental health care; limit cross-gender searches from correctional officers; and require corrections staff to use correct names and pronouns for trans women inmates.

A state judge held a hearing on the consent decree on Jan. 4 and is expected to finalize it by early March, after she granted an extension to allow more incarcerated women to be notified of the settlement. Approximately 400 currently or formerly incarcerated trans women are eligible to be beneficiaries.

Housing assignments in U.S. prisons are nearly exclusively based on a

person's anatomy, despite a federal law outlining that the safety concerns of trans people should be taken into consideration when determining placement. That's because they are significantly more likely than inmates who are not trans to be sexually or physically assaulted while incarcerated.

"It's like putting targets on their back," said Paula Greisen, the civil rights lawyer who filed the class-action lawsuit in 2019 alongside the California-based Transgender Law Center.

The U.S. Department of Justice found in 2014 that incarcerated trans people are much more likely to experience sexual violence behind bars from staff members and other incarcerated people, with 35% of trans inmates surveyed reporting having been assaulted in the previous 12 months. A 2007 study of trans women in California prisons found that 59% reported having been sexually assaulted during their incarceration, a rate 13 times higher than for others housed in prisons.

Colorado's case comes amid a growing number of lawsuits across the country aimed at improving access to



Taliyah Murphy poses for a portrait outside the Denver City and County Building before a hearing on Jan. 4, 2023. Murphy is part of a class-action lawsuit that seeks to improve the safety and medical treatment of trans women in Colorado prisons. / Taliyah Murphy posa frente al edificio de la Alcaldía de Denver antes de una audiencia el 4 de enero de 2023. Murphy es parte de una demanda colectiva que busca mejorar la seguridad y tratamiento médico de mujeres trans en las cárceles de Colorado. (Moe Clark for KFF Health News)

gender-affirming care and safety for incarcerated trans people. In a landmark 1994 case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that prison officials' "deliberate indifference" to a prisoner's safety concerns violates the Eighth Amendment's "cruel and unusual punishments" clause. Since then, incarcerated trans people have won legal cases against prison administrators in Washington, Georgia, California, and Idaho.

And while a handful of states, including Colorado, have written policies regarding gender-affirming care and surgery, the barriers to accessing care are often insurmountable — an

issue the consent decree hopes to address. California became the first state to establish policies on gender-affirming medical care in prisons, providing gender-affirming surgery starting in 2017. In 2019, a three-judge panel ruled that the state of Idaho was required to perform a surgery officials had previously denied. One incarcerated person in Colorado has had gender-affirming surgery, according to a Department of Corrections spokesperson.

The Constitution requires jails and prisons to provide the same standard of care available in the community, said

See Trans on page 21

Parks Legacy Fund 5-Year Plan

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GAME PLAN
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Acuerdo Legal en Colorado Mejoraría Estándares de Atención y Vivienda para Reclusas Trans

COLORADO

Por Moe K. Clark

A principios de 2018, Taliyah Murphy recibió una carta sobre una demanda colectiva que se iba a presentar en nombre de mujeres transgénero como ella que estaban en cárceles de hombres en Colorado. Sintió esperanza.

Murphy y otras mujeres trans en el estado han enfrentado años de acoso sexual y, a menudo, violencia por parte del personal y de otras presas. Según la demanda, se les negó solicitudes para vivienda más seguras y tratamiento médico, incluyendo la cirugía para la disforia de género, la angustia psicológica que algunas personas trans experimentan debido a la incongruencia entre su sexo asignado al nacer y su identidad de género.

"Éramos objetos para victimizar, asalto sexual, extorsión, lo que fuera", dijo Murphy, quien salió en libertad en 2020. Agregó que la mayor parte del ti-

empo "los guardias simplemente daban vuelta la cara".

Un histórico acuerdo legal llamado decreto de consentimiento, que se espera se finalice a principios de marzo, establecería dos nuevas unidades de vivienda voluntaria para mujeres trans en prisión, convirtiendo a Colorado en el primer estado en ofrecer una unidad separada, según los abogados del caso.

Una ley estatal establece que estas unidades están prohibidas a menos que hay una orden de un juzgado. El plan delineado en el acuerdo, que recibió la aprobación preliminar el otoño pasado, obligaría al Departamento de Correcciones de Colorado a pagar un acuerdo de \$2.15 millones a mujeres trans afectadas; actualizar sus protocolos, capacitar al personal; mejorar la atención médica y de salud mental, y requerir que el personal use nombres y pronombres correctos para las reclusas trans. También limitar que alguien de otro género registre a una presa.

Vea Trans/Esp, página 22

Denver International Airport Celebrates Opening of the New West Security Checkpoint



From left to right: Former Congressman Ed Perlmutter, Congresswoman Yadira Caraveo, DEN CEO Phil Washington, Denver Mayor Mike Johnston, Congresswoman Diana DeGette, Colorado Governor Jared Polis, and TSA Deputy Executive Assistant Administrator for Security Operations, Steve Lorincz (Photo: Courtesy DEN)

COLORADO

Denver International Airport (DEN) was joined by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Colorado Governor Jared Polis, Denver Mayor Mike Johnston and U.S. Congresswoman Diana DeGette to celebrate the completion of the West Security Checkpoint on Monday. The checkpoint, which officially opened Feb 6, is the first of two new

state-of-the-art security checkpoints on Level 6 (passenger check-in) to open as part of the Great Hall Program.

"Today is a great day for Denver and a great day for Colorado," said Mayor Mike Johnston. "This checkpoint upgrade means the travel time for people coming through security will be faster, more efficient, and incredibly safe. We are adding more and more international capacity to Denver, which will help our state and city become the financial

center of the country, the tourist center, as well as the best place to live, work, and play."

Passengers can find the West Checkpoint on the northwest end of Level 6 adjacent to United's ticketing/check-in lobby. If you are being dropped off on Level 6, look for doors 606-600, with TSA PreCheck access closest to doors 602 and 600. The West Security Checkpoint will operate from 4 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. daily and will provide access at three separate entrances defined by the following traveler groups:

West Security 1 (located behind the United ticketing/check-in lobby): This entrance is for standard screen-

ing passengers, which makes up the majority of DEN passengers.

West Security 2 (located near Door 606): This entrance is for Restricted Access, which consists of various groups including: DEN Reserve – make reservation here; Premium/Premier Access; Accessibility and Functional Needs; Military

West Security 3 (located near Door 600): This entrance is for TSA Pre-Check passengers as well as CLEAR customers with TSA PreCheck.

"The impetus of the Great Hall Program has always been to enhance safety and security by moving the security checkpoints from Level 5 to Level 6 while also increasing capaci-

ty," said DEN CEO Phil Washington. "This new checkpoint, which is opening on schedule and under budget, is equipped with 17 screening lanes. These have advanced technology creating a more efficient process and an overall better experience for our passengers. Next year we will open another checkpoint of the same caliber on the east side of the terminal to serve our ever-increasing passenger traffic."

Similar to other U.S. airports, the new equipment will allow TSA to screen carry-on baggage and passengers, using the latest technology to do so, enhancing safety and improving the passenger journey. Features of the new equipment include:

- Allowing multiple passengers to place their items in bins simultaneously to help expedite the process

See [Airport](#) on page 17

Titone Recognized as Rocky Mountain Farmers Union 'Legislator of the Year'



Rep. Titone was integral in passing a right to repair for agriculture equipment during the 2023 session. (Photo: Colorado House Democrats)

COLORADO

Representative Brianna Titone was named 'Legislator of the Year' by Rocky Mountain Farmers Union today for her crucial work in securing the first and only right to repair agriculture equipment law in the nation.

"It's an incredible honor to be selected as Legislator of the Year by Rocky

Mountain Farmers Union," said Rep. Brianna Titone, D-Arvada. "At its core, right to repair empowers people to fix their own equipment, saving them time, money and resources along the way. Thanks to legislation we passed last year, Colorado's farmers and ranchers have the freedom to fix their

See [Titone](#) on page 18



THE DENVER POST 9/26/23

"Then, just before midnight on Friday, the commission added a new component that environmentalists say provides an even bigger loophole for the 18 companies"



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Public School Enrollment In Colorado: Here's What You Need To Know

COLORADO

By Yesenia Robles

As migrants continue to arrive in Colorado, many schools are seeing a record number of students enrolling in the middle of the year.

School enrollment liaisons are trying to reach families to offer help enrolling students, but as the number of migrants and shelters grow, their ability to connect quickly with everyone is slowing down.

In the meantime, you or someone you know might have questions about the process of enrolling a child in a Colorado public school. Here's what you need to know.

Where do I start to enroll my child in school?

The first thing to know is that public schools have an obligation to enroll and educate students regardless of their immigration status, income, or housing situation. Public schools are free in Colorado for children ages 5 through 18 and in some cases, through age 21.

The first step is to identify which school district you are in and which schools are nearest to you. If you know what district you're in, you can often use that school district's website to find the schools closest to you and to learn about their programs.

If you aren't sure where to start, walking into your nearest school is an option. Many schools have bilingual staff in their offices, and if they don't, you can ask for an interpreter. You can ask for the name of the district you're in, and tell them you need help enrolling in.

"Language should never be an intimidation point," said Frida Rodriguez, a student and family advocate in Adams 12, a district north of Denver largely covering Thornton.

Many school districts, including Denver and Aurora, will ask parents to make an account online and fill out forms through their website. The websites are available in Spanish, and the districts can provide assistance if you need help walking through how to fill the forms out. After you submit the forms, it may take a few days to hear back on next steps.

When should I enroll my child?

Educators suggest you enroll your children in school as soon as possible.

If the semester is about to end, there's a possibility your child will need to wait to start attending until the following semester, but you won't be turned away from enrolling, and you may be able to connect to other resources through the schools in the meantime.

To enroll in kindergarten, children must be at least 5 years old by a certain date. Different districts have different dates, but it's usually near Oct. 1 of the school year in which they're enrolling. Some children wait to start kindergarten until age 6.

Colorado has also started free preschool for four-year-olds, but enrolling in preschool requires a different process. Some public schools offer preschool, but not all do.

What documents will I need to submit?

There are requirements for enrolling in schools, but district enrollment leaders say it's important for parents to know that they will work with you if you don't think you have all of the necessary paperwork.

"We are committed to finding ways to make it work," said Laurie Premer, director of enrollment services in Denver.

Schools may ask for a birth certificate or other official document like a passport that shows a child's date of birth. They may ask you for a document that shows your address and where you are living. If you are staying with friends or family, a letter from the homeowner stating that you and your



Many families from Venezuela and other countries are arriving in Colorado, and schools are enrolling thousands of new students. / A Colorado están llegando muchas familias de Venezuela y otros países, y las escuelas están inscribiendo a miles de estudiantes nuevos. (Photo/Foto: Erica Lee for Chalkbeat)

children are living with them can work.

Colorado law also has some vaccine requirements for children to enroll in school, so you may be asked to provide proof of those vaccines. If you don't have proof, or have decided you do not want to vaccinate your child, you may need to fill out opt-out forms or get your child re-vaccinated. Schools often have clinics and can point you to where to get any missing vaccines for free or at low cost.

