



We stand with Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde and support the statement made during her sermon at the Washington National Cathedral last week,

“I ask you to have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared now...the people who pick our crops and clean our office buildings, who labor in poultry farms and meatpacking plants, who wash the dishes after we eat in restaurants and work the night shifts in hospitals. They may not be citizens or have the proper documentation, but the vast majority of immigrants are not criminals. They pay taxes, and are good neighbors. They are faithful members of our churches and mosques, synagogues, gurdwara, and temples. I ask you to have mercy, Mr. President, on those in our communities whose children fear that their parents will be taken away, and that you help those who are fleeing war zones and persecution in their own lands to find compassion and welcome here...for we were all once strangers in this land”

For over 55 years the Latin American Community Center (LACC) has stood firm in its commitment to supporting Delaware’s Latino community. In speaking to the families we serve, it is clear that their concerns echo the larger findings of the UnidosUS Hispanic Electorate Data Hub. The most important issues to Latino families in Delaware are based in the economy: cost of living, jobs, and housing. Not only that, but Gallup found the economy to be the most important issue of Americans nationwide where 90% of voters rated a candidate’s position on the economy as having either an extremely important or very important influence on their vote.

However, in his inaugural address and through the proposed Executive Orders issued in the week since taking office, the economy has been ignored in favor of harsh immigration policies designed to inflict fear and pain in immigrant communities. Policies that will be detrimental to the US economy, with damage inflicted estimated to be in the trillions of dollars, effectively going against the issues that mattered most not only to Latino voters, but to Americans nationwide.

Included in these Executive orders are the temporary suspension of the admission of refugees, increased deportations, and the unconstitutional call to end birthright citizenship. We stand by Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings and her announcement that Delaware will be challenging this order through a multistate lawsuit on the grounds that it violates the 14th amendment of the US Constitution. As Attorney General Jennings stated in a Delaware Department of Justice Press release, “We are a nation of immigrants, and a nation of laws; this executive order flies in the face of both. The president is subordinate to the Constitution, not the other way around, and here the Constitution is unambiguous. We are taking action to defend not only American children — who deserve the same rights and opportunities as me, the president and everyone else — but the institutions that restored this country after the Civil War.”

In a nation founded by and built upon the backs of immigrants, the LACC has been a trusted advocate and support system for Latino immigrants in Delaware. Immigrants who have largely contributed to the states workforce and have brought economic growth, innovation, and cultural diversity to the state. We as the LACC continue to support Latino immigrants in Delaware and are committed to staying vigilant in monitoring developments that affect our communities so that we can ensure our community members are well-informed, empowered, and prepared to navigate any challenges that may arise. We are committed to working with partners locally and nationally to provide up to date information, education on legal rights and support through the anti-immigrant policies and rhetoric that are growing on a daily basis.

As we move forward, the LACC remains steadfast in its mission to empower Delaware's Latino community. We will continue to work with our partners to advocate for fair and just policies and ensure our community has the resources and support to navigate the changing immigration landscape in the US. Together, we will face the challenges ahead with resilience and unity as we strive for a future where all individuals, regardless of immigration status, are treated with dignity and respect.

We call upon all of our elected officials in Delaware to stand with us and support humane immigration policies.

Signed,

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President & CEO Latin American
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State of Delaware, 10th Senate District

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State of Delaware, 12th Senate District

Senator Marie Pinkney
State of Delaware, 13th Senate District

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State of Delaware, 14th Senate District

Senator Trey Paradee
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Representative Kendra Johnson
State of Delaware, 5th House District

Representative Debra Heffernan
State of Delaware, 6th House District

Representative Larry Lambert
State of Delaware, 7th House District

Representative Sherae'a Moore
State of Delaware, 8th House District

Representative Krista Griffith
State of Delaware, 12th House District

Representative DeShanna Neal
State of Delaware 13th House District

Representative Claire Snyder-Hall
State of Delaware, 14th House District

Representative Franklin D. Cooke
State of Delaware, 16th House District

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State of Delaware, 18th House District

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State of Delaware 19th House District

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State of Delaware, 21st House District

Representative Mara Gorman
State of Delaware, 23rd House District

Representative Cyndie Romer
State of Delaware, 25th House District

Representative Madinah Wilson-
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