



119th Congress Congressional Hispanic Caucus Immigration and Border Policy Pillars

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) is committed to finding real solutions for the problems at our border while securing protections for individuals with long-term ties to our country. Our pledge is rooted in the fact that immigrants greatly contribute to our economy to the benefit of all Americans. Recent estimates show that immigrants account for 17% of the entire U.S. economic output, contribute close to \$600 billion in local, state, and federal taxes each year, and open businesses that employ hundreds of thousands of Americans.

Reports show that providing stability and a pathway to lawful status to undocumented immigrants would increase their economic contributions. As such, the CHC firmly stands in favor of providing relief to immigrants as laid out below. These four pillars represent our key priorities in the current political moment, and we will continue to advocate for them at all levels of government.

1. **Keep Families Together.** Most immigrant families without lawful status, as well as mixed-status families, have lived in the United States for over 10 years, are hardworking, and do not have a criminal record. Ensuring that families stay together and have a path to citizenship—for instance by updating the registry date—is a moral imperative for the Caucus. Mass deportations should be halted and only convicted violent criminals should be prioritized for detention and deportation—not families that often include children and spouses who are U.S. citizens.
2. **Legalize Dreamers, DACA Recipients, and TPS Holders.** Dreamers, DACA recipients, and TPS holders greatly contribute to our economy and deserve stability. Congress must pass legislation to provide a pathway to citizenship for hundreds of thousands of young people and TPS holders.
3. **Protect Farm Workers.** Immigrant farm workers make up an estimated 73% of agriculture workers in the United States—and about half are undocumented—undertaking essential work that puts food on our tables and fuels our economy. In an industry plagued by labor shortages, immigrant farm workers keep food prices low for working families. They are essential in fighting inflation. Providing lawful status to undocumented farm workers will ensure a stable agriculture workforce, improve their working conditions, and guarantee food security for the United States.
4. **Modernize Border Security Resources.** Resources from Congress should be used to quickly and humanely process individuals at ports of entry and adequately secure the border. Congressionally authorized funds should support additional staff, technology, and a modern border infrastructure that will keep border communities safe, quickly process individuals claiming protection, and safely return individuals found inadmissible.