If you are living in a shelter at the time you enroll, districts have different policies and will be able to enroll your children with fewer required documents.

How long will it take to enroll in public school?

Typically, enrollment can take just a couple of days. But in districts like Denver where the number of new students each week is growing, enrollment leaders say families should be prepared to wait longer. Currently, it may take a week to hear back from the district before you'll be able to complete enrollment and registration.

Sary Portillo, manager of multilingual family engagement in Denver schools, is one of the specialists who visit migrant shelters to help families enroll children in schools. She goes out once a week, but now that there are more shelters, her team is only able to visit each shelter every two weeks.

Once you've filled out the enrollment forms, district administrators will let you know if there is space at the school you requested or will work with you to place your children at a school with space. If your child needs Spanish language support, they will try to enroll your child in a school that meets that need.

What is school choice?

Because of a Colorado law, you can choose schools outside of your neighborhood or district. Schools will usually give priority to the kids who live nearby, but if they have space, they will accept families from elsewhere who want to attend that school.

While this allows families to find a school with the programming that is the best fit for their children, you should know that using school choice could make your children ineligible to ride the school bus, so you would need to take them to school or arrange transportation. Some rules for transporta-

tion are different for students living in shelters.

In some parts of Denver, school choice is always part of the process, because no school has a neighborhood boundary. That means students are not automatically assigned to schools based on their address. In the far northeast, for example, all families must choose one of the many area schools.

Will public schools help my child learn English?

Once you've filled out the enrollment forms, district administrators will let you know if there is space at the school you requested or will work with you to place your children at a school with space. If your child needs Spanish language support, they will try to enroll your child in a school that meets that need.

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In some parts of Denver, school choice is always part of the process, because no school has a neighborhood boundary. That means students are not automatically assigned to schools based on their address. In the far northeast, for example, all families must choose one of the many area schools.

Will public schools help my child learn English?

There are federal requirements for how schools must support students and families who don't speak English. While not all schools are prepared to do this well, the federal government requires that schools help students learn English and that students will be able to access their learning. There are different variations of what this might look

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Cómo Inscribir a Tus Hijos en las Escuelas de Colorado: Una Guía Básica para los Padres



A Colorado están llegando muchas familias de Venezuela y otros países, y las escuelas están inscribiendo a miles de estudiantes nuevos. (Foto: Adobe Stock)

COLORADO

Por Yesenia Robles

A medida que los inmigrantes siguen llegando a Colorado, muchas escuelas están viendo un número récord de estudiantes inscritos a mitad del año escolar.

Los coordinadores de inscripción están tratando de comunicarse con las familias a fin de ofrecerles ayuda para inscribir a los estudiantes, pero según aumenta el número de migrantes y albergues, su habilidad para conectarse rápidamente con todos está siendo cada vez más lenta.

Mientras tanto, tú o alguien que conoces quizás tenga preguntas sobre el proceso para inscribir a un niño en una escuela pública de Colorado. Esto es lo que necesitas saber.

¿Por dónde empiezo para inscribir a mi hijo en la escuela?

Lo primero que hay que saber es que las escuelas públicas tienen la obligación de inscribir y educar a los estudiantes, no importa su estatus migratorio, ingresos ni situación de vivienda. Las escuelas públicas son gratuitas en Colorado para los niños de 5 a 18 años y, en algunos casos hasta los 21 años.

El primer paso es identificar en distrito escolar estás y cuáles son las escuelas más cercanas a ti. Si sabes en qué distrito te encuentras, a menudo puedes ir al sitio web de ese distrito escolar para encontrar las escuelas más cercanas y ver sus programas de estudio.

Si no sabes cómo empezar el proceso, una opción es ir en persona a la escuela más cercana. Muchas escuelas tienen personal bilingüe en sus oficinas, y si no lo tienen, puedes pedir un intérprete. Puedes preguntar el nombre del distrito en el que te encuentras

y decirles que necesitas ayuda para inscribir a tus hijos.

“El idioma nunca debe ser un punto de intimidación”, dijo Frida Rodríguez, defensora de estudiantes y familias en Adams 12, un distrito al norte de Denver que cubre gran parte de Thornton.

Muchos distritos escolares, incluidos Denver y Aurora, pedirán que los padres creen una cuenta en línea y llenen formularios a través de su sitio web. Los sitios web están disponibles en español, y los distritos pueden ayudarte a llenar los formularios si lo necesitas. Después de enviar los formularios, podría tomar varios días para recibir respuesta sobre qué hacer a continuación.

¿Cuándo debo inscribir a mi hijo(a)?

Los educadores sugieren que inscribas a tus hijos en la escuela lo antes posible.

Si el semestre está a punto de terminar, existe la posibilidad de que tu hijo(a) tenga que esperar para empezar hasta el siguiente semestre, pero no se le negará la inscripción y es posible que, mientras tanto, te puedas conectar con otros recursos a través de las escuelas.

Para inscripción en el Kinder, los niños deberán haber cumplido 5 años para cierta fecha. Los diferentes distritos tienen fechas distintas, pero usualmente es cerca del 1 de octubre del año escolar en que se están inscribiendo. Algunos niños esperan hasta los 6 años para empezar el Kinder.

Colorado también empezó un programa de preescolar gratuito para niños de cuatro años, pero la inscripción requiere un proceso diferente. Algunas escuelas públicas ofrecen educación preescolar, pero no todas.

Vea [Escuelas](#), página 19



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State Rep. Derrick Lente Pushing Tribal Education Fund Bill

NEW MÉXICO

By Megan Taros

A bill proposal to create a tribal education trust fund to support education infrastructure in tribal communities in New Mexico is facing pressure on multiple fronts from stakeholders and Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham.

House Bill 134, introduced by Rep. Derrick Lente (D-Sandia Pueblo)

), would create the tribal education trust fund and distribute 5% of the average year-end market values of the trust fund over the last five years to tribal education departments. The bill would create a task force that would determine how the funds would be given out between the 23 tribes, Pueblos and nations in the state.

The House budget recommends \$50 million for the creation of the trust fund while the bill requests \$100 million. Lente said prior to the session

that he expects to get approval for the larger amount.

But concerns about the composition of the task force continued at the House Appropriations and Finance Committee on last Friday evening despite an amendment adopted in the House Education Committee that proposes to change the process of how it would be composed.

The Navajo Nation Council passed a resolution on January 31 walking back its support for the trust fund. While the Council said the fund was necessary,



Rep. Derrick Lente (D-Sandia Pueblo) introduced legislation that would create the tribal education trust fund. / Diputado Derrick Lente (D-Sandia Pueblo). (Photo/Foto: Rep Lente)

it said it would not support it unless concerns about equity were addressed. Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren's office also expressed opposition to the bill in its current form.

The bill originally prescribed an eight-member task force with three Navajo, three Pueblo and two Apache representatives. The House Education Committee amendment removed the specific number of representatives and allowed all 23 tribes to come together and decide on the make-up of the task force, which the Navajo Nation Council also opposed.

An amendment on the bill by Rep. Anthony Allison (D-Fruitland), supported by the Navajo Nation government, that would have struck everything about the bill except for the creation of the trust fund did not get introduced after legislative analysts said the amendment needed more accountability measures.

Lente said it was now a matter of making the bill as amenable as possible without removing the necessary framework.

"I think we're all saying the same thing, but our articulation is not consistent," Lente said. "I'm trying to get to that point where we can say, 'OK, let's brainstorm a bit and try to move forward collectively.'"

At the same time, educators from the Navajo Nation voiced support for the trust fund at the committee hearing Friday evening.

"Setting aside this money will allow for more opportunities within our local communities to make decisions that we feel will be best in their educational journey," said Andrea Thomas, a teacher serving the Navajo Nation in Shiprock. "When you think about us as Indigenous people I think that this is the right step to at least getting to make up for a lot of time where we did not have a seat at the table."

The bill now heads to the House floor after a 13-2 vote, despite concerns of disunity from the committee.

Meanwhile, Lujan Grisham wrote a letter to the All Pueblo Council of Governors expressing concern that the trust fund comes at the expense of an annual tribal package that funds infrastructure projects on tribal lands.

"This year, similar to the previous five years, the governor proposed in the executive budget recommendation a \$50 million tribal capital package, an

investment that is not currently in the Legislature's budget or capital outlay proposals," the governor's spokeswoman Maddy Hayden wrote in an email about the letter to *Source New Mexico*. "The Governor has sought input from sovereign nations to understand their priorities for this session."

The letter, addressed to the newly-elected All Pueblo Council Chairman James Mountain, asked whether the members prioritized the tribal package, the education trust fund or both.

“

Setting aside this money will allow for more opportunities within our local communities to make decisions that we feel will be best in their educational journey.

Andrea Thomas

Mountain recently left his position as head of the Indian Affairs Department. Mountain's tenure was marred by a past indictment for criminal sexual penetration, kidnapping and aggravated battery against a household member.

The case was dropped in 2010 due to insufficient evidence, but some tribal community leaders condemned his appointment.

The All Pueblo Council of Governors convened and responded to the governor saying that while they would not blame either party for the potential conflict, members were unhappy with the question.

"The Governors do not appreciate being placed in a position that forces us to have to choose between funding for our children's education versus funding for critical infrastructure needs for our communities," the Council's response to Lujan Grisham's letter read. "We believe this to be fundamentally wrong and adverse to the commitments of partnership that we have made with you and state legislative leadership."

The funds for both projects aren't necessarily in conflict. Capital outlay money comes from general obligation bonds, severance tax bonds, and nonrecurring general fund revenue, whereas the trust fund money will only come from the general fund.

The trust fund's inclusion in the

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El Representante Lente Impulsa un Proyecto de Ley de Fondos Tribales para la Educación

NEW MÉXICO

Por Megan Taros

Una propuesta de ley para crear un fondo fiduciario de educación tribal para apoyar la infraestructura educativa en las comunidades tribales en Nuevo México se enfrenta a la presión en varios frentes de las partes interesadas y la gobernadora Michelle Lujan Grisham.

El proyecto de ley 134, presentado por el diputado Derrick Lente (D-Sandia Pueblo), crearía el fondo fiduciario de educación tribal y distribuiría el 5% de los valores medios de mercado de fin de año del fondo fiduciario en los últimos cinco años a los departamentos de educación tribales. El proyecto de ley crearía un grupo de trabajo que determinaría cómo se repartirían los fondos entre las 23 tribus, pueblos y naciones del estado.

El presupuesto de la Cámara recomienda 50 millones de dólares para la creación del fondo fiduciario, mientras que el proyecto de ley solicita

“

Reservar este dinero permitirá que nuestras comunidades locales tengan más oportunidades de tomar las decisiones que consideren más adecuadas para su educación”.

Andrea Thomas

100 millones de dólares. Lente dijo antes de la sesión que espera que se apruebe la cantidad mayor.

Pero las preocupaciones sobre la composición del grupo de trabajo continúaron en el Comité de Asignaciones y Finanzas de la Cámara el pasado viernes por la tarde, a pesar de una enmienda aprobada en el Comité de Educación de la Cámara que propone cambiar el proceso de cómo se compondría.

