Mike Bloomberg’s Latino Empowerment Policy

America doesn’t work for anyone if it doesn’t work for everyone. And under President Trump, our nation is not working for too many of the 60 million Latinos who call the United States home.¹

The contributions of Latinos to America cannot be underestimated. Latinos are woven into the fabric of our national life and our shared history and culture. They are also central to economic dynamism: The buying power of U.S. Latinos totals $1.5 trillion.² U.S. Latinos’ economic output — which stood at $2.3 trillion in 2017 — would rank as the eighth-largest country in the world by GDP.³ Latinos own 4.37 million businesses in the U.S., and the number of business owners rose 34% between June 2009 and June 2019, compared with 1% growth in U.S. business owners overall.⁴ More than 3 in 10 Latinos in the U.S. are under the age of 18, an indication of additional economic clout as a new generation enters the workforce. Latinos have revitalized cities and rural communities from east to west, north to south. They serve in our military, enriched our arts and make our nation stronger.

Yet despite a long, dynamic and successful history as Americans, Latinos are under attack — from coarse White House rhetoric, from mass shootings. For many Latinos, gnawing worries and insecurities come daily in the form of financial struggles; a lack of access to health care, affordable housing and quality education; and discrimination. Climate change — experienced as drought, poor air quality and wildfires — threatens health, homes and livelihoods. Parents, many of whom have made great personal sacrifices, worry that their children will not thrive in today’s America.

As president, Mike Bloomberg will ensure that the Latino community feels fully embraced by the American family. The path forward rests on four goals:

- Eliminate the college completion gap for Latinos within 10 years.
- Double the number of Latino businesses with employees in 10 years.
- Reduce the gap for chronic diseases that disproportionately impact Latinos.
- Clear the naturalization backlog and create a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants.

1. **A Path to Education:** Eliminate the college completion gap for Latinos within 10 years.

   - **Enable more Latinos to receive an affordable and quality college education and complete their degrees without taking on crushing debt.** Hispanics students enrolled in college rose to 3.27 million in

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² University of Georgia Today, [Minority markets see economic growth](https://news.uga.edu/minority-markets-see-economic-growth/), March 2019
³ Latino Donor Collaborative, [LDC U.S. Latino GDP Report](https://ldc.sochill.org/press-releases), September 2019
⁴ United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, [Membership](https://www.hispanicchamber.org/membership), accessed January 2020
⁸ **Note:** Due to data availability, we are utilizing figures for groups defined as Hispanic.
fall 2017; in fall 2000, just 1.35 million Hispanic students were enrolled. At the same time, college completion rates are lower for Hispanic students. The disparity is particularly acute at 4-year institutions.

- Mike will make college tuition-free for the lowest income students. His administration will also fund evidence-based practices that advance enrollment, persistence and graduation rates for Latino college students.
- There were 523 Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) in 2017 in the U.S, and they enrolled two-thirds of Hispanic undergraduates. Mike’s administration will increase federal funding for HSIs. His administration will work with higher-education institutions to identify, admit, cultivate and graduate talent from the Latino community.
- Dreamers may be unable to afford college because they don’t qualify for in-state tuition, despite meeting other requirements. Mike will work with states to expand access to in-state tuition to Dreamers who meet certain eligibility requirements.

- **Offer more “learn and earn” opportunities through apprenticeships.** The system for registering and receiving federal support is inefficient, and in 2017, fewer than 1% of Americans pursuing job training under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act were registered apprentices. Mike’s administration will set a goal of 1 million students enrolling in work-based degree and credential programs by 2030. It will also expand federal support for state and local “hubs” to promote apprenticeships. Read more in Mike’s All-In Economy plan.

- **Improve Latino students’ K-12 education experience and outcomes.** In the 2015-2016 academic year, 8.8% of U.S. public elementary and secondary school teachers were Hispanic. In fall 2016, 26.3% of public elementary and secondary school students were Hispanic. Research suggests that students having a teacher who looks like him or her can have a positive effect on attitudes and

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9 National Center for Education Statistics, Total fall enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by level of enrollment, sex, attendance status, and race/ethnicity or nonresident alien status of student: Selected years, 1976 through 2017, accessed January 2020

10 National Center for Education Statistics, Graduation rate from first institution attended within 150 percent of normal time for first-time, full-time degree/certificate-seeking students at 2-year postsecondary institutions, by race/ethnicity, sex, and control of institution: Selected cohort entry years, 2000 through 2014, accessed January 2020

