

# THIS WEEK IN CONSCIENCE & JUSTICE

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Sunday, November 30, 2025



## Top News

- Trump administration says nursing isn't a professional degree amid new limits on loans
- How a Philippine mayor wound up with a life sentence for human trafficking
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- Majorities of Latinos Disapprove of Trump and His Policies on Immigration, Economy
- Nearly 8 in 10 Americans say politicians should avoid heated or aggressive speech

## Trump administration says nursing isn't a professional degree amid new limits on loans

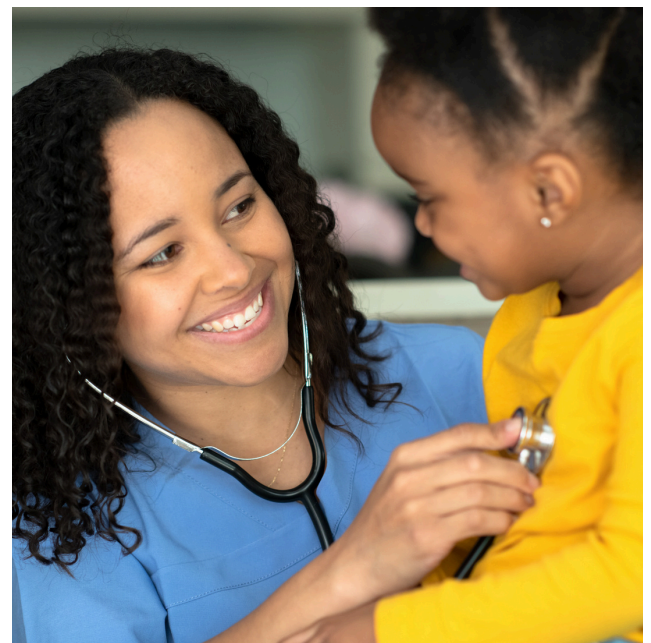
The new student loan caps take effect in July. Here's what that means for students looking to pursue advanced nursing degrees.

The Trump administration's plan to redefine what constitutes a professional degree would exclude nursing and limit access to student loans – outraging national health care groups and leaving nursing students questioning how they will pay for graduate degrees.

Previously, graduate students could borrow federal loans up to the cost of their degree, but under the new proposal, there would be caps on loans based on whether students are enrolled in a program that is considered professional or not.

The change stems from President Donald Trump's "one big beautiful bill," the U.S. Department of Education said in a [Nov. 6 news release](#). Students in graduate programs will now be capped at \$20,500 per year with a lifetime limit of \$100,000.

For students seeking a professional degree, loan limits are higher, at \$50,000 per year, with a lifetime limit of \$200,000, the news release states. The Education Department's [list of professional degrees](#) includes pharmacy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, chiropractic, law, medicine, optometry, osteopathic medicine, podiatry and theology...



Pope Leo XIV presides over a Mass in St. Peter's Square. (Gregorio Borgia / AP)

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# How a Philippine mayor wound up with a life sentence for human trafficking

Alice Leal Guo was a well-liked mayor, until a raid on an online gambling compound in her town revealed ties to human trafficking and espionage.

Alice Leal Guo made history in 2022 when she became the first female mayor of Bamban, a rural town in the Tarlac province north of Manila.

For the first two years of her mayoralty, Guo — who pledged to boost education and health outcomes in the small community — was well-liked there, according to local news reports. She held donation drives for students returning to school and passed out food to families in need. The then-35-year-old documented her time in office on social media, posing for pictures with constituents as she broke ground on a new development or honored the teachers in her 80,000-person community.



Alice Guo, former mayor of Bamban in the Philippines' Tarlac province, attends a hearing at the Senate in Manila over accusations of human trafficking and links to Chinese organized crime. (Jam Sta Rosa/AFP/Getty Images)

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# How one conservative Christian family is pushing back against ICE

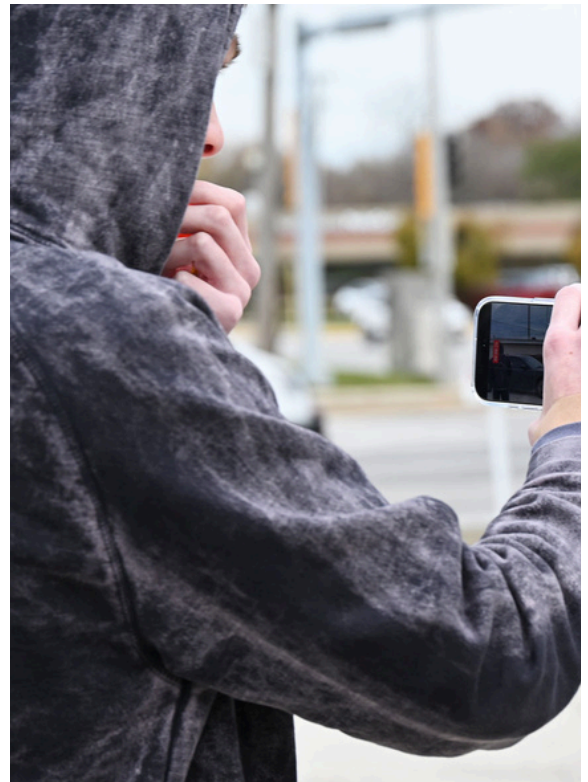
At 7:30 a.m. on a chilly November morning, every member of the Luhmann family was already awake. Their cozy home, tucked into a bucolic corner of the Chicago suburbs, was bustling with activity.