El 31 de enero, el Consejo de la Nación Navajo aprobó una resolución por la que retiraba su apoyo al fondo fiduciario.

ciario. Aunque el Consejo afirmó que el fondo era necesario, dijo que no lo apoyaría a menos que se resolvieran los problemas de equidad. La oficina del presidente de la Nación Navajo, Buu Nygren, también expresó su oposición al proyecto de ley en su forma actual.

El proyecto de ley prevé originalmente un grupo de trabajo de ocho miembros, con tres representantes navajos, tres representantes pueblo y dos representantes apaches. La enmienda del Comité de Educación de la Cámara eliminó el número concreto de representantes y permitió a las 23 tribus reunirse y decidir la composición del grupo de trabajo, a lo que también se opuso el Consejo de la Nación Navajo.

Una enmienda al proyecto de ley del representante Anthony Allison (D-Fruitland), apoyada por el gobierno de la Nación Navajo, que habría eliminado todo el proyecto de ley excepto la creación del fondo fiduciario, no se presentó después de que los analistas legislativos dijeron que la enmienda necesitaba más medidas de responsabilidad.

Lente dijo que ahora se trataba



Andrea Thomas, profesora de la nación navajo en Shiprock. / Andrea Thomas, a teacher serving the Navajo Nation in Shiprock. (Foto/Photo: Andrea Thomas)

de hacer el proyecto lo más llevadero posible sin eliminar el marco necesario.

“Creo que todos decimos lo mismo, pero nuestra articulación no es coherente”, dijo Lente. “Estoy intentando llegar a ese punto en el que podamos decir: ‘Vale, hagamos una lluvia de ideas e intentemos avanzar colectivamente’”.

Al mismo tiempo, los educadores de la Nación Navajo expresaron su apoyo al fondo fiduciario en la audiencia del comité celebrada el pasado viernes por la noche.

“Reservar este dinero permitirá que nuestras comunidades locales tengan más oportunidades de tomar las deci-

siones que consideren más adecuadas para su educación”, afirmó Andrea Thomas, profesora de la nación navajo en Shiprock. “Si pensamos en nosotros como pueblo indígena, creo que éste es el paso adecuado para, al menos, recuperar el tiempo que no hemos tenido un sitio en la mesa”.

El proyecto de ley se dirige ahora al pleno de la Cámara tras una votación por 13 votos a favor y 2 en contra, a pesar de los temores de desunión de la comisión.

Mientras tanto, Luján Grisham escribió una carta al Consejo de Gobernadores de Todos los Pueblos expresando su preocupación por el hecho de que el fondo fiduciario se haga a expensas de un paquete tribal anual que financia proyectos de infraestructuras en tierras tribales.

“Este año, similar a los cinco años anteriores, el gobernador propuso en la recomendación de presupuesto ejecutivo un paquete de capital tribal de 50 millones de dólares, una inversión que no está actualmente en el presupuesto de la Legislatura o en las propuestas de desembolso de capital”, escribió la portavoz del gobernador Maddy Hayden en un correo electrónico sobre la carta a Source New Mexico. “El Gobernador ha solicitado la opinión de las naciones soberanas para entender sus prioridades para esta sesión”.

Vea **Educación**, página 25

State to Offer Job Training Services with SNAP Employment and Training Program

The New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) announced the launch of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) program. This initiative is designed to provide participants' education and job training skills, supporting them in workforce entry or re-entry. This program aims to support 121,287 SNAP customers who may be eligible to participate.

The goal of the program is to increase participants' access to training and support services, enabling

them to enter or advance in the workforce more effectively,” said Karmela Martínez, director of Income Support for the New Mexico Human Services Department. “We are excited to offer additional support to eligible SNAP customers interested in participating in the program.”

The SNAP E&T program will provide several services, including job search training, work experience, work activity/work-based learning, pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, internships, and on the job training.



State to offer job training services with SNAP employment and training program. / El estado ofrece servicios de capacitación laboral con el programa de empleo y capacitación SNAP. (Foto/Photo: Adobe Stock)

Participants will be paired with case managers to help them explore career options, develop personal and professional skills, and overcome barriers to workforce entry or re-entry.

HSD is also collaborating with Central New Mexico Community College and Clovis Community College for the SNAP E&T program. These colleges will provide case management services, including job search training, educational guidance, assistance with resources, and access to comprehensive support services.

SNAP E&T is a voluntary program available to eligible SNAP customers at no cost. Interested participants can reach out to HSD by calling 505-469-9574 from 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday

through Friday or by emailing hsd-snap.et@hsd.nm.gov.

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El Estado Ofrece Servicios de Capacitación Laboral con el Programa de Empleo y Capacitación SNAP

El Departamento de Servicios Humanos de Nuevo México (HSD, por sus siglas en inglés) anunció el lanzamiento del programa de Empleo y Capacitación (E&T, por sus siglas en inglés) del Programa de Asistencia Nutricional Suplementaria (SNAP, por sus siglas en inglés). Esta iniciativa está diseñada para proporcionar a los participantes educación y habilidades

de capacitación laboral, apoyándolos en el ingreso o reingreso a la fuerza laboral.

“El objetivo del programa es aumentar el acceso de los participantes a los servicios de formación y apoyo, lo que les permite entrar o avanzar en la fuerza de trabajo de manera más eficaz”, dijo Karmela Martínez, director de Apoyo a los Ingresos para el De-

partamento de Servicios Humanos de Nuevo México. “Estamos muy contentos de ofrecer apoyo adicional a los clientes elegibles de SNAP interesados en participar en el programa”.

El programa SNAP E&T proporcionará varios servicios, incluyendo capacitación para la búsqueda de empleo, experiencia laboral, actividad laboral/aprendizaje basado en el trabajo,

pre-aprendizaje, aprendizaje, pasantías y capacitación en el trabajo.

HSD también está colaborando con Central New Mexico Community College y Clovis Community College para el programa SNAP E&T. Estos colegios proporcionarán servicios de administración de casos, incluyendo capacitación para la búsqueda de empleo, orientación educativa, asistencia con

recursos y acceso a servicios de apoyo integrales.

SNAP E&T es un programa voluntario disponible para clientes elegibles de SNAP sin costo alguno. Los participantes interesados pueden ponerse en contacto con HSD llamando al 505-469-9574 de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m. de lunes a viernes o enviando un correo electrónico a hsd-snap.et@hsd.nm.gov.

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

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'Emergency' or Not, Covid Is Still Killing People. Here's What Doctors Advise to Stay Safe.

By Amy Maxmen

With around 20,000 people dying of covid in the United States since the start of October, and tens of thousands more abroad, the covid pandemic clearly isn't over. However, the crisis response is, since the World Health Organization and the Biden administration ended their declared health emergencies last year.

Let's not confuse the terms "pandemic" and "emergency." As Abraar Karan, an infectious disease physician and researcher at Stanford University, said, "The pandemic is over until you are scrunched in bed, feeling terrible."

Pandemics are defined by neither time nor severity, but rather by large numbers of ongoing infections worldwide. Emergencies are acute and declared to trigger an urgent response. Ending the official emergency shifted the responsibility for curbing covid from leaders to the public. In the United States, it meant, for example, that the government largely stopped covering the cost of covid tests and vaccines.

But the virus is still infecting people; indeed, it is surging right now.

With changes in the nature of the pandemic and the response, KFF Health News spoke with doctors and researchers about how to best handle covid, influenza, and other respiratory ailments spreading this season.

A holiday wave of sickness has ensued as expected. Covid infections have escalated nationwide in the past few weeks, with analyses of virus traces in wastewater suggesting infection rates as high as last year's. More than 73,000 people died of covid in the U.S. in 2023, meaning the virus remains deadlier than car accidents and influenza. Still, compared with last year's seasonal surge, this winter's wave of covid hospitalizations has been lower and death rates less than half.

"We're seeing outbreaks in homeless shelters and in nursing homes, but hospitals aren't overwhelmed like they have been in the past," said Salvador Sandoval, a doctor and health officer at the Merced County public health department in California. He attributes that welcome fact to vaccination, covid treatments like Paxlovid, and a degree of immunity from prior infections.

While a new coronavirus variant, JN.1, has spread around the world, the

current vaccines and covid tests remain effective.

Other seasonal illnesses are surging, too, but rates are consistent with those of previous years. Between 9,400 and 28,000 people died from influenza from Oct. 1 to Jan. 6, estimates the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and millions felt so ill from the flu that they sought medical care. Cases of pneumonia — a serious condition marked by inflamed lungs that can be triggered by the flu, covid, or other infections — also predictably rose as winter set in. Researchers are now less concerned about flare-ups of pneumonia in China, Denmark, and France in November and December, because they fit cyclical patterns of the pneumonia-causing bacteria *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* rather than outbreaks of a dangerous new bug.

Public health researchers recommend following the CDC guidance on getting the latest covid and influenza vaccines to ward off hospitalization and death from the diseases and reduce chances of getting sick. A recent review of studies that included 614,000 people found that those who received two covid vaccines were also less likely to



With around 20,000 people dying of covid in the United States since the start of October, and tens of thousands more abroad, the covid pandemic clearly isn't over. / Con alrededor de 20,000 muertes a causa de covid en Estados Unidos desde principios de octubre, y decenas de miles más en el extranjero, la pandemia claramente no ha terminado. (Photo/Foto: Adobe Stock)

develop long covid; often involving fatigue, cognitive dysfunction, and joint pain, the condition is marked by the development or continuation of symptoms a few months after an infection and has been debilitating for millions of people. Another analysis found that people who had three doses of covid vaccines were much less likely to have long covid than those who were unvaccinated. (A caveat, however, is that those with three doses might have taken additional measures to avoid infections than those who chose to go without.)

It's not too late for an influenza vaccine, either, said Helen Chu, a doctor and epidemiologist at the University of Washington in Seattle. Influen-

za continues to rise into the new year, especially in Southern states and California. Last season's shot appeared to reduce adults' risk of visits to the emergency room and urgent care by almost half and hospitalization by more than a third. Meanwhile, another seasonal illness with a fresh set of vaccines released last year, respiratory syncytial virus, appears to be waning this month.

Another powerful way to prevent covid, influenza, common colds, and other airborne infections is by wearing an N95 mask. Many researchers say they've returned to socializing without one but opt for the masks in crowded, indoor places when wearing one

See Covid on page 24

Covid Sigue Matando Gente. Esto Recomiendan los Médicos para Protegerse

By Amy Maxmen

Con alrededor de 20,000 muertes a causa de covid en Estados Unidos desde principios de octubre, y decenas de miles más en el extranjero, la pandemia claramente no ha terminado. Sin embargo, la respuesta a la crisis sí, ya que la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) y la administración Biden pusieron fin a la emergencia el año pasado.

No hay que confundir los términos "pandemia" y "emergencia". Como dijo Abraar Karan, médico e investigador en enfermedades infecciosas de la Universidad de Stanford: "La pandemia ha terminado hasta que tienes que estar acostado porque te sientes terrible".

Las pandemias no se definen por el tiempo ni por la gravedad, sino por grandes cantidades de infecciones en curso en todo el mundo. Las emergencias son agudas y se declaran para desencadenar una respuesta urgente.

