



NEWS RELEASE

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NALEO Responds to President Joe Biden's Address to Congress

Washington, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) today released a statement from Chief Executive Officer Arturo Vargas regarding President Joe Biden's address to a joint session of Congress:

"As America celebrates the historic milestone of two women sharing the dais in two of the three most powerful positions in government, we are encouraged by the hope this moment brings us for our future.

"Tonight, President Joe Biden spoke to the nation on what he described as an America that is 'on the move again.' With Latino leaders serving on the front lines of government and Latinos working to fuel the economy, many as essential workers, throughout the pandemic, it is vital that government maintains our national momentum so we continue to recover together.

"To emerge from the crisis stronger than we were before, it is critical that lawmakers focus on the needs of Latino families. This is why the Administration, alongside Congress, must put policies in place which would end the pandemic, continue revitalizing the economy, allow our children to return to schools and make up for lost learning, and create opportunities for Latinos to fully participate in the next chapter of our nation's progress.

"As we stand at this turning point, it is paramount that the nation also addresses unfinished agendas like fixing our broken immigration system – something that has vexed our nation for more than two decades. We must fully recognize our country's immigrants as part of the American family, modernize our immigration processes, and provide a reasonable pathway to citizenship for law-abiding, tax-paying immigrants and their families.

"Latino families are American families, and when we succeed, America succeeds. As the nation's second-largest population group, Latinos continue to play a major role in our nation's civic and economic life. With the country's more than 6,800 Latino elected and appointed officials, there stands a diverse and fortified array of public servants who understand that strong families are the key to America's success and are ready to work toward its reality."

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About NALEO

The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials is the non-partisan leadership organization of the nation's more than 6,800 Latino elected and appointed officials.