

La Voz de La Conexión



December 2021

La Conexión and its members wish you a safe and peaceful holiday season! Thank you for your support of La Conexión in 2020.



La Voz, a Spanish term for "the voice," is the monthly news digest for La Conexión and the La Conexión Immigrant Solidarity Committee (LC-ISC). The LC-ISC is a project of La Conexión to build solidarity and support to the local immigrant community in the community at-large.

Connect with us on Facebook

Like the La Conexión Immigrant Solidarity Committee on [Facebook](#) for up-to-date events and local and national news. Information about the La Conexión organization is provided on their [Facebook page](#) and [website](#).

La Conexión News

IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY AND SUPPORTERS CALL ON REP. BOB LATTA TO STOP USING HATEFUL LANGUAGE AND FOCUS ON SOLUTIONS

The La Conexión youth group led an action on November 22 protesting our Congress Representative Bob Latta's continued use of discriminatory language referring to immigrants. A recent letter sent by Rep. Latta and other Republican members of Congress, published in the *Sentinel Tribune* on 11.1.21, uses well-known rhetoric that intentionally stands to criminalize immigrants and incite the general public against those in our communities who have both experienced migration or are perceived to be immigrants.

During the protest and visit to Rep Latta's office, La Conexión and its partner the NW Ohio Immigrant Rights Network expressed deep concern about the potential risk of violence against Latinx and immigrants because of Latta's discriminatory language. The hate crime at the Waffle House in Bowling Green is still fresh in the minds of the local Latinx community. The language used by Rep. Latta incorrectly and intentionally parallels asylum seekers and migrants with drug traffickers, cartels, and even the pandemic, with the clear purpose of inspiring public fear and feeding tension. La Conexión and the NW Ohio Immigrant Rights Network requested a course correction, asking Rep. Latta to focus on solutions: a just, and equitable immigration reform to solve the problems caused by a broken immigration system and the shortage of workers in District Five.

To see our full letter to Rep. Latta and more information, please see:

Sentinel coverage:

["Latta language protested; Congressman discusses immigration challenge"](#)

BG Independent:

["La Conexión asks Latta to work on solutions – stop hateful slogans about immigrants"](#)



Community organizer Norma Vazquez with Programs Director Bianca Guardado

Beatriz Maya, Director of La Conexión, with Christina Yaniga, La Conexión's faith organizer and Coordinator of the NW Ohio Immigrant Rights Network

IMMIGRATION REFORM CAMPAIGN CONTINUES IN FULL FORCE

La Conexión and the NW Ohio Immigrant Rights Network continue its push for immigration reform. We are partnering with the We Are Home campaign to make sure our local and regional efforts contribute to the national struggle. Currently, the focus is on the immigration provisions within the Build Back Better (BBB) bill, which passed the House and is now in front of the Senate. The provisions fall far short of what La Conexión and other immigrant rights organizations have advocated for years, as they don't provide a permanent solution with a path to citizenship. However, if passed, these provisions will give work permits, social security numbers, access to driver licenses, and capacity to travel outside of the country to about 8 million individuals lacking USA documentation. La Conexión Director Beatriz Maya had a conversation this past week with Erica Krause, Regional Representative for Senator Brown, who indicated the Senator is in full support of the provisions in BBB. A request for a meeting has also been sent to Senator Portman staffers.

We need your support! Please donate to our immigration reform campaign to give rights to NW Ohio immigrants before the end of the year! (please look for the [blue "Donate" button](#))

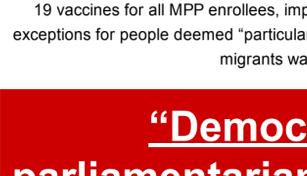


Deacon Jennifer Vasquez, member of the NW OH Immigrant Rights Network

LA CONEXION FIGHTS COVID WITH ITS CAMPAIGN "JUNTXS CONTRA EL VIRUS"

Yes, Covid fatigue is a reality, but not for La Conexión. We renewed our efforts to fight Covid through information, education and breaking barriers to vaccine access for Latinx and recent immigrant communities. With new more dangerous variants on the horizon, La Conexión's outreach workers are contacting members from reputable unvaccinated individuals, provide vaccine safety information in Spanish to reputable sources, and share information about walk-in vaccine clinics in different counties. Those vaccinated are now requiring information on boosters, where and how to get them, and vaccines for their children. These person-to-person contacts are amplified through our social media platform. Access is still complicated when pre-registration is required, due to language and other barriers. There is still a strong need to make the vaccines more easily accessible to non-English speakers and other marginalized communities. Our outreach workers continuously assist community members accessing vaccine locations, interpreting, and in many cases even providing transportation to the clinics.

Please contribute to La Conexión Covid relief efforts. You can donate online (look for the [blue "Donate" button](#)) or mail a check to: La Conexión, POB 186, BG OH 43402, indicating "Covid" in the memo line.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO TEACH ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD?

Our adult ESL class needs an experienced teacher on Thursdays. The class is held from 6-7:30 p.m. Location is the First Presbyterian Church in downtown BG. Our free classes are open to any limited-English proficiency individuals, not only Latinxs. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, please contact us for more information; we will be glad to chat with you about the program details: by phone 419.308.2328 or email laconexionwc@gmail.com.



Lead teacher Megan Espen Smith

National and International News

"Controversial 'Remain in Mexico' program to return to El Paso-Juárez border," *El Paso Matters*

The Trump-instituted Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), also known as "Remain in Mexico," has been reinstated "...after Texas and Missouri sued the Biden administration for unlawfully terminating it in spring 2021. The court order was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in August in a "shadow docket" ruling." The Department of Homeland Security claims it will make the program more humane with "a commitment to COVID-19 vaccines for all MPP enrollees, improved access to information for migrants, exceptions for people deemed "particularly vulnerable," and a six-month time limit for migrants waiting in Mexico."

"Democrats pitch parliamentarian on immigration relief," *Roll Call*

From the article: "Senate Democrats met with Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough to argue the immigration protections are eligible to be included in a \$2.2 trillion reconciliation bill, while Senate Republicans opposed inclusion. Under the so-called Byrd rule, reconciliation bills, which can pass with a filibuster-proof majority, must primarily impact the federal budget." There is indication that the proposal will move forward.

"Legislative Bulletin," *National Immigration Forum*

Four new bills were recently introduced: [S. 3263 Upholding the Law at Our Border Act](#) would require the Inspector General of DHS to investigate and report on undocumented immigrants and what happens to them after apprehension; [H.R. 6022 Build Better Borders Act of 2021](#) would increase monetary penalties for crossing the border between ports of entry; [H.R. 6078 To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act](#) will eliminate the annual numerical limitation on visas for certain immigrants; [H.R. 6119 Further Extending Government Funding Act](#) would extend government funding to Afghan refugees and unaccompanied minors between December 4-February 18.

Become Involved with the La Conexión Immigrant Solidarity Committee

We are looking for additional volunteers who are interested in advocacy, educational programming, communications, and other tasks. Anyone interested in becoming involved, please contact: laconexionimmigrantsolidarity@gmail.com.

Giving to La Conexión

La Conexión, a 501(c)3 organization, can accept tax-deductible donations. You can donate through the Facebook page: look for the [blue "Donate" button](#). All proceeds benefit La Conexión. Facebook does not take a fee or any portion of the money.

Donations can also be made by mail at: La Conexión P.O. Box 186 Bowling Green, OH 43402

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