El final oficial de la emergencia trasladó la responsabilidad de frenar al

covid de los líderes al público. En Estados Unidos, esto significó, por ejemplo, que el gobierno dejara de cubrir en gran medida el costo de las pruebas y vacunas contra el coronavirus.

Pero el virus sigue infectando a las personas; de hecho, está aumentando en este momento.

Con cambios en la naturaleza de la pandemia y la respuesta, KFF Health News habló con médicos e investigadores sobre cómo manejar mejor al covid, la influenza y otras enfermedades respiratorias que se están propagando esta temporada.

Como era de esperar, se produjo una ola de enfermedades durante las vacaciones de las Fiestas. Las infecciones por covid han aumentado en todo el país en las últimas semanas, con análisis de rastros del virus en aguas residuales que sugieren tasas de infección tan altas como el año pasado.

Más de 73,000 personas murieron por covid en el país en 2023, lo que

Vea Covid/Esp, página 24

DESCUBRA LOS VERDADEROS COSTOS DE LA ENERGÍA SUCIA

SIERRA CLUB

Hartmann

cy, have pointed to deep cracks in the foundational structure of Western civilization, traceable in part to the current legal status of corporations versus humans.

More recently, Jane Mayer has laid out in painful detail in her book *Dark Money* how the Koch Network and a few other political-minded billionaires have essentially taken over the entire Republican Party, as has Nancy MacLean with her book *Democracy in Chains*. The extent of the problems within our political and economic structures are laid bare with startling and sometimes frightening clarity.

As a result, of all these changes in our politics (most driven by five corrupt Republicans on the Supreme Court putting oligarchy above democracy), Princeton scholars Martin Gilens and Benjamin Page famously found that the odds of average Americans' political desires being translated into policy are about the same as "random noise," whereas what they referred to as "economic elites" frequently get everything they want from the political class.

They wrote that we still have the "features" of democracy like elections, but ended their paper with this cautionary note: "[W]e believe that if policymaking is dominated by powerful business organizations and a small number of affluent Americans, then America's claims to being a democratic society are seriously threatened."

It seems that America has arrived at the point Spengler saw in early 20th

century Europe, and, indeed, there are some concerning parallels, particularly with the late 1920s and early 1930s. Italy, Germany, and Spain all lost their democracies and moved to fascism during that era, while Spengler and his acolytes cheered.

And, indeed, it was one of FDR's biggest challenges in the early 1930s: steering America through a "middle course" between communism (which was then growing popular) and fascism (also growing popular). He pulled it off with small (compared to Europe) nods to democratic socialism, instituting programs like Social Security, the minimum wage, and establishing the right to unionize (among other things).

Mark Twain is often quoted as saying that history doesn't repeat itself, but it rhymes. Many look at the all-out war being waged against American government by the hard right, from Trump and his cronies to the billionaire networks funding right-wing propaganda and lobbying outlets, and think "it can't happen here."

They're wrong. It can happen here. We now have police intervening in elections, privatized corporate voting systems, and a massive voter suppression campaign to prevent elderly, young, and non-white Americans from being able to vote.

Meanwhile, Republican politicians and the billionaires who own them are now dropping any pretense at all to caring about the fate and future of our

country's fiscal health, so long as they get and keep their tax cuts.

In summary, what's left of our democratic institutions are under siege.

Add to that a largely billionaire-funded/owned right-wing media machine that's willing to regularly and openly deceive American voters (documented daily by Media Matters), and you have the perfect setup for a neo-feudalist/fascist takeover of our government.

Or, as President Carter so correctly called it, oligarchy.

This year's election may be our last chance to push back against the oligar-

chy that the GOP has been constructing for the past forty-three years. President Biden and Democrats in Congress made a valiant try with the *For The People Act* that would have expanded voter rights, outlawed gerrymandering, and reversed *Citizens United* to strip dark money out of our electoral system, but were stabbed in the back by Joe Manchin and Kirsten Sinema.

If Biden is re-elected and Democrats can take the House and hold the Senate, there's a very good chance — particularly without Manchin and Sinema to sabotage the process like they did in 2022 — that such legislation can be brought up again and pass.

Double check your voter registration — particularly if you live in a Blue city in a Red state, where they're already purging millions of voters every month — and help everybody you know get their registration up to date.

American democracy can't afford many more years of corruption before it's dead: our time to act is now.

Thom Hartmann is a talk-show host and the author. This article is republished from Common Dreams under a Creative Commons license.

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"for three years I worked the assembly line at Amazon in Bessemer, Alabama. The work was grueling. We were expected to work like robots, moving like 1,000 pieces per hour."

"I got badly injured. My left arm," she continued. "I had two surgeries. I had to get a third surgery, but I didn't have no more insurance. Amazon, they cut my insurance off a year after. They let me go last October."

"Amazon let me go because I was helping organize the union," said Burns. "We didn't get the union in Alabama but I'm gonna do everything in my power to stand in solidarity. Organizing the union showed me just how many people were in the same situation I was. Not just in Alabama, but all over the world."

"Forty-seven percent of the voters are poor or low-wage. Getting that vote in is very important," she added. "We cannot settle for less, we've got to stand up for our rights. We are forward together—not one step back."

Brett Wilkins is a staff writer for Common Dreams. This article is republished from [Common Dreams](#) under a Creative Commons license.

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Titone

own equipment and save thousands of dollars on costly repairs. This right to repair agricultural equipment law is a huge step forward in my ongoing legislative efforts to equip Coloradans with the tools to fix their own stuff when it breaks."

During the 2023 legislative session, Rep. Titone spearheaded HB23-1011, which requires agricultural equipment manufacturers to comply with existing consumer right to repair laws. Specifically, agricultural equipment manufacturers need to provide necessary parts, software, firmware, tools or documentation to independent repair providers and owners at a fair and reasonable price.

Agriculture is one of the largest and leading industries in the state of Colorado. HB23-1011 was supported by the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, the Corn Growers, Wheat Growers, Wool Producers, Fruit and Vegetable Producers, the Cattlemen, and the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

In addition to HB23-1011, Representatives Titone and David Ortiz, D-Littleton, passed two trailblazing [right to repair laws specifically for wheelchair users](#) in 2022. These laws require wheelchair manufacturers to provide parts and software to consumers and eliminate the need for prior authorization to repair powered wheelchairs and other complex rehabilitation technology (CRT) for Medicaid recipients.

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Zamore

deportation and detention decisions. The government cannot possibly detain millions of immigrants at a time, and never has. The articles of impeachment also fault Mayorkas for using the President's parole authority to allegedly circumvent a detention mandate. Yet for decades, presidents of both parties have used parole authority to help people affected by humanitarian disasters find safety in the U.S.

The Committee's assertions about immigration are factually wrong

Contrary to some members' assertions, the fentanyl crisis has little to do with migration. Data shows that most fentanyl coming into the U.S. is smuggled by U.S. citizens at ports of entry. According to a [Cato Institute](#) study, only 0.02 percent of people arrested by the Border Patrol for crossing illegally into the U.S. possessed any fentanyl. 88 percent of convicted fentanyl traffickers in fiscal year 2022 were U.S. citizens according to [U.S. Sentencing Commission](#) data.

They also allege that the U.S. stopped enforcing the laws and threw open the border. The reality is far, far different. Due to climate change, war, and a range of other global factors, record numbers of people are seeking safety in the United States and in many countries around the world. Customs and Border Patrol [enforcement actions have increased dramatically](#) as a result. Indeed, the ACLU has sued the Biden administration for illegally restricting the ability of families seeking a new life in the U.S. to apply for asylum.

Our immigration and border management systems need to be modernized, including by increasing resources in processing at ports of entry and in immigration courts and USCIS to address the enormous case backlog, not to mention by creating a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and other long-term U.S. residents who are contributing members of U.S. communities. Year after year, however, Congress fails to legislate solutions.

Lawmakers should think about the long-term health of our democratic institutions

As a matter of policy, the ACLU generally takes no position on the impeachment of political leaders. We do, however, warn against using impeachment as a tool for settling partisan scores or debating legitimate policy disputes. In the case of Secretary Mayorkas, we did not endorse his nomination and will not lobby members of Congress to vote for or against his impeachment. But we urge members of both parties to consider the long-term impact of their votes on the functioning of our democratic institutions when they invoke their impeachment powers.

Mike Zamore is the National Director of Policy & Government Affairs for the [American Civil Liberties Union](#).

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Escuelas

¿Qué documentos tengo que presentar?

Hay requisitos para inscribir en las escuelas, pero los líderes de inscripción de los distritos dicen que es importante que los padres sepan que ellos colaborarán con los padres si éstos creen que no tienen todos los documentos necesarios.

"Estamos comprometidos a encontrar maneras paa que funcione", declaró Laurie Premer, directora de servicios de inscripción en Denver.

Las escuelas pueden pedir un certificado de nacimiento u otro documento oficial, como un pasaporte, que muestre la fecha de nacimiento del niño. Es posible que te pidan un documento que muestre la dirección donde estás viviendo. Si te estás quedando con amistades o familiares, puede servir una carta del dueño de la casa en la que diga que tú y tus hijos viven con ellos.

La ley de Colorado también establece algunos requisitos de vacunación para que los niños puedan inscribirse en la escuela, por lo que es posible que te pidan evidencia de esas vacunas. Si no tienes evidencia, o decidiste que no quieras vacunar a tu hijo(a), es posible que tengas que llenar formularios de exclusión voluntaria o volver a vacunar a tu hijo(a). Las escuelas a menudo tienen clínicas y pueden indicarte dónde conseguir las vacunas que te faltan gratis o a bajo costo.

Si estás viviendo en un refugio en el momento de la inscripción, los distritos tienen políticas diferentes y podrán inscribir a tus hijos con menos documentos requeridos.

CHC

and their removal was ordered by a federal appeals court in December 2023, Texas officials have refused to remove the buoys.

Governor Abbott's political stunts have endangered lives and failed to address the root causes of migration or deter migrants from trying to cross the border into Texas.

Unfortunately, state officials have continuously overstepped their authority. For example, while the Supreme Court ordered for state officials to allow federal law enforcement to access the border, Abbott has placed additional concertina wire to prevent this access, impeding federal law enforcement's ability to carry out their work. On July 2023, CHC members on a Congressional Delegation visit to the U.S.-Mexico border were informed that U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials stationed around the Eagle Pass area had all but forfeited patrolling areas where Texas DPS officers set up camp. Governor Abbott continues to implement Operation Lone Star and, seemingly, act with impunity for more than two years.

Although we are encouraged by certain steps the Biden Administration has recently undertaken to counter Texas' unlawful actions and policies, we urgently call on the Administration

¿Cuánto toma inscribir a un niño en una escuela pública?

Típicamente la inscripción toma un par de días. Pero en distritos como Denver, donde el número de estudiantes nuevos aumenta cada semana, los líderes de inscripción dicen que las familias deben estar preparadas para esperar más tiempo. Actualmente el distrito puede tardar una semana en decirte que ya puedes completar la inscripción y registrar a tus hijos.

