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STATEMENT: One Year Anniversary of First Migrant Bus Arrival, City Stretched Thin

CHICAGO - The following is a statement from the Illinois Latino Agenda (ILA), a coalition committed to advocating for equitable representation of Latinos throughout our state government and working to advance the wellbeing of Latinos throughout Illinois, in response to the one year anniversary of the first bus of migrants arriving from Texas:

“Many Illinois Latino Agenda member organizations have been welcoming migrants since the first bus arrived a year ago today, and as a coalition we have been advocating on behalf of our new neighbors, to ensure that their immediate needs are met and that they are granted access to safe long-term housing, all the while never forgetting the needs of the immigrants who are already embedded in the fabric of our State.

“Chicago has remained a welcoming city with nonprofit social service providers, advocates, and city and state leaders doing the best we can with the resources that are available, but our city is stretched thin and the crisis remains unabated with more migrants arriving daily.

“There needs to be an intergovernmental approach grounded in federal support and with continued assistance and collaboration from the city and state. Both our new arrivals and long-time immigrants need our federal government to continue providing resources and additional funding so they can secure housing, and President Biden needs to exercise authority under current law to expand work permits so that they can start supporting themselves and contributing to our economy. These things must happen in the next few months, to ensure we aren’t facing a homelessness crisis in the depths of Winter.

“While this has been a challenging year, the Illinois Latino Agenda remains resolute in our commitment to advocating for the wellbeing of these migrants as they start their new lives in Chicago. We will continue connecting organizations to the resources they need to assist migrants on the frontlines, through our collaborative bi-weekly meetings facilitated by the [Welcome to IL Coalition](#), and we will be sharing additional details about what Chicagoans can donate to help our newest neighbors prepare for Winter.”

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