11 National Center for Education Statistics, Percentage distribution of first-time, full-time bachelor’s degree-seeking students at 4-year postsecondary institutions 6 years after entry, by completion and enrollment status at first institution attended, sex, race/ethnicity, control of institution, and percentage of applications accepted: Cohort entry years 2006 and 2011, accessed January 2020

12 The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, 2019 Fact Sheet: Hispanic Higher Education and HSIs, accessed January 2020

13 National Conference of State Legislatures, Undocumented Student Tuition: Overview, September 2019

14 Third Way, Why Do Only a Tiny Fraction of Jobseekers Participate in Registered Apprenticeships?, November 2019

15 National Center for Education Statistics, Number and percentage distribution of teachers in public and private elementary and secondary schools, by selected teacher characteristics: Selected years, 1987-88 through 2015-16, accessed January 2020

16 National Center for Education Statistics, Enrollment and percentage distribution of enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools, by race/ethnicity and region: Selected years, fall 1995 through fall 2018, accessed January 2020

17 National Center for Education Statistics, Spotlight A: Characteristics of Public School Teachers by Race/Ethnicity, February 2019
Mike will elevate the teaching profession by raising pay and providing more funds for professional development. He will also require states to report annually on the racial and ethnic diversity of teachers compared with local schoolchildren and on retention and program completion rates for college-going students of color.

Mike’s administration will provide grants to states to pilot and scale programs to improve the recruitment and retention of teachers from underrepresented groups.

2. A Path to Real, Inclusive Opportunity: Double the number of Latino businesses with employees in 10 years.

- **Increase wages and enact protections for Latino workers.** The income and wealth gaps between Latinos and whites is real. In 2018, median household income was $51,450 for Hispanics versus $70,642 for non-Hispanic whites. In 2015, Latino families had a median net worth of $19,990 compared with $139,300 for non-Hispanic white families. Latinas face a significant income gap. In 2018, the median annual earnings for Hispanic women working full-time and year-round was only 54.5% of white non-Hispanic men’s median annual income. Hispanics are projected to have the largest labor force growth of any demographic group from 2018 to 2028 — an estimated rise of 7.4 million people.

- **Mike’s administration will promote several policies to address the income gap:**
  - Support increasing the federal minimum wage to $15 an hour and indexing it to inflation.
  - Ensure that states and cities are helping Americans maximize their use of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) by providing free assistance with filling out tax returns. Offer an added incentive for businesses to locate and employ people in distressed communities, through a placed-based EITC that lowers costs for employers.
  - Help more Latina mothers enter the workforce by making quality child care more accessible and affordable.
  - Mandate paid sick and family leave.
  - Defend and expand the rights of all workers — including gig, contract and franchise employees.

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18 Brookings Institution, *The benefits of Hispanic student-teacher matching for AP courses*, October 2019
21 Institute for Women’s Policy Research, *The Gender Wage Gap: 2018; Earnings Differences by Gender, Race, and Ethnicity*, September 2019
○ Some of the aforementioned problems are particularly acute in industries that have a high percentage of Latino workers. In 2019, 27.5% of those employed in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting and 24% of those employed in hospitality were Latino. Mike will support legislation to extend job protections, including the minimum wage, to domestic workers and farm workers. His administration will also expand Farm Bill conservation programs to help agriculture workers make their farms more resilient and sustainable.

- **Build Latino wealth by empowering entrepreneurs and improving access to capital.** There were almost 338,000 Hispanic-owned businesses with employees in 2016. This is only approximately 6% of the overall number of businesses with employees (about 5.6 million total).

○ Mike’s administration will address these barriers to wealth and further empower Latinos.

○ He will increase federal investment in the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, which focuses on lending in underserved communities.

○ His administration will require financial institutions to report detailed data on small-business lending, including characteristics of borrowers that can help address racial inequities, as mandated in the Dodd-Frank Act.

○ Mike will also, through the Small Business Administration, provide funds and toolkits for cities to set up the most effective possible one-stop shops to support entrepreneurs.

- **Reform financial systems so that Latinos have greater access to credit and banking costs less.** Having a bank account makes it easier for Americans to save. However, 14% of Hispanic households had no savings or checking account in 2017.

○ Mike will offer a curated selection of financial services through the U.S. Postal Service, which has a physical presence and a good reputation in communities.