Sary Portillo, gerente de participación de familias multilingües en las escuelas de Denver, es una de las especialistas que visitan los refugios de inmigrantes para ayudar a las familias a inscribir a sus hijos en las escuelas. Ella va una vez a la semana, pero ahora que hay más refugios, su equipo solamente puede visitar cada refugio una vez cada dos semanas.

Después de que llenes los formularios de inscripción, los administradores del distrito te dirán si hay espacio en la escuela que pediste o trabajarán contigo para ubicar a tus hijos en una escuela que tenga espacio. Si tu hijo(a) necesita apoyo en español, ellos tratarán de inscribirle en un escuela que cumpla esa necesidad.

¿Qué significa 'school choice'?

Gracias a una ley de Colorado, tienes la libertad de elegir una escuela fuera de tu comunidad o distrito, y esto se conoce como *school choice*. Las escuelas usualmente les darán prioridad a los niños que viven cerca, pero si tienen espacio, aceptarán a familias de otros lugares que quieran asistir a esa escuela.

Aunque esto permite que las familias encuentren la escuela que mejor se adapte a sus hijos, debes tener en cuenta que si eliges la escuela de tu preferencia, tus hijos podrían no ser elegibles para viajar en el autobús escolar y por lo tanto tendrás que llevarlos a la escuela o hacer arreglos para su transporte. Algunas reglas de transporte son diferentes para los estudiantes que viven en refugios.

En algunas partes de Denver, todas las familias pueden elegir la escuela de su preferencia porque ninguna escuela tiene límites geográficos. Eso significa que los estudiantes no son asignados automáticamente a una escuela según su dirección residencial. En el extremo noreste de Denver, por ejemplo, todas las familias tienen que seleccionar una de las muchas escuelas del área.

¿Las escuelas públicas ayudarán a mi hijo a aprender inglés?

Hay requisitos federales sobre cómo las escuelas tienen que apoyar a los estudiantes y a las familias que no hablan

inglés. Aunque no todas las escuelas están preparadas para hacerlo bien, el gobierno federal requiere que las escuelas ayuden a los estudiantes a aprender inglés y que los estudiantes puedan tener acceso a la enseñanza. Esto se manifiesta de diferentes maneras. En Denver, algunas escuelas están creadas específicamente para ofrecer este tipo de apoyo y tienen personal que enseña tanto en español como en inglés.

Siempre puedes preguntar cómo la escuela que prefieres apoyará a tu hijo.

¿Qué es un centro para recién llegados?

Muchos distritos tienen escuelas designadas como centros para recién llegados. Denver y algunos otros distritos han añadido centros nuevos para acoger al creciente número de estudiantes inmigrantes y refugiados. Estas escuelas ofrecen más apoyo a los recién llegados, es decir, a los estudiantes que llevan en el país menos de uno o dos años. En Denver, algunos estudiantes admitidos en los centros para recién llegados también habían

dejado de ir a la escuela y tienen un nivel limitado de alfabetización en su idioma materno.

Las escuelas para recién llegados pueden tener más personal bilingüe, más apoyo acelerado para los estudiantes de secundaria que necesitan ponerse al día para cumplir con los requisitos de graduación de Colorado, y tienen trabajadores sociales que entienden otras necesidades que las familias recién llegadas pueden estar enfrentando. Los estudiantes también pueden sentirse más a gusto asistiendo a clase con otros estudiantes que también son nuevos en el país.

Puedes preguntar en tu distrito si tienes la opción de inscribir a tus hijos en una escuela para recién llegados.

Yesenia Robles es una reportera para Chalkbeat Colorado. Este artículo fue publicada originalmente por Chalkbeat.

Traducido por Milly Suazo-Martinez

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Eagle Pass

it as a prayerful caravan ending in a “revival” event and rally at a 10-acre private ranch in Quemado, Texas, and two other locations along the border in Arizona and California, while others said they were responding to a call from Carlson to defend the border. The event officially encouraged “active and retired law enforcement and military” to join the cause. At least one organizer initially said they planned to help sympathetic members of law enforcement hunt down migrants along the border before the group backpedaled.

While convoy leaders and official messaging declared the rolling protest was not affiliated with or attempting to form a militia, its links to militia and other far right actors have nonetheless been documented. Those ties include the participation of the Nebraska Constitutional Militia and links to extremist and anti-government actors like Ammon Bundy, Exiled Patriots leader Mike Forzano, National Patriots Coalition founder AJ Andrews, and former Marines reservist and white nationalist Ryan Sanchez, according to VICE and Wired. Admins of a walkie talkie app the convoy used to communicate on the road reportedly said that it was fine for the militias to attend Saturday’s rally in Quemado, but only if they remained peaceful.

The convoy’s Telegram and Discord chats revealed rampant paranoia around the potential of federal infiltration of the Quemado rally and a “false flag” entrapment incident or psyop occurring. Moreover, members discussed armed preparation for the rally, the potential for civil war, comparisons to 1776, an interest in vigilante defense of

“gaps” along the border wall and discussion of “exterminating” migrants.

Related Telegram chats reviewed by *Truthout* also reveal use of the n-word and discussion of the “great replacement” conspiracy theory, a belief that immigration is being deliberately stoked to weaken white political and racialized power, and the so-called necessity of renewed “racial consciousness” among white people. It’s this white supremacist belief and rhetoric that Abbott’s recent moves have emboldened not only among the convoy’s participants but across the transnational fascist right, according to a recent report by the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism (GPAHE). The theory has been tied to multiple mass shootings in the United States, including the shooting at an El Paso, Texas, Walmart that left 23 people dead in 2019.

“Great replacement” is first of all, a straight-up white supremacist idea. It’s the main white supremacist talking point around the world, and it is directly connected to violence,” GPAHE Cofounder Heidi Beirich told *Truthout*. “What’s astounding about this situation is that we’re hearing so many people use ‘great replacement,’ from political figures, from Donald Trump all the way down, and mainstreaming an idea that is directly connected to [fascist violence].”

Beirich tells *Truthout* that white supremacist and far right groups including the Proud Boys, neo-Nazi active clubs and the Aryan Freedom Network have all taken advantage of the border standoff to push far right propaganda and recruit new members. Far right and neo-Nazi actors abroad are following

suit, with social media accounts, media outlets and influencers in Austria, France, Germany, Lithuania, Sweden, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom parroting Abbott’s rhetoric and calling on the state to “secure its borders.”

While convoy organizers initially said at least 700,000 people would join the caravan, only about 50 cars, trucks and RVs drove into Dripping Springs, Texas, on Thursday after experiencing problems, including lost cars, turnarounds, arguments and slashed tires. The convoy, however, picked up dozens more cars and trucks as it headed toward its main rallying point in Quemado, 20 minutes outside Eagle Pass, finally rolling into the tiny town with as many as 300 vehicles nearly eight hours after it initially indicated it would arrive.

Outside the private ranch on Friday, the presence MAGA wares and QAnon and “Trump Won” bumper stickers were apparent as supporters tailgated in anticipation of the caravan’s arrival. According to The New York Times, the convoy’s Saturday rally and “revival” event attracted a modest crowd and remained peaceful.

Caught in the Crossfire

The residents of Eagle Pass, however, say they’re being caught in the crossfire between the state, federal government, secessionists and Christian nationalists — none of whom actually care about the city’s issues or community.

Border Vigil organizer and Eagle Pass resident Amerika García Grewal called on the Republican governors visiting Shelby Park on Sunday to directly lend aid and assistance to the

city of nearly 30,000 so that it might better support its own residents as well the asylum seekers crossing the border. Nearly a quarter of the population of Eagle Pass lives in poverty, a rate about twice the Texas average. Blighted homes are apparent throughout town.

“We need so many things. We need education and support for our schools. We need support for our hospitals. You probably noticed you can’t get a very good [cellphone] signal here. We need a lot more help with our electronic infrastructure, our roads, everything. We have a third [international crossing] we want to go up,” García Grewal said. “We’re asking [the governors] to stop making up fairy tales and get some work done.”

Residents are also calling on city officials to push both the state and the federal government to return their municipal property. Outside the newly erected gates to the municipal park, tents, military equipment and portable toilets line what was once an area used for community gatherings and cookouts. Shipping containers and barrels intermingle with Texas National Guard’s “no man’s land” of razor wire along the riverbank.

As Fuentes puts it, “If you were to go out on [the Rio Grande] today, it’s a disaster zone.... They’ve taken over a publicly funded park — our park, our history, our culture. That is where we convene. That is our green space. That is where we are connected to the river, and we don’t have access to it. And if you really take a walk and look down there, you can see that it’s becoming a military base, you will see tons of different types of equipment, new structures, new platting out. They’re digging in.”

For García Grewal, what’s unfolding at Shelby Park is a continuation of a blood-soaked history that is in some ways repeating itself in Abbott’s defiance of federal courts: A century and a half ago, Confederate Gen. Joseph Orville Shelby and his forces, refusing to surrender his stars-and-bars battle flag to Union soldiers, instead sank it in the waters of the Rio Grande here while fleeing to Mexico. The fact that park remains named for him is something that García Grewal and others have been pushing to change since at least 2020.

“Now more than ever, we need to change the name so that it no longer reflects a bygone era and an era of hate. And we need to name it to something that’s more reflective of this town, the town that I love. I’m personally holding out for the Mike García Friendship Park,” she said, referring to her father, a retired insurance salesman and active Chamber of Commerce member. “But I’ll leave that up to our community decide what they want to do.”

Now in addition to state and federal law enforcement presence in the park, residents have to also contend with MAGA movement supporters of all stripes. Outside Shelby Park on Friday and Sunday, no asylum seekers were visible from the gated barrier — just groups of Trump supporters milling about. To make matters worse, longtime leaders of Texas’s secessionist movement are using Abbott’s rhetoric around Shelby Park to reinforce calls for a popular vote to once again leave the union, reigniting the same conflict that led to General Shelby and his forces to cross the river in 1865.

But García Grewal doesn’t just envision a future in which a renamed city park is returned to the residents of Eagle Pass and river access is restored. She envisions a future in which real policy change paves way for both wider acceptance of migrants and asylum seekers as a key solution and necessary adaptation to the unfolding climate crisis, which, in conjunction with the U.S.’s own foreign policies, is helping to drive refugees to flee Central American countries.

“What we’re seeing is the first wave of what is going to be the largest movement of humanity this planet has ever experienced because ... we’re failing to stop climate change,” she told *Truthout*. “We’re failing to stop this heating of the world and people cannot stay where they are. I can’t stay where I am. That river is drying up, and there’s no other source of water in Eagle Pass.”

She points out that while the Biden administration has temporarily “paroled” 2.3 million migrants and asylum seekers, the administration has also denied entry to or deported nearly 4 million. Most who are paroled are in active removal proceedings, and only 125,000 cases per year actually win asylum.

The current border security package slated for a vote in the Senate, which makes it tougher for people to enter the asylum system and denies them the ability to apply if authorities can’t manage crossings, does almost nothing to actually address any of this, García Grewal says. In fact, she says, its provision mandating an automatic shutdown of border crossings when average daily migrant encounters exceed 5,000 people would hurt Eagle Pass’s local economy, which depends on the crossings being open. Human Rights groups are urging Congress to reject the deal.

