



COLORADO LATINO LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY & RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

STATEMENT ON THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS ON IMMIGRATION

17 February 2017

Latinos belong in Colorado. Latino families have centuries-old roots here and in other southwestern states. Spanish was spoken here long before the arrival of English-speaking settlers. One out of five Coloradans are Latino. We are proud of our heritage. We are here to stay.

Like the great majority of Americans, most Latinos in Colorado today are either immigrants or descendants of immigrants. Most Colorado Latinos are of Mexican descent. Mexican immigrants play a vital and constructive role in the Colorado economy. But since 1976, U.S. immigration laws and enforcement have been unfairly stacked against migration from Latin America, and especially México.

Restoration of a reasonable path to citizenship for Latino immigrants is long overdue.

To Latinos alarmed by the recent spate of executive orders issued by our new President, we urge you to be calm. Beware of rumors. Nobody knows yet whether and how all those orders will be implemented. Wait to see the actual results (if any) of the executive orders.

If the immigration status of friends or family members is in doubt, consult a qualified attorney now.

Ask the American Immigration Lawyers Association at <http://www.aialawyer.com/> to help you find a qualified immigration attorney. Do not rely on "notarios" for immigration help or advice. Do not answer any questions by ICE agents or sign any documents without first consulting a qualified attorney. Do not allow immigration agents into your home unless they have a court order signed by a judge. For more information, go to <http://www.claro.org> and click on Community Outreach: Know Your Rights.

CLLARO is community-based nonprofit organization. For over half a century, CLLARO has trained and supported Latino community leaders, advocated for equal opportunity and justice for all, and researched issues affecting Latinos throughout Colorado.

Widely-respected economic research tells us that **immigrants are good for Colorado, and good for our nation.** The Latino immigrant workforce is a large, productive, and economically vital part of the Colorado economy. Research shows that immigration accelerates national economic growth, which helps increase and improve employment opportunities for all U.S. citizens.

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CLLARO urges Coloradans to support

- Respect for everyone's civil and human rights, including the Constitutionally-guaranteed rights of citizens of other countries,
- Fair treatment for hardworking Latinos and their families,
- Compassionate and respectful treatment of all refugees and immigrants in need,
- A reasonable path to U.S. citizenship for immigrants of all nationalities,
- Improved access for undocumented drivers to apply for Colorado driver's licenses, as allowed by current law,
- Improved education, apprenticeship, workforce development, job training, and placement assistance for **all Coloradans**, so that Coloradans of all ages can succeed in our changing economy,
- Equal opportunity for all Coloradans.

CLLARO opposes wasteful, unjust, and inhumane persecution of all vulnerable minorities.

- CLLARO opposes insulting and hateful political rhetoric,
- CLLARO opposes disruption of families and separation of parents from children and loved ones due to detention by ICE of suspected civil immigration status violators,
- CLLARO opposes ICE enforcement actions in traditionally safe community institutions like schools, churches, and local courts.
- CLLARO opposes costly confinement of those detained immigrants and refugees who are obviously willing to appear for immigration court hearings when so ordered,
- CLLARO opposes calls for local police, sheriffs, and school districts to violate immigrant community trust and divert scarce local resources to immigration enforcement activities.

The Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) is the nation's largest law enforcement agency and has a multi-billion-dollar budget. Without a court order, ICE has no right to demand data, detention services, or other services from Colorado local government.

Over eighty percent of Latinos in Colorado are U.S. citizens. CLLARO calls upon all Latino U.S. citizens to register to vote, and to vote for candidates who will work for Colorado's Latino communities.

CLLARO calls upon all Coloradans to respect each other throughout the state, including hard-working immigrants. We ask everyone to support all vulnerable immigrants and refugees living in fear of harassment, detention, deportation, and separation from children, loved-ones, and their communities.

Please join CLLARO in supporting immigration reform and a reasonable path to citizenship.