



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

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### FORWARD LATINO STATEMENT ON WORST KNOWN HUMAN SMUGGLING TRAGEDY IN UNITED STATES HISTORY

Brownsville, TX – Forward Latino, a non-partisan, non-profit advocacy and service organization with members and affiliates in 29 states issued the following statement regarding the death of 51 migrants locked in a trailer in Bexar County, Texas.

"On behalf of our National Board of Directors, members and allies, tonight we offer our prayers for the 51 mothers, fathers, sisters, brother, uncles and aunts who died in their search for safety and a better life here in the United States. We are also praying for the 11 survivors who tonight are still fighting for their lives. These human beings fell victim to smugglers who traffic in life for profit. These immigrants were found locked in a trailer with now water or ventilation while the outdoor temperature exceeded 100° Fahrenheit. Reports indicate officers called for additional assistance upon finding a large number of lifeless bodies in a trailer, and that the few survivors were literally "hot to the touch."

Forward Latino will be issuing a statement as to the state of the border next week, but in the wake of this tragic loss of human life, tonight we are calling for action on two fronts.

The United States Congress must finally act to fix our broken immigration system once and for all. Certain members of Congress cannot continue to label migrants as murderers and drug dealers and say they contribute nothing to our economy while at the same time, supporting programs such as the Selective Service which requires undocumented immigrants to swear an oath to defend the United State if called upon, as well as supporting federal systems by which undocumented immigrants do pay taxes to the Internal Revenue Service and usually at higher rate than American Citizens. The pandemic also demonstrated the value of immigrants as they kept working so that we could eat, while the majority of us were safe, isolating at home. Many of these essential workers, these immigrants, caught COVID-19 and died doing so.

We also call on local, state and federal government to prosecute those guilty of this crime against humanity to the greatest extent of the law.

As a country of faith, as a nation that prides itself on being the defender of human dignity, we can and must act and do so immediately."

#### About Forward Latino:

Forward Latino is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy and service organization dedicated to assisting Latinos pursuing the American Dream. Forward Latino fulfills its mission through advocacy, civic engagement, education and service delivery. Forward Latino currently has members in 29 states. Learn more at [www.forwardlatino.org](http://www.forwardlatino.org).

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