Six of the eight children, almost all of them homeschooled, were mostly settled in the dining room. A large, colorful quilt — hand-stitched by Audrey, their mother, to represent various names for Jesus — hung on the wall. Andrew, their father, readied to go to work at Wheaton College, the evangelical Christian school nearby, where he serves as an associate professor of geology.

But Ben, 17, and Sam, 16, donned warm hoodies, said goodbye to their parents and piled into a well-loved sedan. Cranking the engine, they skirted a wild turkey that stalks their yard and headed out to find U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

"I don't think Jesus would ever ignore people being hurt, especially by the federal government," said Ben, at the wheel, to a reporter in the back seat. Sam, pounding an energy drink with one hand, scrolled through a lengthy list of group chats with the other, scouring for reports of ICE and other federal immigration agents in their area.

Mornings like this have been typical in recent weeks for the Luhmann family, which has drawn on its conservative Christian faith and a shared compulsion to counter "Operation Midway Blitz," the mass deportation push in Chicago launched in September. They have joined a coalition of activists, everyday citizens and people of faith — including theologically conservative Christians — who have pooled resources and learned new technologies to mount an effort they say is designed to protect immigrants in their neighborhoods and around the city.



Ben Luhmann, 17, blows a whistle as he and his brother film two apparent federal agents parked nearby. RNS photo by Jack Jenkins

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# Majorities of Latinos Disapprove of Trump and His Policies on Immigration, Economy

Trump's economic policies have made economic conditions ...



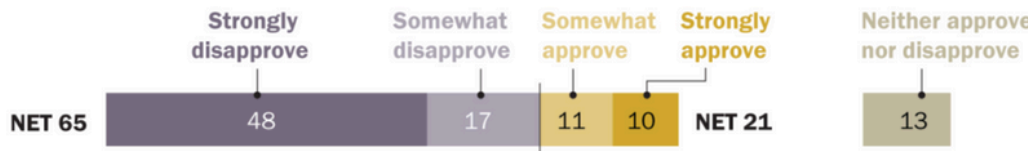
Not had much of an effect



About four-in-five Latinos in the U.S. say Trump's policies harm Hispanics, a higher share than during his first term.

- Read more: [How Latinos see their group's situation in the U.S. | Financial outlook, experiences and preparedness for downturn | Experiences with immigration enforcement](#)

They \_\_\_ of the Trump administration's approach to immigration



Continue Reading: [pewresearch.org](https://www.pewresearch.org)

## Nearly 8 in 10 Americans say politicians should avoid heated or aggressive speech

Most Americans (78%) say elected officials should avoid using heated or aggressive language because it could encourage some people to take violent action.

A far smaller share (20%) says that officials should be able to use heated language without worrying about how some people may act, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted Aug. 4-10, 2025, among 3,554 adults.

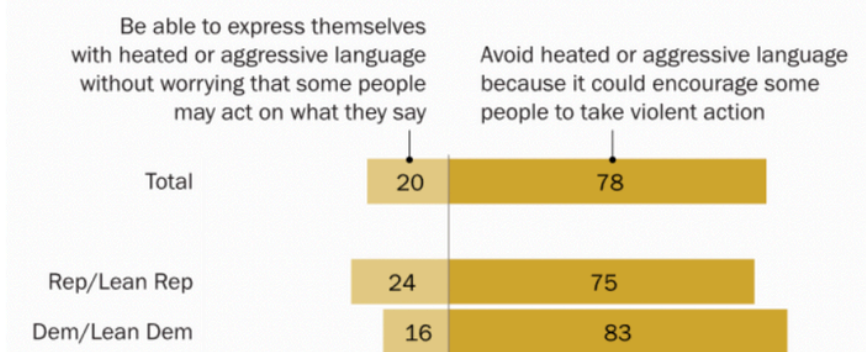
Americans across the political spectrum largely share the view that elected officials should avoid heated language:

- 83% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents say such language should be avoided. That is unchanged since we first asked the question in 2019.
- 75% of Republicans and Republican leaners also say this, up from 56% in early 2024 and 61% in 2019.

Continue Reading: [pewresearch.org](https://www.pewresearch.org)

### Wide majorities in both parties say elected officials should avoid heated or aggressive language

% who say elected officials should ...



