



NALCAB Weighs in on the State of the Union

On Tuesday President Biden delivered his first State of the Union speech amidst the Russian invasion of Ukraine and his Supreme Court nomination. During his portion on the domestic agenda, the President addressed a host of issues that are vital to NALCAB's mission and members, such as small business, housing, immigration reform and voting rights. Importantly, he spoke about the vital role of small businesses in the economy and their role in the future economic growth which will be, "Bottom up, middle out. Not top to bottom." We are eager to see the role that women and minority owned small businesses will play in the economic growth and how they will be supported in the future. On housing, which was briefly mentioned in the speech, the President highlighted the opportunity that increasing the housing stock presents for job creation, as well as affordable housing and its impact on the bottom lines of Americans. In holding the President to his word, NALCAB will continue to promote programs like the Community Restoration and Revitalization Fund which would increase affordable housing options in the communities that need it most.

As we all know, the Administration has not yet lived up to its immigration reform promises, but President Biden did reaffirm his commitment to fixing our dated immigration system. So, even though larger immigration reform was removed from reconciliation, there are bills such as the [Farm Workforce Modernization Act](#) or the [American Dream and Promise Act](#) which the President can get behind to get some movement on immigration reform once again. We will continue to be staunch advocates for a pathway to citizenship that would allow undocumented immigrants to [contribute \\$1.7T to the economy over the next decade](#) and attain the status they rightly deserve for their contributions to our economy and society. Finally, President Biden called on congress to pass the [John Lewis Voting Rights Act](#) which will make states which meet certain criteria on voting rights violations obtain preapproval from the Department of Justice before making any changes to voting practices. Ahead of the midterms and in our current voting climate, NALCAB could not agree with this message more - in the past year alone, 27 states have introduced, pre-filed, or carried over [250 bills with restrictive provisions](#). It is vital that voting is an inclusive process where all stakeholders are heard, and minority voices are not diminished. NALCAB is energized by the commitment shown by the president to these issues which greatly affect the minority community, and we stand ready to pursue policies that accurately reflect the impact Latinos have on the economy and its recovery.