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NALCAB's Analysis of President Biden's 2023 State of the Union

On February 7, President Biden delivered the 2023 State of the Union address where he highlighted the economic gains the country has made, including the lowest unemployment rate since 1969 and a decrease in inflation for the third month in a row. Additionally, President Biden discussed key legislative achievements to support working families and strengthen Latino communities including the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) and the Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169). Lastly, he laid out his vision for the future concerning issues and public policies that impact the Latino community, including the expansion of consumer financial protections, immigration, and the Child Tax Credit (CTC).

Junk fees are hidden fees in the travel, entertainment and broadband industries that can weaken market competition, raise costs for consumers, and hit the most vulnerable Americans the hardest. During his SOTU address, the President called for the passage of a Junk Fee Prevention Act to eliminate unfair and costly fees.

The CTC helps offset childcare and dependent-care expenses and is a critical tool for fighting childhood poverty. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) expanded and increased the credit from \$2,000 per child to \$3,600. In 2021, child poverty fell by 46% as a result of the CTC, affecting a staggering 1.2 million Latino children. The expansion expired recently, which means that the over 2 million children who were impacted are at risk of falling back into poverty. In his address, President Biden called for the CTC to be fully restored.

Concerning immigration, the President pleaded for both sides of the aisle to come together on substantial reform, and highlighted the Administration's Immigration [plan](#), which called for [The US Citizenship Act](#), and his most recent [proposal](#) on border security. Congress and this Administration have shown an appetite to work on this issue through items we have seen in the past like the *Farm Workforce Modernization Act* (H.R 1603) and the *Dream Act of 2021* (S. 264) which had bipartisan cosponsors. However, a greater willingness to work from both sides of aisle and more consistent actions from the White House to signal their efforts to our community are needed to make meaningful progress.

NALCAB applauds the commitment of the Biden Administration in supporting small business, communities of color and low-income families. We echo the President's call for partnership to "get the job done." To achieve meaningful progress, there must be collaboration that extends beyond political party, and the 62 million+ Latinos in the US must band together to be a part of the solutions we seek.