

The Miami Opportunity Summit:
Immigrant Contributions and Bipartisan Solutions
Talking Points

We have a labor shortage crisis across the country that's slowing down our economy and we need federal action to alleviate such a crisis.

- Florida businesses, particularly in key industries at the core of the Florida economy, are in dire need of new workers. With an unemployment rate of 2.6%, there are only 64 applicants for every 100 open jobs in Florida. And this situation has only been exacerbated by the recent passing of SB1718, which has caused fear among immigrant workers who play a critical role in our economy.
- Employers across the nation continue to confront extreme **labor shortages that are slowing down our economy and contributing to inflation.** There are 9.6 million open jobs across the country.
- We urge President Biden to **use existing legal authority under the “Significant Public Benefit” provisions** of the immigration law to provide work permits for noncitizens (immigrants already in the U.S. who are currently ineligible, and to new migrants seeking to fill jobs not taken by citizens). The program would address the labor shortage, help bring down inflation, provide work permits to immigrants who have long supported our economy and provide **a significant benefit for our nation. The administration should also find ways to expedite the approval process for work authorization.**
- **We are also asking Congress to act.** More than ever we need bipartisan immigration solutions that allow our communities to leverage the talents and work of immigrants, both recent arrivals and long term contributors, as an opportunity for our continued growth and fix our broken immigration system.

Our state benefits enormously from the diversity, energy, and economic and social contributions of our immigrant communities.

- More than one in five Florida residents were born abroad, representing the 4th largest immigrant population in the country.
- One in four workers in Florida is an immigrant, making up a vital part of the state's labor force in a range of industries, from agriculture and hospitality to manufacturing and healthcare.
- As consumers, immigrants add more than one-hundred billion dollars to Florida's economy each year, with a spending power of almost \$108 billion.
- Immigrants in Florida have contributed tens of billions of dollars in taxes, paying over \$30 billion in federal, state and local taxes each year.
- Immigrant entrepreneurs in Florida generate over \$8 billion in business revenue each year, and over 34% of all entrepreneurs in Florida are immigrants.

Immigrants are essential to the Miami Metro Area.

- There are over 2,570,000 immigrants residing in the Miami Metro Area who pay over \$19 billion in local, state, and federal taxes, and have a spending power of over \$60 billion.
- Almost 80% of workers in the Miami Metro Area agricultural industry are immigrants. The Agricultural industry holds the largest share of immigrant workers in the Miami Metro Area region.

- In 2019, there were over **247,000 immigrant entrepreneurs in the Miami Metro Area**. Immigrants were also 37.9 percent more likely to be entrepreneurs when compared to U.S.-born residents.