



NEWS RELEASE

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NALEO Educational Fund Celebrates National Immigrants Day; Calls for Congressional Action on Immigration and Naturalization Reform

Washington, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, the nation’s leading organization promoting Latino civic engagement, today released the following statement from CEO Arturo Vargas on National Immigrants Day:

“America is a nation made and shaped by immigrants. Today and every day, we celebrate the hardworking communities who have shown years of dedication to the United States, and we call on Congress to join us by passing common sense immigration and naturalization reform to make our nation stronger.

Specifically, Congress must pass the Reduce Financial Barriers to Immigration and Citizenship Act of 2021 to make naturalization more affordable and accessible for eligible Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) to help people achieve citizenship and move one step closer to the American Dream. Improving access and ease to naturalization by reducing application fees, allowing for fee waivers, and providing necessary funding to reduce case backlog will strengthen our economy, democratic system, and communities.

We are at a critical inflection point on immigration reform with an opportunity to return the nation to one that values immigrants and their contributions. Additionally, we must be responsive to the moment and address the political challenges around immigration — as well as humanitarian crises across the world, in places like Haiti, that necessitate immigration. Finally, if we are to uphold the values of our nation, we must ensure the United States stands at the forefront of humane immigration policy and remains a beacon for the world where people can come and build a new life.”

NALEO Educational Fund offers assistance to LPRs who dream of becoming U.S. citizens and making America their permanent home. Aspiring citizens have a variety of ways to receive free assistance from NALEO Educational Fund, including having questions answered about the naturalization process through our live bilingual hotline at **1-888-839-8682** and our naturalization workshops and clinics.

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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.