Candice Bernd is senior editor/staff reporter at *Truthout*. This article was originally published by *Truthout.org*. Copyright, *Truthout.org*. Reprinted with permission.

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Trans

Matthew Murphy, an assistant professor of medicine and behavioral sciences at Brown University and a physician who oversees gender-affirming clinical care for the Rhode Island Department of Corrections. (Matthew and Taliyah are not related.)

"With Medicaid and private insurance increasingly covering gender-affirming care," he said, "there's a growing precedent."

There were 148 trans women housed in Colorado prisons as of December, according to a Department of Corrections spokesperson, with nine trans women residing in women's facilities. Before 2018, trans women were housed exclusively with men. The class-action lawsuit relates only to trans women and does not include trans men, nonbinary people, or intersex people.

The lawsuit was filed after a young trans woman who had previously been housed with girls in a juvenile facility was transferred to an adult men's prison, where she was brutally raped. Her numerous requests to be housed with other women, citing safety concerns, had been denied. After taking on the woman's case, Greisen quickly stumbled upon many more trans women who had experienced similar violence. She contacted the Colorado attorney general's office and governor's office, but little changed, prompting her to file the class action.

"The Department of Corrections in every state — it's like trying to turn around the Titanic. There's so much bureaucracy," Greisen said. "You often have to sue to get their attention."

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health, the leading professional organization that sets standards for the medical treatment of people with gender dysphoria, recommends an "informed consent model" that allows patients to pursue gen-

der-affirming care, including surgery, without having to undergo extensive psychological counseling.

But Colorado's prison system, like many across the country, doesn't adhere to those standards. Current corrections department policies require trans women to receive multiple recommendation letters from medical and mental health providers to be considered for transition-related surgery. Often, prisons offer gender-affirming care "on paper" but lack qualified providers, making the care impossible to get, according to Matthew Murphy.

That was the case for Taliyah Murphy, who pursued gender-affirming surgery twice during her incarceration. Murphy went to prison in 2009, after a conviction resulting from an altercation with her abusive boyfriend, according to the lawsuit. Her sentence was reduced in 2013, she said.

In 2019, she finally received a recommendation for surgery to treat her gender dysphoria from a corrections department psychiatrist. But she was told that her other medical providers didn't have the necessary training to evaluate her, according to the lawsuit, which halted the process. She received surgical treatment only after her release from prison in 2020, she said.

Gender dysphoria, left untreated, can result in depression, anxiety, thoughts of self-harm, and suicidality — all of which already affect trans people disproportionately because of the discrimination, stigma, and other social stressors they face. "Those things are generally resolved, or improved at least, by undergoing gender-affirming clinical care — whether that's medical, procedural, or surgical," Matthew Murphy said.

But prison systems are dragging their feet in providing treatment, he said, and a national shortage of gen-

der-affirming care providers and surgeons makes matters worse.

"And so, people are then forced to go to the courts," he said.

The consent decree will create two new voluntary housing options for trans women incarcerated in Colorado to better meet their specific needs and improve their safety.

A voluntary 100-bed transgender unit, whose development is already underway, will be on the grounds of the men's Sterling Correctional Facility. For those approved to move to the women's prison, they will spend a few months in the 44-bed integration unit outlined in the consent decree.

That adjustment time will be critical for both the cisgender women already housed in the women's prison and the trans women who are likely leaving traumatic situations in the men's prisons, said Shawn Meerkamper, senior staff attorney for the Transgender Law Center, who worked on the case.

"We have seen in other places when folks are just dropped in a really new environment, it can be a sink-or-swim situation," Meerkamper added.

Eligibility for the units would be decided on a case-by-case basis by a committee, including medical and psychiatric experts trained in gender-affirming care as well as prison officials, according to the settlement. But regardless of placement, Colorado's corrections department would still be legally required to provide trans women adequate mental and physical health care.

"Trans women should not be forced to go to the trans unit or to a women's prison if that's not what they want," Meerkamper said. "And they cannot be punished or retaliated against for refusing to go."

In response to the lawsuit, the Department of Corrections has hired an independent medical expert from Denver Health, as well as a gender-affirming care specialist, to help oversee

requests for housing assignments and surgical consults.

Taliyah Murphy hopes the new housing units and improved access to gender-affirming care will allow incarcerated trans women to focus less on safety and survival and more on rehabilitation and planning their lives outside prison walls.

"We want them to leave better off than they came in and get the care they need," said Murphy, who is now a small-business owner in Colorado Springs and is pursuing her bachelor's degree in finance and accounting. "That's what this is all about."

Moe K. Clark, Multimedia Journalist. 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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Trans/Esp

Un juez estatal celebró una audiencia sobre el decreto de consentimiento el 4 de enero y se espera que lo finalice a principios de marzo, después de otorgar una extensión para permitir que más mujeres presas fueran notificadas del acuerdo. Aproximadamente 400 mujeres trans que están o estuvieron presas actualmente son elegibles como beneficiarias.

Las asignaciones de vivienda en las cárceles de Estados Unidos se hacen casi exclusivamente en función de la anatomía de una persona, a pesar de que una ley federal establece que las preocupaciones de seguridad para las personas trans deben tenerse en cuenta al determinar adónde se las asigna. Eso se debe a que tienen muchas más probabilidades que los reclusos que no son trans de sufrir agresión sexual o física durante su tiempo en prisión.

"Es como ponerles un blanco en la espalda", dijo Paula Greisen, la abogada de derechos civiles que presentó la demanda colectiva en 2019 junto con el Centro Legal Transgénero con sede en California.

El Departamento de Justicia de Estados Unidos encontró en 2014 que las personas trans en prisión tienen muchas más probabilidades de experimentar violencia sexual tras las rejas tanto del personal como de otros presos, con un 35% de los reclusos trans informando haber sido agredidos en los 12 meses anteriores a la encuesta.

Un estudio de 2007 sobre mujeres trans en cárceles de California encontró que el 59% informó haber sufrido agresión sexual durante su tiempo en la cárcel, una tasa 13 veces más alta que para otras reclusas.

El caso de Colorado ocurre en medio de un número creciente de demandas en todo el país que tienen como meta mejorar el acceso a la atención de afirmación de género y la seguridad para las personas trans en prisión. En un caso histórico de 1994, la Corte Su-

prema de Estados Unidos dictaminó que la "indiferencia deliberada" de los oficiales de cárceles hacia las preocupaciones de seguridad de un preso viola la cláusula de "castigos crueles e inusuales" de la Octava Enmienda.

Desde entonces, las personas trans presas han ganado demandas contra administradores de prisiones en Washington, Georgia, Idaho y California.

Y mientras que un puñado de estados, incluido Colorado, han escrito normas sobre la atención médica y la cirugía de afirmación de género, las barreras para acceder a la atención son a menudo insuperables, un problema que el decreto de consentimiento espera abordar.

California fue el primer estado en establecer políticas sobre atención médica de afirmación de género en prisones: proporciona esta cirugía desde 2017. En 2019, un panel de tres jueces dictaminó que el estado de Idaho estaba obligado a realizar una cirugía que los funcionarios habían negado previamente. Una persona presa en Colorado ha tenido su cirugía de afirmación de género, según un vocero del Departamento de Correcciones.

La Constitución exige que las cárceles y prisiones proporcionen el mismo estándar de atención al que las personas pueden acceder en la comunidad, dijo Matthew Murphy, profesor asistente de medicina y ciencias del comportamiento en la Universidad Brown y médico que supervisa la atención clínica de afirmación de género para el Departamento de Correcciones de Rhode Island. (Matthew y Taliyah no son parientes).

"Con Medicaid y seguros privados que cubren cada vez más la atención de afirmación de género", dijo, "hay un precedente creciente".

Hasta diciembre de 2023, había 148 mujeres trans en cárceles de Colorado, según un portavoz del Departamento de Correcciones, con nueve mujeres

trans residiendo en instalaciones para mujeres. Antes de 2018, las mujeres trans estaban alojadas exclusivamente con hombres. La demanda colectiva se refiere solo a mujeres trans y no incluye a hombres trans, personas no binarias o personas intersexuales.

La demanda fue presentada después que una mujer trans joven que anteriormente había estado alojada con niñas en una instalación juvenil fuera trasladada a una prisión de hombres adultos, donde la violaron brutalmente. Se le habían negado numerosas solicitudes para alojarse con otras mujeres, citando preocupaciones de seguridad.

Después de asumir el caso de la mujer, Greisen encontró rápidamente muchas más mujeres trans que habían experimentado violencia similar. Se puso en contacto con la oficina del fiscal general de Colorado y la oficina del gobernador, pero no cambió mucho, lo que la llevó a presentar la demanda colectiva.

"El Departamento de Correcciones en cada estado, es como tratar de volver a hacer flotar el Titanic. Hay tanta burocracia", dijo Greisen. "A menudo tienes que demandar para llamar su atención".

La Asociación Profesional Mundial para la Salud Transgénero, la principal entidad profesional que establece estándares para el tratamiento médico de personas con disforia de género, recomienda un "modelo de consentimiento informado" que permite a los pacientes buscar atención de afirmación de género, incluida la cirugía, sin tener que someterse a un extenso asesoramiento psicológico.

Pero el sistema penitenciario de Colorado, como muchos a lo largo del país, no adhiere a estos estándares. Las políticas actuales requieren que las mujeres trans reciban varias cartas de recomendación de proveedores médicos y de salud mental para ser consid-

eradas para la cirugía relacionada con la transición. A menudo, las cárceles ofrecen atención de afirmación de género "en papel" pero carecen de proveedores calificados, lo que hace que la atención sea imposible de acceder, según Matthew Murphy.

Ese fue el caso de Taliyah Murphy, quien buscó una cirugía de afirmación de género dos veces durante su tiempo en la cárcel. Murphy fue presa en 2009, después de una condena como consecuencia de un altercado con su novio abusivo, según la demanda. Su condena fue reducida en 2013, dijo.

En 2019, finalmente recibió una recomendación para la cirugía para tratar su disforia de género de un psiquiatra del departamento de correcciones. Pero la demanda revela que el proceso se detuvo porque le dijeron que los otros proveedores médicos no tenían la formación necesaria para evaluarla. Recibió tratamiento quirúrgico en 2020, luego de ser liberada, contó.

Si no se trata, la disforia de género puede generar depresión, ansiedad, pensamientos de autolesión y tendencias suicidas, y todo esto afecta desproporcionadamente a las personas trans debido a la discriminación, el estigma y otros estresantes factores sociales que enfrentan.

"Estos problemas generalmente se resuelven, o al menos mejoran, mediante la atención clínica de la afirmación de género, ya sea médica o quirúrgica", dijo Matthew Murphy. Y apuntó que los sistemas penitenciarios están retrasando la prestación de tratamiento, y una escasez nacional de proveedores y cirujanos de atención de afirmación de género agrava la situación. Es así como "las personas se ven obligadas a recurrir a los tribunales", agregó.

El decreto de consentimiento creará dos nuevas opciones de vivienda voluntaria para mujeres trans en prisiones de Colorado para satisfacer mejor sus

necesidades específicas y mejorar su seguridad.