○ Sending money to relatives is a common practice in the Latino community. In 2017, about $30 billion of remittances were sent from the U.S. to Mexico. Often, however, associated fees can make these transactions prohibitively costly. Mike’s administration will offer remittance services and wire transfers for free at post offices for transactions under $500.

- **Increase homeownership rates to build wealth.** Another path to wealth is homeownership. More than 70% of white households are homeowners, compared with less than half of Hispanic ones. Part of the

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24 U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs (ASE) - Company Summary: 2016 Tables, 2016
25 The Roosevelt Institute, Dodd-Frank Rollback Hinders Minority Consumers and Obstructs a Shared Economy, March 2018
26 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, The 2017 National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, accessed January 2020
27 Pew Research Center, Remittance flows worldwide in 2017, April 2019
29 Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Recent Trends in Wealth-Holding by Race and Ethnicity: Evidence from the Survey of Consumer Finances, September 2017
challenge of homeownership stems from mortgage availability. Approximately 19% of Hispanic applicants were denied mortgages in 2015, compared with about 11% of white applicants. Latinos, when approved, also tend to have higher interest rates. Mike’s administration will order federally-controlled and -mandated mortgage guarantors to update their credit-scoring requirements and insist that scoring models be tested for racial bias.

- **Enhance operations along the border to promote prosperity, efficiency and security.** Trump declared a national emergency to divert more than $3 billion in military funding for a wall that experts agree doesn’t address our most pressing national security concerns. In fact, almost two-thirds of recent illegal entries are visa overstays, and smugglers are reportedly able to cut through new sections of Trump’s wall with a $100 household tool.

  - Mike will end the border security “national emergency,” place a moratorium on wall construction and focus on more cost-effective border security measures.
  
  - Most U.S. ports of entry were designed more than 40 years ago, not for a post-9/11 world. These ports of entry are often located in communities with large Latino communities: for example, 81% of El Paso’s population in 2014 was Hispanic. Many other border counties (e.g., Hidalgo, Texas, and Yuma, Arizona) are more than majority Hispanic. A 2019 report estimated that wait times caused by inefficiencies at the U.S.-Mexico border could cost the U.S. $69 billion in GDP. Mike will modernize U.S. ports of entry, ensure adequate staffing to increase efficiency, promote security and strengthen border community infrastructure.

  - Mike will also work with Congress to implement a complete entry and exit system. Read more in Mike’s immigration reform plan.

3. **A path to health & safety: Reduce the gap for chronic diseases that disproportionately impact Latinos.**

- **Increase access to quality, affordable health care.** Latinos have lower rates of health insurance coverage than other Americans. In 2017, the uninsurance rate among Hispanics was 16.1% versus 6.3% for non-Hispanic whites. Some chronic diseases plague Latinos at a higher rate. In 2015-2016, the prevalence of obesity among adults ages 20 and over was 47% for Hispanics versus 37.9% for non-Hispanic whites. The CDC has noted that Hispanics are approximately 50% more likely than whites to die from diabetes or liver disease. Among children ages 2-19, 25.8% of Hispanics were obese versus

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30 Housing Finance Policy Center, Small-Dollar Mortgages for SingleFamily Residential Properties, April 2018
31 Pew Research Center, Blacks and Hispanics face extra challenges in getting home loans, January 2017
32 Wall Street Journal, Appeals Court Allows Use of $3.6 Billion in Military Construction Funds for Border Wall, January 2020
33 Center for Migration Studies, US Undocumented Population Continued to Fall from 2016 to 2017, and Visa Overstays Significantly Exceeded Illegal Crossings for the Seventh Consecutive Year, January 2019
34 The Washington Post, Smugglers are sawing through new sections of Trump’s border wall, November 2019
35 The Hill, Missed opportunity: Ports of entry are critical infrastructure, March 2018
37 The Perryman Group, The Economic Costs of the US-Mexico Border Slowdown, April 2019
38 U.S. Census Bureau, Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2017, September 2018
40 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Vital Signs: Hispanic Health, May 2015
14.1% of non-Hispanic whites in 2015-2016. Type 2 diabetes prevalence is significantly higher for Hispanic children compared with non-Hispanic white youth.

- Mike’s administration will ensure that Latinos have increased access to good health care. He will create a Medicare-like public insurance option.

- Mike will also build on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to make insurance less expensive for those without employer-sponsored coverage. He will undo the damage that Trump has done to the ACA. He will push to lower health-care costs and eliminate surprise medical bills.

