Immigration reform efforts have largely stalled since the Senate Parliamentarian rejected immigration reform provisions in the Build Back Better Act. Though advocates called on the Senate to ignore the Parliamentarian’s advice and advance the build with immigration measures, the overall package failed to advance over the objection of conservative members of the President’s party (in particular, Senator Manchin, WV). Since then, the most recent development is the administration’s notice of proposed rule making that would undo the changes made to the Public Charge policy under former President Trump.

In an effort to continue to pressure the President to make good on his promises to the immigrant rights movement, the NILC Immigrant Justice Fund commissioned a democratic polling firm to poll likely midterm voters in the days before the State of the Union. Findings included:

* 71% said immigration reform should be extremely or very important priority for the White House and Congress
* 64% favored creating a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants
* 53% somewhat or strongly supported reversing Remain in Mexico
* 52% somewhat or strongly supported ending Title 42

During President Biden’s 2022 State of the Union address, he briefly touched on immigration. The policies he discussed can be sorted into two broad categories: those more closely connected to an enforcement theme, and those more closely connected to a welcoming theme.

* Enforcement
  + Investments made in border technology, including scanners
  + Cooperation with Central American countries to combat human trafficking
  + Agreements with South and Central American countries to host additional refugees “and secure their own borders”
* Welcoming
  + Improving immigration judge capacity
  + Providing a pathway to citizenship for Dreams, TPS, farm workers and essential workers
  + Reforming employment and family reunification-based immigration

Overall, immigration issues appear to be losing some national prominence as the President and Senate focus on other high-profile issues, including the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and domestic priorities including (but not limited to): infrastructure, voting rights, tax reform, minimum wage, and COVID-19 recovery. Still, the immigrant rights movement will continue to push the House, Senate, and Administration to delivery on their obligation to create pathways to citizenship for millions of individuals.