Note: No answer responses are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 4-10, 2025.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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IF YOU  
MISSED  
IT...

**Conscience & Justice COUNCIL**

**LIVE STREAM**  
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**THE LEAST OF THESE:**  
**IMPACT OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**

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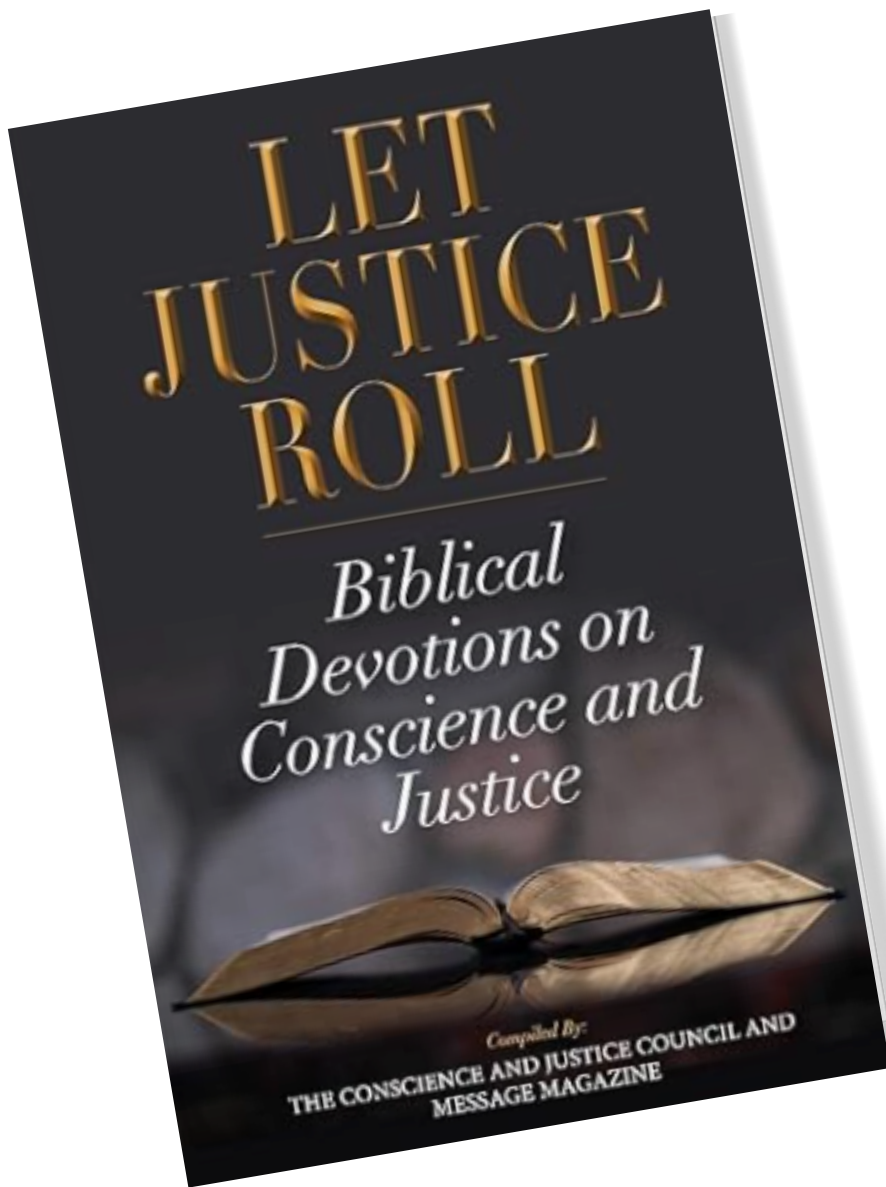
**PANELISTS**

**FRIDAY  
NOV 21** | **8 P.M. EDT  
7 P.M. CDT**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jnDjWGEal4Y>

WATCH VIDEO





## Let Justice Roll: Biblical Devotions on Conscience and Justice

"Let Justice Roll" is a compelling devotional that walks the reader through 365 days of biblical insights in freedom of conscience, and social justice. This compilation of articles represents the work of a nationwide network of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) advocates and other connected community activists.

The components of conscience and justice ministry include conscience, discipleship, engagement, fellowship, the power of the Holy Spirit, love, and prophecy. This is a must-read book for all followers of Christ and those who seek spiritual growth. Get ready to explore the profound biblical insights in this masterful book.

Order your copy [HERE](#)



## OUR PURPOSE

This newsletter aims to highlight news articles relating to religious liberty, civil rights, and social justice. The Conscience & Justice Council desires to be attuned with society so that we may change the nation by impacting one community at a time. Articles linked above are meant to provoke thought and discussion on important topics, and do not always express options or views endorsed by the CJC.

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