- Latinas also face higher rates of gestational diabetes. The rate of cervical cancer is almost 40% higher for Hispanic women than non-Hispanic white women. Mike will lower drug prices and ensure that all women have access to affordable health care. Read more in Mike’s health coverage, maternal health and drug prices plans.

- **Ensure that all Latinos have access to well-trained medical professionals.** In 2010, there were only 105 Latino physicians per 100,000 people in the Latino population compared with 315 non-Hispanic white physicians per 100,000 people in that population.

  - Mike’s administration will pilot a national program to support doctors, especially primary-care physicians, who received international medical education and are qualified to work in the U.S. This will include a requirement to work for at least two years in an underserved area.

  - Mike will also support the creation and expansion of programs like Immigrant Bridge, which have helped underemployed, foreign-trained immigrants residing in the U.S. transition back into their fields of expertise, especially in high-demand fields like health care.

  - Community Health Centers often provide care to underserved communities. Health centers reach 1 in 5 rural residents, and 36% of their patients are Latino. Mike’s administration will increase federal grants to Community Health Centers. Mike will also make freestanding emergency departments and clinics eligible for enhanced Medicare reimbursement. And he will expand the National Health Service Corps. Read more in Mike’s health coverage plan.

41 National Center for Health Statistics, Prevalence of Obesity Among Adults and Youth: United States, 2015–2016, October 2017
42 National Center for Biotechnology Information, Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes in U.S. Hispanic Youth: A Systematic Review of Lifestyle Interventions, July 2017
43 National Center for Biotechnology Information, Evaluation of an Education Intervention in Hispanic Women at Risk for Gestational Diabetes Mellitus, May 2016
44 American Cancer Society, Cancer Facts and Figures for Hispanics/Latinos 2018-2020, October 2018
46 UCLA Health, International Medical Graduate (IMG) Program, accessed January 2020
47 Voices of NY, City Job Program Includes Help for Professional Immigrants, March 2013
49 National Association of Community Health Centers, Community Health Center Chartbook, January 2019
● **Ensure fair treatment of Latinos in environmental policies.** Latinos are adversely impacted by many of our country’s environmental policies, and Latino children are more likely to die of asthma than white children. Mike’s administration will reinstate clean-air rules, including those covering toxic emissions from big industrial polluters.

- Moreover, millions of homes across America have lead paint in them, posing significant health risks. Children living at or below the poverty line or in older homes are particularly at risk. Mike will require lead testing on any home receiving an Federal Housing Administration-backed loan and demand that states submit lead exposure data to the Environmental Protection Agency. He will support passage of the Home Lead Safety Tax Credit Act to ensure Latino children can live in homes that are lead-free.

- Many communities face severe threats to their drinking water. Cities such as Newark, New Jersey, Flint, Michigan, and Brady, Texas, have experienced crises, and about one in five rural wells is contaminated. Mike’s administration will invest $100 billion over 10 years to ensure clean drinking water for all communities, addressing the 100 cities with the worst water infrastructure by 2025.

- Census tracts that are mostly Black, Hispanic or Native American have about a 50% greater vulnerability to wildfires. Language barriers have been an issue in past wildfires. Mike will ensure that disaster and wildfire warnings are available in Spanish. Read more in Mike’s infrastructure and wildfire resilience plans.

● **Enact smart and common-sense gun control measures to curb gun violence.** Our country’s gun-violence crisis is a true national emergency. The Latino community has been uniquely impacted by this issue, including recent shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Gilroy, California. The homicide victimization rate for U.S. Hispanics is almost twice as high as for whites (5.10 per 100,000 versus 2.59). 62% of Hispanics say gun violence is a very big problem in the U.S. Mike’s administration will require point-of-sale background checks for all gun sales. It will close the “boyfriend loophole” on a federal level and reinstate the federal ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

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50 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, Asthma and Hispanic Americans, accessed January 2020
52 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention: Lead in Paint, accessed January 2020
53 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention: At-Risk Populations, accessed January 2020
54 Natural Resources Defense Council, Watered Down Justice, September 2019
55 CBS News, Radium contamination in water most widespread in Texas, environmental group says, January 2018
57 National Center for Biotechnology Information, The unequal vulnerability of communities of color to wildfire, November 2018
58 PBS NewsHour Weekend, Mass shootings have Latinos worried about being targets, August 11, 2019
60 Pew Research Center, Guns in America: Attitudes and Experiences of Americans, June 2017
Latinos are also increasingly being targeted by violent hate crimes. Violent hate crime is at a 16-year high, and yet few people are ever charged with hate crimes in federal court. Mike will make investigating and prosecuting hate crimes a top federal priority. He will launch a national, coordinated effort, led by the deputy attorney general and FBI director, to address hate crimes. Read more in Mike’s gun safety and criminal justice reform plans.

