



UnidosUS Speakers Bureau Talking Points
Immigration Enforcement and Latino Community Response
July 22, 2025

Topline Messaging

- Recent immigration enforcement actions, especially what we have witnessed in Los Angeles, are tearing families apart, traumatizing children while also damaging our local economies.
- What we have seen in LA are blatant, indiscriminate attacks on our community.
- This is concerning because we are seeing unlawful and unconstitutional actions by our executive branch of government. These federal actions have put our communities in the crosshairs.
- The reconciliation legislation, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on July 4, increases funding for these types of enforcement actions and is will certainly provide a blank check for *more* abuse and civil rights violations.
- The American people do not support this Administration's extreme approach to immigration enforcement.
- We need to let our elected officials know the harm of these policies and hold them accountable.

Immigration Enforcement Leaves Lasting Scars on Children and Families

- 5.5 million U.S.-born children have at least one undocumented relative and 4 million have an undocumented parent. That's millions of kids at risk of losing a parent, caregiver or sibling overnight.
- Deportations devastate families' financial stability. Losing a primary breadwinner can slash household income by nearly half, leading to housing and food insecurity.
- Children separated from parents suffer toxic stress and trauma that impacts brain development and academic performance.
- Fear creates a chilling effect — families avoid schools, clinics and public programs even among legal residents.
 - A UnidosUS poll found that 32% of Latino voters report children are missing classes because parents fear being arrested at schools.

Increased Enforcement Harms the Economy

- Undocumented workers are essential to our economy. They make up nearly 5% of our workforce, and much higher shares in critical sectors like agriculture (22%) and construction (15%).



- Mass deportations could remove at least 2.4 million workers from our labor force, eliminating \$100 billion in annual tax revenue, and shrink the economy by 6.8%.
- A UnidosUS poll found 35% of Latino voters said employers have lost workers because people fear arrest if they go to work.
- Raids and fear-based enforcement are draining local economies. In areas hit hardest by recent operations, small businesses report fewer customers, lower sales, and a [climate of fear](#).
- When immigrant communities are afraid to shop, work or go outside, [entire neighborhoods suffer](#).
- Immigrant entrepreneurs are vital to local economies. Immigrants start new businesses at higher rates than U.S.-born individuals, particularly in food services, retail trade, and other industries that have been hit hard by immigration raids.

Indiscriminate Raids and Enforcement Lead to Abuses of Power and Racial Profiling

- Authorities have increasingly arrested Latinos without any criminal history in the streets of America since January, creating the conditions for profiling U.S. citizens.
- U.S. citizens and legal residents have been swept up in these immigration raids, simply for how they look or speak and even after presenting documentation proving their legal status.
- UnidosUS's poll found 43% of Latino voters feared immigration authorities will arrest them even if they're U.S. citizens or have legal status.
- Recent raids featuring masked officials have provoked dozens of lawsuits due to civil rights violations.
 - One recent farm raid resulted in one worker death and hundreds of arrests, showing the dangerous escalation.

What We've Seen Will Only Get Worse with the Recently Passed Reconciliation Legislation

- The recently enacted reconciliation legislation gives the administration a blank check to carry out mass deportations without accountability or meaningful oversight.
- The administration has already shown the lengths it will go to arrest more individuals without criminal histories and deport individuals with limited to no due process.
- The funding will allow the administration to turbocharge these efforts:
 - Hiring 10,000 more ICE officers to conduct raids in communities and workplaces.



- Massive expansion of detention facilities to house more immigrants awaiting deportation, including families and children.
- More flights deporting people to countries they weren't born in or can't speak the language.

The American People — and Latino Voters in Particular — Reject the Administration's Extreme Approach to Immigration Enforcement

- A UnidosUS poll found:
 - 77% of Latino voters want to deport individuals who represent legitimate threats — not long-residing undocumented individuals without criminal records.
 - 60% oppose deporting undocumented immigrants without court hearings
 - 60% oppose allowing enforcement in public schools.
 - Pathways to citizenship (66%) and cracking down on human traffickers (46%) — not mass deportation — remain the top priorities.
- A June 2025 Gallup poll found:
 - Only 28% of Americans agree that workplace immigration arrests are good for the country.
 - Even Republicans are divided on the administration's policies: only 56% favor workplace raids, with 24% opposed.
 - Just 1 in 3 Americans support military-style immigration operations.
- A July 2025 Gallup poll also found:
 - Support for deporting all undocumented immigrants dropped from 47% last year to 38% in July 2025.
 - 78% of Americans support allowing undocumented immigrants to become citizens, an increase from 70% last year.
 - Record-high 79% of Americans consider immigration good for the country, an increase from 64% last year.

We Need Congressional Accountability

- Congress has the power to prevent these far-reaching consequences through its funding and oversight authority.
- The reconciliation bill represents the largest cuts to health programs and food assistance in U.S. history while funding mass deportation.
- Members of Congress are not following through on their constitutional duty of serving as a check on the executive branch, which should address the fear felt among their constituents.



Bottom Line: Americans Want Firm, Fair and Humane Immigration Policy

- Latino voters — and the broader public — want a balanced approach to immigration that's "firm, fair and free of cruelty."
- Indiscriminate immigration enforcement represents the opposite of what voters want — they create chaos, harm the economy and tear families apart.
- Congress must listen to the American people and reject funding for this extreme and harmful agenda.