

# Speakers Bureau: Immigration Enforcement and Latino Community Response

*Updated July 22, 2025*

## Topline messaging

- Recent immigration enforcement actions, especially what we have witnessed in Los Angeles, are tearing families apart, traumatizing children while also damaging our local economies.
- What we have seen in LA are blatant, indiscriminate attacks on our community.
- This is concerning because we are seeing unlawful and unconstitutional actions by our executive branch of government. These federal actions have put our communities in the crosshairs.
- The reconciliation legislation, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on July 4, increases funding for these types of enforcement actions and is will certainly provide a blank check for *more* abuse and civil rights violations.
- The American people do not support this Administration's extreme approach to immigration enforcement.
- We need to let our elected officials know the harm of these policies and hold them accountable.

## Immigration Enforcement Leaves Lasting Scars on Children and Families

- 5.5 million U.S.-born children have at least one undocumented relative and 4 million have an undocumented parent. That's millions of kids at risk of losing a parent, caregiver or sibling overnight.

- Deportations devastate families' financial stability. Losing a primary breadwinner can slash household income by nearly half, leading to housing and food insecurity.
- Children separated from parents suffer toxic stress and trauma that impacts brain development and academic performance.
- Fear creates a chilling effect — families avoid schools, clinics and public programs even among legal residents.
  - A UnidosUS poll found that 32% of Latino voters report children are missing classes because parents fear being arrested at schools.

## Increased Enforcement Harms the Economy

- Undocumented workers are essential to our economy. They make up nearly 5% of our workforce, and much higher shares in critical sectors like agriculture (22%) and construction (15%).
- Mass deportations could remove at least 2.4 million workers from our labor force, eliminating \$100 billion in annual tax revenue, and shrink the economy by 6.8%.
- A UnidosUS poll found 35% of Latino voters said employers have lost workers because people fear arrest if they go to work.
- Raids and fear-based enforcement are draining local economies. In areas hit hardest by recent operations, small businesses report fewer customers, lower sales, and a climate of fear.
- When immigrant communities are afraid to shop, work or go outside, entire neighborhoods suffer.
- Immigrant entrepreneurs are vital to local economies. Immigrants start new businesses at higher rates than U.S.-born individuals, particularly in food services, retail trade, and other industries that have been hit hard by immigration raids.

## Indiscriminate Raids and Enforcement Lead to Abuses of Power and Racial Profiling

- Authorities have increasingly arrested Latinos without any criminal history in the streets of America since January, creating the conditions for profiling U.S. citizens.
- U.S. citizens and legal residents have been swept up in these immigration raids, simply for how they look or speak and even after presenting documentation proving their legal status.
- UnidosUS's poll found 43% of Latino voters feared immigration authorities will arrest them even if they're U.S. citizens or have legal status.
- Recent raids featuring masked officials have provoked dozens of lawsuits due to civil rights violations.
  - One recent farm raid resulted in one worker death and hundreds of arrests, showing the dangerous escalation.

## What We've Seen Will Only Get Worse with the Recently Passed Reconciliation Legislation

- The recently enacted reconciliation legislation gives the administration a blank check to carry out mass deportations without accountability or meaningful oversight.
- The administration has already shown the lengths it will go to arrest more individuals without criminal histories and deport individuals with limited to no due process.
- The funding will allow the administration to turbocharge these efforts:
  - Hiring 10,000 more ICE officers to conduct raids in communities and workplaces.
  - Massive expansion of detention facilities to house more immigrants awaiting deportation, including families and children.
  - More flights deporting people to countries they weren't born in or can't speak the language.

## The American People — and Latino Voters in Particular — Reject the Administration's Extreme Approach to Immigration Enforcement

- A UnidosUS poll found:
  - 77% of Latino voters want to deport individuals who represent legitimate threats — not long-residing undocumented individuals without criminal records.
  - 60% oppose deporting undocumented immigrants without court hearings
  - 60% oppose allowing enforcement in public schools.
  - Pathways to citizenship (66%) and cracking down on human traffickers (46%) — not mass deportation — remain the top priorities.
- A June 2025 Gallup poll found:
  - Only 28% of Americans agree that workplace immigration arrests are good for the country.
  - Even Republicans are divided on the administration's policies: only 56% favor workplace raids, with 24% opposed.
  - Just 1 in 3 Americans support military-style immigration operations.
- A July 2025 Gallup poll also found:
  - Support for deporting all undocumented immigrants dropped from 47% last year to 38% in July 2025.
  - 78% of Americans support allowing undocumented immigrants to become citizens, an increase from 70% last year.
  - Record-high 79% of Americans consider immigration good for the country, an increase from 64% last year.

## We Need Congressional Accountability

- Congress has the power to prevent these far-reaching consequences through its funding and oversight authority.
- The reconciliation bill represents the largest cuts to health programs and food assistance in U.S. history while funding mass deportation.
- Members of Congress are not following through on their constitutional duty of serving as a check on the executive branch, which should address the fear felt among their constituents.

## Bottom Line: Americans Want Firm, Fair and Humane Immigration Policy

- Latino voters — and the broader public — want a balanced approach to immigration that's "firm, fair and free of cruelty."
- Indiscriminate immigration enforcement represents the opposite of what voters want — they create chaos, harm the economy and tear families apart.
- Congress must listen to the American people and reject funding for this extreme and harmful agenda.