

Dear Senators:

On behalf of UnidosUS, the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization, we write to express our opposition to border provisions in the national security supplemental bill.

Like most Americans, Latinos want an orderly and well-managed border. We acknowledge that the situation at the border is unsustainable and in need of a solution. Yet the community also wants a voice in the debate and a seat at the table. We object to such consequential border policy changes in an emergency bill negotiated by a group that did not include any Latino or Latina Senators. The end result is a complex, overly prescriptive set of measures that will make the asylum system unworkable. This will force the Department of Homeland Security to resort to more sweeping and punitive restrictions and erode legal protections for asylum seekers.

This is also not the solution the vast majority of Latinos support. Our own recent polling [demonstrated](#) once again that a path to citizenship for the long-term undocumented and Dreamers remains Latino voters' top immigration priority. Latinos also support secure borders, access to asylum, and more legal work- and family-based immigration. While increases in visas, guaranteed legal assistance for unaccompanied minors under 14, and other protections for a limited number of migrants are good steps, those measures fail to ensure that our asylum system will be humane, fair, and protect those seeking safety.

The plan also does not go far enough to address the root causes of migration or make it easier for people to find safety closer to their home countries. The Department of Homeland Security's new authority to "shut down" the border is convoluted and opens the door to government abuse. Such measures promise to lead to more chaos on the border, not less.

Our decades' long broken immigration system and the recent surge in migration to the border demands a response, but this deal is not the solution our country needs. We urge all Senators to VOTE NO and fight for workable solutions that are fair, effective, and humane.

Sincerely,



Janet Murguía
President and CEO
UnidosUS