Una unidad transgénero voluntaria de 100 camas, cuyo desarrollo ya está en marcha, se ubicará en los terrenos de la Instalación Correccional de Sterling para hombres. Aquellos con la aprobación para mudarse a la prisión de mujeres, pasarán algunos meses en la unidad de integración de 44 camas descripta en el decreto de consentimiento.

Ese tiempo de adaptación será crítico tanto para las mujeres cisgénero que ya están alojadas en la prisión de mujeres como para las mujeres trans que probablemente dejarán atrás situaciones traumáticas en las cárceles de hombres, dijo Shawn Meerkamper, abogado principal del Centro Legal Transgénero, quien trabajó en el caso.

"Hemos visto en otros lugares que cuando a las personas simplemente se las pone en un ambiente completamente nuevo, puede ser una situación en la que quedan librados a su suerte", agregó Meerkamper.

Según el acuerdo, un comité — que incluiría expertos médicos y psiquiátricos capacitados en atención de afirmación de género, así como funcionarios de prisiones — decidiría sobre la elegibilidad para las unidades caso por caso. Pero independientemente de la ubicación, el departamento de correcciones de Colorado seguiría estando legalmente obligado a proporcionar a las mujeres trans acceso adecuado a atención médica y de salud mental.

"Las mujeres trans no deberían ser obligadas a ir a la unidad trans o a una prisión de mujeres si no es eso lo que quieren", dijo Meerkamper. "Y no pueden ser castigadas o sufrir represalias por negarse a ir".

En respuesta a la demanda, el Departamento de Correcciones ha contratado a un experto médico independiente de Denver Health y a un especialista en atención de afirmación de género, para ayudar a supervisar las solicitudes de asignaciones de vivienda y consultas quirúrgicas.

Taliyah Murphy espera que las nuevas unidades y el mejor acceso a la atención de afirmación de género permitan a las mujeres trans en cárceles concentrarse menos en la seguridad y la supervivencia y más en la rehabilitación y la planificación de sus vidas fuera de las paredes de la prisión.

"Queremos que salgan mejor de lo que entraron y reciban la atención que necesitan", dijo Murphy, quien ahora es propietaria de un pequeño negocio en Colorado Springs y está estudiando para obtener su licenciatura en finanzas y contabilidad. "De eso se trata todo esto".

Moe Clark, periodista multimedia. Esta historia fue producida por KFF Health News, una redacción nacional que produce periodismo en profundidad sobre temas de salud y es uno de los principales programas operativos de KFF, la fuente independiente de investigación de políticas de salud, encuestas y periodismo.

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El Dr. William Barber II, copresidente de la Campaña de los Pobres, inspira en mitines por todo el país. / Poor People's Campaign co-chair Rev. Dr. William Barber II inspires at rallies across the nation. (Foto/Photo: Susan Melkisethian/flickr/cc)



La Campaña de los Pobres ha inspirado la acción nacional para abordar las luchas de los trabajadores estadounidenses. / The Poor People's Campaign has inspired national action to address the struggles of America's working people. (Foto/Photo: Susan Melkisethian/flickr/cc)



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School

like. In Denver, some schools are set up specifically to provide this type of support and have staff that teach in both Spanish and English.

You can always ask how the school you want to enroll in will support your child.

What is a newcomer center?

Many districts have schools that are designated as newcomer centers. Denver and some other districts have added new centers to accommodate the growing number of immigrant and refugee students. These schools provide more support to newcomers — students who have been in the country less than a year or two. In Denver, some students admitted to newcomer centers have also had interrupted schooling and have limited literacy skills in their primary language.

Guadalupe de la Cruz, de la Campaña de los Pobres de Florida, afirmó que “no debemos vernos acorralados y obligados a elegir entre una necesidad u otra”.

En su intervención en la rueda de prensa, la activista de Alabama Linda Burns dijo que “durante tres años trabajé en la cadena de montaje de Amazon en Bessemer, Alabama. El trabajo era agotador. Se esperaba que trabajáramos como robots, moviendo como 1.000 piezas por hora”.

“Me lesioné gravemente. Mi brazo izquierdo”, continuó. “Me operaron dos veces. Tuve que operarme una tercera vez, pero ya no tenía seguro. Amazon, me cortaron el seguro un año después. Me dejaron ir en octubre pasado”.

“Amazon me dejó ir porque estaba ayudando a organizar el sindicato”, dijo Burns. “No conseguimos el sindicato en Alabama, pero voy a hacer todo lo que esté en mi mano para solidarizarme. Organizar el sindicato me mostró cuánta gente estaba en la misma situación que yo. No sólo en Alabama, sino en todo el mundo”.

“El 47% de los votantes son pobres o tienen salarios bajos. Conseguir ese voto es muy importante”, añadió. “No podemos conformarnos con menos, tenemos que defender nuestros derechos. Avancemos juntos, ni un paso atrás”.

Brett Wilkins es redactor de Common Dreams. Este artículo fue publicada originalmente por Common Dreams.

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

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Covid/Esp

significa que el virus sigue siendo más mortal que los accidentes automovilísticos y la influenza. Sin embargo, en comparación con el aumento estacional del año pasado, la ola de hospitalizaciones por covid de este invierno ha sido menor y las tasas de mortalidad se redujeron a menos de la mitad.

"Estamos viendo brotes en refugios para personas sin hogar y en hogares de adultos mayores, pero los hospitales no están abrumados como antes", dijo Salvador Sandoval, médico y funcionario de salud en el Departamento de Salud Pública del condado de Merced, en California. Lo atribuye al impacto positivo de la vacunación, tratamientos como Paxlovid, y un grado de inmunidad por haber tenido la infección.

Aunque una nueva variante del coronavirus, la JN.1, se ha propagado por todo el mundo, las vacunas y las pruebas de covid actuales siguen siendo efectivas.

Otras enfermedades estacionales también están aumentando, pero las tasas son consistentes con años anteriores. Entre 9,400 y 28,000 personas murieron por influenza entre el 1 de octubre y el 6 de enero, según estimaciones de los Centros para el Control y Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC), y millones buscaron atención médica por fuertes síntomas de gripe.

Los casos de neumonía, una afección grave en la que los pulmones se inflaman y que puede desencadenarse por la gripe, el covid u otras infecciones, también aumentaron de manera previsible a medida que llegaba el invierno.

Los investigadores en salud pública recomiendan seguir la guía de los CDC para obtener las últimas vacunas contra covid y la influenza para evitar hospitalizaciones y muertes por estas en-

fermedades y reducir las posibilidades de enfermarse.

Una revisión reciente de estudios, que incluyó a 614,000 personas comprobó que aquellos que recibieron dos vacunas contra covid también fueron menos propensos a desarrollar covid prolongado; que a menudo involucra fatiga, disfunción cognitiva y dolor en las articulaciones. También se caracteriza por el desarrollo o continuación de síntomas unos meses después de una infección, lo que es debilitante para millones de personas.

Otro análisis encontró que las personas que recibieron tres dosis de vacunas contra covid fueron mucho menos propensas a tener covid prolongado que aquellas que no estaban vacunadas. (Una advertencia, sin embargo, es que aquellos con tres dosis podrían haber tomado medidas adicionales para evitar infecciones que aquellos que eligieron no recibieron).

Tampoco es tarde para una vacuna contra la influenza, dijo Helen Chu, médica y epidemióloga de la Universidad de Washington, en Seattle.

La influenza continúa aumentando en el nuevo año, especialmente en los estados del sur y California. La vacuna de la temporada pasada pareció reducir el riesgo de adultos de visitar emergencias y la atención de urgencia en casi la mitad y la hospitalización en más de un tercio. Mientras tanto, otra enfermedad estacional con un nuevo conjunto de vacunas lanzado el año pasado, el virus respiratorio sincitial (VRS), parece estar disminuyendo este mes.

Otra forma poderosa de prevenir el covid, la influenza, los resfriados comunes y otras infecciones transmitidas por aire es usando una máscara N95. Muchos investigadores dicen que han

vuelto a socializar sin una, pero optan por usarlas en lugares concurridos y en interiores. Karan, por ejemplo, usa su N95 en aviones. Y no hay que olvidar el muy reconocido y sencillo lavado de manos, que también ayuda a prevenir infecciones.

Si haces todo eso y aún te sientes enfermo, los investigadores dicen que uses las pruebas rápidas de covid. Aunque nunca han sido perfectas, a menudo son bastante útiles para guiar los pasos a seguir.

Cuando el presidente Joe Biden declaró el fin de la emergencia de salud pública el año pasado, muchos sitios de pruebas financiados por el gobierno federal que enviaban muestras a laboratorios cerraron. Como resultado, ahora las personas recurren principalmente a las pruebas de covid caseras que señalan una infección en 15 minutos y cuestan alrededor de \$6 a \$8 cada una en muchas farmacias.

El truco es usar estas pruebas correctamente realizando más de una cuando haya motivo de preocupación.

Un resultado negativo con una prueba rápida podría significar que una infección no ha progresado lo suficiente como para detectarse, que la prueba ha caducado o que se hizo mal. Para asegurarse que el culpable detrás de síntomas como dolor de garganta no sea covid, investigadores sugieren volver a realizar la prueba en uno o dos días.

A menudo, lleva unos tres días después de que comienzan los síntomas para que una prueba sea positiva, dijo Karan, y agregó que estas estimaciones se basan en promedios.

Si una persona se siente bien pero quiere hacerse una prueba porque estuvo cerca de alguien con covid, Karan recomienda realizar hacerla dos a cuatro días después de la exposición.

Para proteger a los demás durante esos días de incertidumbre, la persona puede usar una máscara N95 que bloquea la propagación del virus. Si las pruebas siguen siendo negativas cinco días después de la exposición y la persona aún se siente bien, dijo Chu, es poco probable que esté infectada, y si lo está, los niveles virales serían tan bajos que sería poco probable que transmitiera el virus a otros.

Las pruebas positivas, por otro lado, señalan de manera confiable una infección. En este caso, el médico dirá si la persona puede tomar el antiviral Paxlovid. Las pastillas funcionan mejor cuando se toman inmediatamente después que comienzan los síntomas, para reducir el daño. Algunos estudios sugieren que el medicamento también reduce el riesgo de covid prolongado, pero la evidencia es mixta.

Si se descarta covid, Karan recomienda pruebas para la influenza porque pueden guiar a los médicos sobre si recetar un antiviral para combatirlo, o si en cambio es una infección bacteriana, en cuyo caso pueden ser necesarios antibióticos. (Una nueva prueba casera diagnostica COVID e influenza al mismo tiempo).

Mientras que los antivirales y los antibióticos se centran en la fuente de la enfermedad, los medicamentos de venta libre pueden aliviar la congestión, la tos, la fiebre y otros síntomas. Dicho esto, la Administración de Drogas y Alimentos (FDA) determinó recientemente que un ingrediente principal en versiones de Sudafed, NyQuil y otros descongestivos, llamado fenilefrina, es ineficaz.

Los trabajos complican un enfoque personal para mantenerse saludable. Algunos empleadores siguen tomando precauciones para proteger a su

personal. Chu, por ejemplo, tiene dispositivos purificadores de aire en su laboratorio y pide a los investigadores que se queden en casa cuando se sienten enfermos y que se hagan la prueba de covid antes de volver a trabajar después de un viaje.

