Comadres Chat: 
*Breaking Down President Biden’s Immigration Bill*

Jan. 29, 2021
Border Wall Proclamation Summary

• Ends Trump’s fabricated national emergency was used to steal $$ from DoD and U.S. Treasury
• Reasserts that a border wall is not a serious policy solution, but a waste of taxpayer $$
• States that no more taxpayer $$ will be used to build a border wall
• Halts border wall construction and obligation of funds ASAP, and no later than Jan. 27
• Directs DHS/OMB to do an assessment of legality of border wall funding and contracting methods, the consequences of ceasing wall construction and status of construction efforts/contracts
• Directs DOD and DHS to develop a plan within 60 days (by March 21) to redirect border wall funds, including terminating or repurposing contracts with private contractors. DOD and DHS will then implement the plan, including steps to resume, modify or terminate projects.
The U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021

PROVIDE PATHWAYS TO CITIZENSHIP & STRENGTHEN LABOR PROTECTIONS

• Creates an earned roadmap to citizenship for undocumented individuals. Temp legal status, apply green cards after 5 years if they pass background checks, pay their taxes, etc. Dreamers, TPS holders, immigrant farmworkers are eligible for green cards immediately.

• After 3 years, all green card holders can apply to become citizens. Applicants must be physically present in the United States on or before Jan. 1, 2021.

• Changes “alien” to “noncitizen” in our immigration laws.
The U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021

PROVIDE PATHWAYS TO CITIZENSHIP & STRENGTHEN LABOR PROTECTIONS (cont.)

- Keeps families together.
- Embraces diversity. Prohibits discrimination based on religion and limits presidential authority to issue future bans. Increases Diversity Visas to 80,000 from 55,000.
- Promotes immigrant and refugee integration and citizenship.
- Grows our economy by clearing employment-based visa backlogs, recapturing unused visas, reducing lengthy wait times, and eliminating per-country visa caps.
- Protects workers from exploitation and improves the employment verification process.
The U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021

PRIORITIZE SMART BORDER CONTROLS: Supplement existing border resources w/tech and infrastructure

• Authorizes more $$ to DHS to develop and implement a plan to deploy technology to expedite screening and enhance the ability to identify narcotics and other contraband at every land, air, and sea port of entry.

• Authorizes more $$ to improve infrastructure at PoEs to enhance the ability to process asylum seekers and detect, interdict and prevent narcotics from entering the US.

• Authorizes DHS to develop strategy to manage the southern border btwn PoEs that focuses on flexible solutions and technologies that enhance ability to detect illicit activity, evaluate effectiveness of border ops,b roken out by Border Patrol Sector.

• To protect privacy, the DHS Inspector General is authorized to conduct oversight to ensure that employed technology effectively serves legitimate agency purposes.
PRIORITIZE SMART BORDER CONTROLS: Manage the border & protect border communities.

- Provides funding for training and continuing education to promote agent and officer safety and professionalism.
- Creates a Border Community Stakeholder Advisory Committee
- Provides more special agents at DHS OPR to investigate criminal and administrative misconduct, and requires the issuance of DHS policies governing the use of force.
- Directs GAO to study the impact of DHS’s authority to waive all laws to expedite the construction of barriers and roads near U.S. borders; provides additional rescue beacons to prevent needless deaths along the border.
- Authorizes and provides funding for DHS, with HHS and NGO experts, to develop standards of care for individuals, families, and children in CBP custody.
The U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021

ADDRESS ROOT CAUSES OF MIGRATION

• Codifies and funds the President’s $4 billion four-year inter-agency plan to address the underlying causes of migration in the region, including by increasing assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, conditioned on their ability to reduce the endemic corruption, violence, and poverty that causes people to flee their home countries.

• Expands family case management programs, reduces immigration court backlogs, expands training for immigration judges, and improves technology for immigration courts.

• Provides funding to reduce asylum application backlogs.