



NEWS RELEASE

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NALEO Educational Fund Calls on Congress to Pass Immigration Reform During this Session

After decades of trying to pass reform, Congress finally has an opportunity to do it

Washington, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released the following statement from CEO Arturo Vargas and set of immigration reform [principles](#) as the U.S. Senate considers the budget resolution which begins to address immigration reform provisions through the reconciliation process:

“Today’s step toward immigration reform is a critical milestone in what has become one of the most challenging issues of our time. As Congress commences this vital work, the NALEO and NALEO Educational Fund Boards have released a set of core [principles](#) on a balanced approach to our nation’s immigration policies that should be included in any future iteration of immigration reform legislation.

“These [principles](#) strike a balance between several important goals for modernizing our country’s immigration system. They promote sound and humane enforcement that are key to ensuring our national security and public safety.

“It is paramount that our policies recognize the invaluable contributions immigrants have made to the progress of the United States — and how immigrant communities enrich our social, civic, economic, and cultural life. Additionally, with the many contributions that immigrant entrepreneurs and workers have made to our nation’s prosperity, our policies should promote accountability throughout the business community in achieving the balance of goals set forth in these [principles](#).

“As Congress moves forward to consider immigration reform, we urge it to adopt legislation that conforms with our [principles](#).”

In summary, any immigration reform legislation should adhere to the following [principles](#):

1. The federal government has the exclusive authority to develop, implement, and enforce immigration policy.
2. Immigration reform must strengthen our national security and the public safety of our communities and neighborhoods.
3. Immigration reform must provide law-abiding, tax-paying immigrant workers and their families with an opportunity to pursue U.S. citizenship.

4. Immigration reform policies should provide a path to lawful permanent residency and eventually U.S. citizenship for immigrants who have been eligible for temporary employment authorization and protection from removal through Temporary Protected Status (TPS), Deferred Enforced Departure (DED), Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival recipients (DACA), or other similar policies.
5. Immigration reform policies must help reunite families and reduce immigration backlogs.
6. Any temporary worker program must provide workers with full labor and civil rights protections and the opportunity to pursue lawful permanent residency in the United States.
7. Immigration reform policies must address the plight of unaccompanied children who attempt to enter the United States in a fair, humane, and effective manner.
8. Immigration reform must provide a meaningful opportunity for immigrant students to pursue a college education.
9. Our immigration policies must actively promote the civic integration of newcomers.
10. Our nation's security and public safety are best protected by effective and fair immigration enforcement measures.
11. Immigration reform must include a discussion of the fundamental cause of migration to the United States — the need for sustainable social and economic development in the communities where migrants originate.

See NALEO and NALEO Educational Fund's [principles](#) on a balanced approach to immigration reform [here](#).

Interested naturalization applicants can receive assistance with the naturalization process or register for virtual events by calling NALEO Educational Fund's toll-free national bilingual citizenship hotline 1-888-839-8682, which is operated from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET out of the organization's Los Angeles offices. The hotline is staffed year-round by fully-trained bilingual operators.

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About NALEO Educational Fund

NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading non-partisan, non-profit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.