Focus immigration enforcement on public safety and national security, and reform U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). President Trump ended Department of Homeland Security (DHS) policies that prioritized serious criminals and national security threats as targets for deportation. Arrests and encounters have increased, including of U.S. citizens and women, helping to double the immigration court backlog to over 1 million cases, with more than 50,000 immigrants in daily detention. Mike’s administration will direct DHS to issue guidance that implements sensible enforcement priorities. He will end workplace raids and protect sensitive locations, like schools and places of worship, from enforcement.

President Trump also expanded the Secure Communities and 287(g) programs that deputize local law enforcement to enforce federal immigration laws and work with ICE on deportations. Mike will maintain separation between immigration enforcement and state and local law enforcement.

Additionally, spending on ICE and CBP has reached record levels under Trump, and federal government spending on immigration enforcement already outpaces spending on all other federal criminal law enforcement agencies combined (i.e., the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, Marshals’ Service, Secret Service and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives). Mike will order the DOJ to open an investigation into abuse at ICE and CBP and reform the agencies — implementing sensible enforcement priorities, targeting their efforts on true homeland security objectives, significantly reducing immigrant detention and establishing clear and effective oversight — to ensure transparency and accountability. Read more in Mike’s immigration reform plan.

4. Path to Civic Empowerment and Citizenship: Clear the naturalization backlog and create a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants.

61 New York Times, Hate-Crime Violence Hits 16-Year, F.B.I. Reports, November 2019
62 Syracuse University TRAC Reports, Few Federal Hate Crime Referrals Result in Prosecution, August 2019
63 American Immigration Council, The End of Immigration Enforcement Priorities Under the Trump Administration, March 2018
64 American Immigration Council, Changing Patterns of Interior Immigration Enforcement in the United States, 2016 -2018, July 2019
65 Immigration Impact, How the Immigration Court Reached a Record One Million Case Backlog, September 2019
66 The Daily Beast, ICE Is Detaining 50,000 People, an All-Time High, March 2019
68 Center for American Progress, Rapidly Expanding 287(g) Program Suffers from Lack of Transparency, October 2018
69 American Immigration Council, The 287(g) Program: An Overview, August 2019
70 American Immigration Council, The Cost of Immigration Enforcement and Border Security, October 2019
71 Migration Policy Institute, Eight Key U.S. Immigration Policy Issues: State of Play and Unanswered Questions, May 2019
Protect civil rights for all Americans, including Latinos. A 2018 study found that almost 4 in 10 Latinos said that in the past year they had experienced discrimination. Mike’s administration will reinvigorate the civil rights division of the DOJ, and reorient it toward defending the rights of protected groups, including racial minorities. It also will require all federal institutions and contractors to conduct implicit bias training with a focus on racial inequities.

Honor Latino service members, who are the quickest growing minority population in the U.S. military. Created in 2008, the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) program expedites citizenship for immigrant recruits who are legally present but not green-card holders. Yet the Trump administration has unexpectedly discharged immigrant recruits and suspended MAVNI. In 2017, about 200,000 (15.5%) active-duty servicemembers were Latino and many individuals with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) have skills our military needs. Mike will reform and reinstate the MAVNI program, re-opening opportunities for individuals who want to serve in the U.S. military.

- Another program, Parole in Place, was set up during the Iraq war to prevent military family deportations during deployment. President Trump intends to scale this back and has deported veterans without properly reviewing their records. Mike will protect Armed Service members and their families. He will order a review of cases involving veterans wrongfully removed by ICE and protect military families from deportation.

- Latinos also encounter some unique challenges in our armed forces. Latinos are less likely to reach top posts in the military. Mike will support an effort to create more leadership pathways for service members in combat roles.

Remove roadblocks and ease voting and civic participation for Latinos. The right to vote is the fundamental right that protects all others. Yet various government policies — including voter ID laws, removal from voter rolls and restrictions related to criminal records limit this right. In addition, gerrymandering reduces the voices of those who can and do vote. In 2018, just 11.7 million Latinos voted out of the roughly 29 million eligible (about 40%). The turnout rate was significantly higher for non-Hispanic white Americans (57.5%) and black Americans (51.4%).
Mike has rolled out a **plan to protect all Americans’ voting rights**. Among other things, he will: eliminate discriminatory laws and practices and allow people with criminal records to vote post-incarceration; prevent partisan gerrymandering by requiring states to set up independent redistricting commissions; and encourage people to vote by easing voter registration and educating people about their rights.

