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ALAS Opposes Proposed Immigration Plan

National Organizational of Latino School Leaders Give Administration's Immigration Plan Failing Grade

The Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS), issued the following statement today in response to the Administration's May 16 announcement of a plan to significantly alter the nation's immigration policy:

"As an organization advocating for equity in public education among both students and school leadership opportunities, we believe the immigration policy outlined by the Administration is a misguided, incomplete, and fundamentally flawed approach to the complex issue of immigration reform."

"By framing the policy around a "merit-based" selection process, employing a "points system" for immigrants with advanced skills and education, the proposal would essentially lockout those individuals without the benefit of educational opportunity, while ignoring the human potential that immigrants historically bring to the table: grit, determination, and the drive to build a new life for themselves and their families."

ALAS believes the Administration's plan does not address the two most pressing issues of immigration reform: protections for so-called DREAMers – the 3.6 million undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as minor children, and the 11.3 million undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States. In addition, it would essentially eliminate asylum and refugee protections.

In addition, the Administration's plan ignores the value immigrants with more modest skill sets and educational backgrounds bring with them when they begin a new life in the United States.

The birthrate in the United States is at a 32-year low, which will significantly impact the "replacement" level of workers needed to support a growing wave of retirees. Historically, immigrants are also more willing to take on jobs in the services, agriculture, and construction industries requiring repetitive, strenuous, and dangerous work that many U.S. citizens simply will not accept.

Comprehensive immigration reform remains a complex issue requiring a humane approach that mirrors the historical perspective and policies that accepted waves of immigrants that helped to build our nation.

Based on its lack of merit, ALAS, as an organization of professional education leaders, believes the immigration plan put forth by the Administration has earned a grade of "F".