Sin embargo, expertos en seguridad ocupacional dicen que muchos empleados enfrentan riesgos que no pueden controlar porque las decisiones sobre si y cómo protegerse contra los brotes, como a través de la ventilación, las pruebas y el uso de mascarillas, quedan en manos de los empleadores. Especialmente, aquellos con empleos de bajos salarios y de medio tiempo, que ocupan mayormente personas de color, a menudo tienen menos capacidad para controlar su entorno laboral.

Jessica Martínez, co-directora ejecutiva del National Council for Occupational Safety and Health, dijo que la falta de normas laborales nacionales sobre la protección contra enfermedades transmitidas por aire representa una falla fatal en la decisión de la administración Biden de renunciar al control de la pandemia.

"Cada lugar de trabajo debe tener un plan para reducir la amenaza de enfermedades infecciosas", dijo. "Si te enfocas solo en el individuo, fallas en proteger a los trabajadores".

Amy Maxmen, periodista. Esta historia fue producida por KFF Health News, una redacción nacional que produce periodismo en profundidad sobre temas de salud y es uno de los principales programas operativos de KFF, la fuente independiente de investigación de políticas de salud, encuestas y periodismo.

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Covid

would not be particularly burdensome. Karan, for example, wears his favorite N95 masks on airplanes. And don't forget good, old-fashioned hand-washing, which helps prevent infections as well.

If you do all that and still feel sick? Researchers say they reach for rapid covid tests. While they've never been perfect, they're often quite helpful in guiding a person's next steps.

When President Joe Biden declared the end of the public health emergency last year, many federally funded testing sites that sent samples to laboratories shut their doors. As a result, people now mainly turn to home covid tests that signal an infection within 15 minutes and cost around \$6 to \$8 each at many pharmacies. The trick is to use these tests correctly by taking more than one when there's reason for concern. They miss early infections more often than tests processed in a lab, because higher levels of the coronavirus are required for detection — and the virus takes time to multiply in the body. For this reason, Karan considers other information. "If I ran into someone who turned out to be sick,

and then I get symptoms a few days later," he said, "the chance is high that I have whatever they had, even if a test is negative."

A negative result with a rapid test might mean simply that an infection hasn't progressed enough to be detected, that the test had expired, or that it was conducted wrong. To be sure the culprit behind symptoms like a sore throat isn't covid, researchers suggest testing again in a day or two. It often takes about three days after symptoms start for a test to register as positive, said Karan, adding that such time estimates are based on averages and that individuals may deviate from the norm.

If a person feels healthy and wants to know their status because they were around someone with covid, Karan recommends testing two to four days after the exposure. To protect others during those uncertain days, the person can wear an N95 mask that blocks the spread of the virus. If tests remain negative five days after an exposure and the person still feels fine, Chu said, they're unlikely to be infected —

and, if they are, viral levels would be so low that they would be unlikely to pass the disease to others.

Positive tests, on the other hand, reliably flag an infection. In this case, people can ask a doctor whether they qualify for the antiviral drug Paxlovid. The pills work best when taken immediately after symptoms begin so that they slash levels of the virus before it damages the body. Some studies suggest the medicine reduces a person's risk of long covid, too, but the evidence is mixed. Another note on tests: Don't worry if they continue to turn out positive for longer than symptoms last; the virus may linger even if it's no longer replicating. After roughly a week since a positive test or symptoms, studies suggest, a person is unlikely to pass the virus to others.

If covid is ruled out, Karan recommends tests for influenza because they can guide doctors on whether to prescribe an antiviral to fight it — or if instead it's a bacterial infection, in which case antibiotics may be in order. (One new home test diagnoses covid and influenza at the same time.)

Whereas antivirals and antibiotics target the source of the ailment, over-the-counter medications may soothe congestion, coughs, fevers, and other symptoms. That said, the FDA recently determined that a main ingredient in versions of Sudafed, NyQuil, and other decongestants, called phenylephrine, is ineffective.

Jobs complicate a personal approach to staying healthy. Emergency-era business closures have ended, and mandates on vaccination and wearing masks have receded across the country. Some managers take precautions to protect their staff. Chu, for example, keeps air-purifying devices around her lab, and she asks researchers to stay home when they feel sick and to test themselves for covid before returning to work after a trip.

However, occupational safety experts note that many employees face risks they cannot control because decisions on if and how to protect against outbreaks, such as through ventilation, testing, and masking, are left to employers. Notably, people with low-wage and part-time jobs — oc-

cupations disproportionately held by people of color — are often least able to control their workplace environments.

Jessica Martinez, co-executive director of the National Council for Occupational Safety and Health, said the lack of national occupational standards around airborne disease protection represents a fatal flaw in the Biden administration's decision to relinquish its control of the pandemic.

"Every workplace needs to have a plan for reducing the threat of infectious disease," she said. "If you only focus on the individual, you fail workers."

Amy Maxmen is a journalist. 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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Salmon

hat will be no easy task because for at least a decade, the GOP has tried to mute the voices of Florida citizens using radical redistricting, voter suppression and election and voter subversion.

In spite of the suppression of dissent and manipulation of the state's electoral mechanisms, opponents of DeSantis and what remains of the Republican Party are standing up to DeSantis and his allies, speaking out or opting to leave the state.

What's animating DeSantis, allies and supporters is fear that their way of life is eroding. They feel their power slipping away because of the social, economic and educational gains made by African Americans, a changing landscape where liberated women who no longer need permission from men to live their lives and perhaps most importantly, the threat of rising numbers of Black and brown people and the corresponding decline of the majority white population nationally.

The Browning of America translates to the significant diminution of white power, influence and dominance and those who will be most affected, led by the GOP, are fighting back furiously – even with violence – to blunt the prediction.

In recent days, a new battle is heating up in the Florida Legislature where the House just approved a bill that would allow 16- and 17-year-olds to work more than 30 hours a week, the same hours as adults. The measure is merely reflective of other Republican-led state legislatures which have introduced or passed laws that roll back child labor laws in industries as varied as meat packing plants, automobile factories and construction sites.

A 2023 NPR story notes that in 11 states, including Arkansas, Ohio, Iowa and Missouri, laws now on the books would "allow companies to hire children without work permits and allow children to work longer hours under more dangerous conditions ..."

Republicans are cementing these changes into law even as several federal and news investigations revealed that thousands of children and teenagers employed in construction, manufacturing and meatpacking plants are being exploited, hurt and killed on the job.

The US Department of Labor data show 5,792 minors working in illegal conditions nationally in FY 2023, compared to 3,876 in FY 2022.

Immigrant children

Labor unions, child advocates and other critics are angered by the proposals and laws being considered by the legislature driven by the belief that Republicans – who are almost universally anti-labor – are passing these laws at the behest of businesses and corporations and have little concern for the health and safety of children and teenagers.

Many opposed to these new measures have been trying unsuccessfully to stave off what they say is a return to the days when children worked long hours on dangerous jobs for low pay and few protections.

In Florida's case in particular, critics say, Florida Republicans are reacting to a labor shortage crisis created and exacerbated by DeSantis and the GOP legislative super-majority which passed onerous provisions targeting undocumented immigrants last summer.

Immigrant rights advocates and farmworkers have also expressed concerns about theirs and other immigrant children working in the fields instead of focusing on their education because of the bill.

"Our children are not merely small adults ready to bear the burdens of life tools; they are dreamers, thinkers and the very embodiment of our state's future promise. At every corner of our state children are finding their passions, honing their skills, and learning the values that will define their character," said Orange County Democratic Rep. LaVon Bracy Davis, speaking in the state House. "They are deeply engaged in educational pursuits and extracurricular activities that spark joy and ignite flames of lifelong interest. To place the weight of labor upon their shoulders is to extinguish these flames, to snuff out the spark before they can ever truly catch fire."

The wrath generated by what the legislature's doing makes it clear that lawmakers won't have a free hand to do as business interests and corporations demand.

But those working in the interest of Florida's children know they have a Sisyphean task ahead of them because DeSantis and his Republican cronies have so thoroughly rigged the system.

But they will continue to fight for children's rights because our futures – as well as theirs – depend on it.

Barrington Salmon is a freelance journalist. This commentary is republished from [Florida Phoenix](#) under a Creative Commons license.

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Educación

La carta, dirigida al recién elegido presidente del Consejo de Todos los Pueblos, James Mountain, preguntó si los miembros priorizaban el paquete tribal, el fondo fiduciario para la educación o ambos.

Mountain dejó recientemente su cargo de jefe del Departamento de Asuntos Indígenas. El mandato de Mountain se vio empañado por una acusación anterior de penetración sexual criminal, secuestro y agresión con agravantes contra un miembro de la familia.

El caso se archivó en 2010 por falta de pruebas, pero algunos líderes de comunidades tribales condenaron su nombramiento.

El Consejo de Gobernadores de Todos los Pueblos se reunió y respondió al gobernador diciendo que, aunque no culparían a ninguna de las partes por el posible conflicto, los miembros estaban descontentos con la pregunta.

"Los gobernadores no aprecian ser colocados en una posición que nos obliga a tener que elegir entre la financiación de la educación de nuestros hijos frente a la financiación de las necesidades críticas de infraestructura para nuestras comunidades", decía la respuesta del Consejo a la carta de Luján Grisham. "Creemos que esto es fundamentalmente erróneo y adverso a los compromisos de asociación que hemos hecho con usted y el liderazgo legislativo estatal".

Los fondos para ambos proyectos no están necesariamente en conflicto. El dinero de los desembolsos de capital procede de bonos de obligación general, bonos del impuesto de cesión de derechos e ingresos no recurrentes del fondo general, mientras que el dinero del fondo fiduciario sólo procederá del fondo general.

La inclusión del fondo fiduciario en el presupuesto estatal también depende

de la aprobación del proyecto de ley. Si el proyecto de ley fracasa, la asignación solicitada de 100 millones de dólares volverá a los fondos de reserva de Nuevo México.

El Consejo de Gobernadores de Todos los Pueblos pidió al gobernador que trabajara con Lente y los líderes legislativos para garantizar que tanto el paquete tribal como el fondo fiduciario de educación tribal reciban al menos 50 millones de dólares cada uno.

Lente dijo el sábado que no se ha reunido con Luján Grisham para hablar de cómo crear un camino a seguir que está en línea con ambas propuestas de financiación, pero Lente dijo que confía en que ambos pueden coexistir. Dijo que el fondo fiduciario es coherente con las iniciativas de educación que el gobernador defendió en el pasado, pero era su responsabilidad ver el proyecto de ley a través.

"Al final del día me corresponderá a mí guiarlo por el mejor camino para asegurarme de que todas las tribus son escuchadas, desde la más grande a la más pequeña", dijo Lente. "Y que al final del día se trata de crear capacidad, al final del día se trata de tener dólares y consideración que nunca hemos tenido antes y al final del día saber que hacemos todo este trabajo en nombre de nuestros hijos".

Megan Taros es reportera independiente de Source NM. Este artículo ha sido publicado por Source New Mexico bajo una licencia Creative Commons.

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