



Forward Latino is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy and service organization dedicated to assisting Latinos pursuing the American Dream.

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 16, 2022

Contact: Ms. Eileen Figueroa
(833)528-4661

FORWARD LATINO REBUKES U.S. SENATOR RON JOHNSON FOR MISLEADING REMARKS THAT PROMOTE DIVISION, HATE AND RESULTS IN STATUS QUO
Organization demands immigration reform that provides for nation's security, economy & humanity

Franklin, WI – Forward Latino, a non-partisan, non-profit advocacy and service organization with members and affiliates in 29 states rebukes U.S. Senator Ron Johnson for his false and misleading remarks following his visit to the U.S-Mexico border. Forward Latino just recently returned from a fact-finding mission to the Rio Grande Valley, the same area recently visited by Senator Johnson.

Forward Latino National President Darryl Morin stated “I am appalled by the Senator’s recent statements regarding the current situation at the U.S. – Mexico border. His statement does nothing but promote further division and hate and will result in the status quo.” Morin led a delegation on a fact-finding mission, that included meetings with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, adult immigrants and unaccompanied minors, the City of Brownsville (border city), faith-leaders, relief agencies, the Mexican government, and the Mexican National Institute of Migration. Morin added “Universally, all agreed that we need to take two actions. First, we need to fix our broken immigration system and replace it with one that provides for our nation’s security, economy, and humanity. Second, we need to do more to stabilize and provide economic opportunity, particularly in the countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, from which the overwhelming number of immigrants are fleeing.”

Joe Henry, Forward Latino National Vice President added “It is time for Congress to stop politicizing the issue of immigration once and for all. Words matter and we have seen the result of this type of inflammatory rhetoric firsthand.” Forward Latino has provided emergency assistance to victims of hate crimes and has successfully advocated for hate crimes charges to be filed against the perpetrators. Henry added “Overwhelmingly, we are a nation of immigrants which means, immigrants are America.”

Jennifer Estrada, Chief Executive Officer of Crusaders of Justicia, a Forward Latino affiliate added “I see the exploitation of this community every day. The immigrant community that the Senator is criticizing today, is the same community that was working and dying during the pandemic lockdown, so that we would all have food on our tables. We called them essential then, and they are essential now.”

Forward Latino continues to work directly with members of Congress and Biden-Harris Administration on immigration related issues.

About Forward Latino:

Forward Latino empowers affiliates to inspire and engage communities, strengthen our democracy, improve the lives of working families, protect the environment, and stand up for equality and civil rights. We cultivate, train, and support a diverse national network of Latina/o/x community leaders addressing the civic, economic, and political challenges of the 21st century. Learn more at www.forwardlatino.org .

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