Latinos are also underrepresented in the federal government’s workforce. Despite being **18% of the population**, Hispanics constitute only **8.6% of the overall federal workforce**, according to FY 2016 data. This gap is worse at senior levels, with Hispanics making up only **4.6% of senior executives**. Mike’s administration will launch partnerships with the private sector and nonprofit organizations to reach more Latinos who are interested in government work. It will also ensure that leadership development programs within the government address the unique challenges that underrepresented groups, including Latino, face.

Collecting data for the Census is a difficult endeavor. There are serious concerns about **Latinos being undercounted**. This is alarming given the importance of the Census, including for **distributions of federal funding** and **Congressional representation**. Mike’s administration will ensure the sanctity of the Census and make it easier for all people to be counted by: having the Census Bureau reach out to communities in between Census years to build trust with local officials; requiring the Census Bureau to produce materials in both Spanish and English to ensure the Census is accessible; and offering incentives to community organizations that commit to assisting with Census counting.

**Create a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the shadows.**

Due to decades of congressional inaction, there are now 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S., **about two-thirds of whom have lived here for more than a decade**. More than **4 million U.S. citizen children** live with at least one undocumented parent. As of 2017, **close to 7 million** people in the undocumented population were of Mexican or Central American origin, and **more than 9 in 10 active DACA recipients** were born in Latin America.

The Trump administration rescinded DACA, preventing new eligible individuals from gaining work authorization and relief from deportation. As president, Mike will restore DACA and work with Congress to protect millions of Dreamers and provide them a path to citizenship.

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83 U.S. Census Bureau, [QuickFacts: United States](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/MET000), accessed January 2020
85 Ibid
86 Urban Institute, [Assessing Miscounts in the 2020 Census](https://www.urban.org/publication/assessing-miscounts-2020-census), June 2019
88 U.S. Census Bureau, [Congressional Apportionment](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/apportionment.html), accessed January 2020
92 Pew Research Center, [Key facts about unauthorized immigrants enrolled in DACA](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/09/20/key-facts-about-unauthorized-immigrants-enrolled-in-daca/), September 2017
Mike will also provide an earned pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who agree to register, pay necessary fees and taxes owed and pass criminal background checks. This will bring undocumented immigrants out of the shadows and could generate more than $100 billion in additional tax revenue over 10 years.93

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is granted to non-citizens living in the U.S. when they cannot return home safely due to country conditions. Trump has moved to rescind TPS for 98% of beneficiaries, roughly 300,000 people.94 Mike will order an immediate review of TPS for those affected by Trump’s actions, as well as for Venezuelans, and then work with Congress to provide a path to citizenship for those who have established lives in the U.S.

The lack of free and affordable legal services is a barrier for immigrants applying for citizenship, green cards, DACA and other immigration benefits. Mike’s administration will support the expansion of legal services for immigrants.

There are almost 9 million U.S. green card holders eligible to naturalize,95 and at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), there is a backlog of more than 700,000 pending cases.96 The Trump administration has proposed increasing barriers to naturalization, including a potential 83% application fee increase.97 Mike will help more immigrants become citizens and clear the naturalization backlog, increasing resources and staffing at USCIS and limiting other barriers to citizenship. Read more in Mike’s immigration reform plan.

Latinos are Americans, but like many Americans, they are also connected to the wider world. Our hemispheric policy should reflect this. President Trump cut $450 million in aid98 to combat corruption and violence in Northern Triangle countries, adding to the outflow of migrants and asylum seekers to the border. Mike will restore foreign aid to the Northern Triangle, targeting efforts to stem violence and corruption, promote economic opportunity and rebuild cooperation with Mexico. He will also convene leaders in the hemisphere to develop a regional plan to manage migration and resettlement.

93 Center for American Progress, Top 5 Reasons Why Immigration Reform Means More Tax Revenues, April 2014
94 Pew Research Center, Many immigrants with Temporary Protected Status face uncertain future in U.S., November 2019
95 Boundless Immigration, The State of New American Citizenship, February 2019
96 National Immigration Forum, Unclog the Naturalization Backlog, September 2018
97 Federal Register, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Fee Schedule and Changes to Certain Other Immigration Benefit Request Requirements, November 2019