

# [***Latinos Turn on Biden Over 'Alarming' Border Bill***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6B8B-SPN1-DY68-1002-00000-00&context=1516831)

Newsweek.com

February 5, 2024 Monday 2:45 PM EST

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**Length:** 610 words

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**Highlight:** UnidosUS says Latinos were not part of Senate negotiations for border security.

**Body**

Southern border legislation currently being weighed in the United States [*Senate*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/senate?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) is an "alarming" response to the ongoing immigration debate, says the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization.

The 370-page bill introduced on Sunday is described by some as the [*most comprehensive immigration reform*](https://www.newsweek.com/senate-border-security-bill-aid-1866774?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) in the U.S. in some four decades, including emergency powers for the federal government to [*deter migrants in large numbers*](https://www.newsweek.com/does-border-bill-allow-18-million-migrants-us-what-we-know-1866921?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) in addition to a multitude of changes for those legally seeking asylum. It also earmarks $14 billion and $60 billion in aid to Israel and Ukraine, respectively.

But the legislation [*doesn't go far enough*](https://www.newsweek.com/republican-house-speaker-mike-johnson-confronted-us-mexico-border-bill-trump-calling-shots-1866707?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships), according to House Speaker [*Mike Johnson*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/mike-johnson?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships), who, following the proposal's introduction, said it was "worse" than House [*Republicans*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/republicans?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) expected—a potential debilitating blow to months of negotiations.

Janet Murguía, CEO of the nonprofit and nonpartisan organization UnidosUS, said Sunday that the legislation has resulted in "deep disappointment" with the Biden administration and senators who helped compose a bill that she says lacks any significant resolution to the long-term status of undocumented immigrants—notably those from Latino communities.

"It is insulting and outrageous that our Latino leaders, who represent the communities most impacted by this proposal, were not included in these negotiations," Murguía said. "This deal is an alarming sign that we are headed in the wrong direction on immigration policy.

"The only workable solution is a broad plan that deals with all aspects of our outdated immigration system—including a functioning asylum process as part of a safe, secure border; legal status for long-term residents, including DREAMers; and prioritizing the ability of future workers to enter legally to fulfill the needs of our economy."

*Newsweek* reached out to UnidosUS via email for further comment.

Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, another Latino nonprofit based in El Paso, also expressed resentment towards the legislation, claiming it "bundles one-time aid for foreign wars with anti-immigrant provisions that would gut the asylum system and create longstanding harm across border communities."

Marisa Limón Garza, executive director of Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center in both El Paso and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, said the bill's language is a repeat of previous false promises from the previous 35 years and "comes at too high a cost."

"We have nothing to fear from families and children looking for safety," Garza said. "The real threat comes from President Biden and senators' cowardice in caving into selling out people's lives and our values to indulge a false ***politics*** of fear.

"We need long-term and sustainable solutions, including pathways to citizenship for DACA recipients, their loved ones, and immigrant families. We urge [*Congress*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/congress?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) and the Biden Administration to reject this mistaken approach and use this opportunity to uplift their promise to restore humanity to our asylum system instead."

*Newsweek* reached out to Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center via email for further comment.

In December, UnidosUS and 17 sister advocacy organizations urged the Biden administration to reconsider certain border security measures being negotiated—including rapid deportation and mandatory detention—that they claimed threatened the safety and security of the 62 million Latinos living in the United States.

UnidosUS says that it has helped approximately 1.4 million people become U.S. citizens, invested over $2 billion as the largest Hispanic community development financial institution in the country, and has registered over 1 million Latino voters in the past decade.

[*Link to Image*](https://d.newsweek.com/en/full/2344980/latino-hispanic-border-bill.jpg)

**Graphic**

Latino Hispanic Border Bill

Michael Gonzalez/Getty Images

Protesters gather in downtown Eagle Pass in opposition to Texas Gov. Abbott's visit to Shelby Park for a news conference along with several other governors on February 4, 2024 in Eagle Pass, Texas. Latino advocacy organizations have expressed opposition to the border bill introduced in the Senate, saying it won't fix problems decades in the making.

**Load-Date:** February 5, 2024

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