For years April 15th, is Tax Day in the U.S. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has decided to give taxpayers extra time to file their 2020 tax returns due to the coronavirus pandemic, pushing Tax Day 2021 on Monday, May 17. This is an excellent opportunity for Alianza Americas to help educate our members, the public and elected officials on the important role of taxpayers’ contributions to build equity and improve the quality of life of every single person who calls the U.S. home.

COVID-19 showed us a few things about the U.S. infrastructure that are not working well and that are vital for a comprehensive response to pandemics, climate change and inequality; Federal and local governments must wisely invest in rebuilding our roads, public transportation, electric grids, hospitals, especially public hospitals, schools, drinking water and protecting our natural resources. Efficiency matters but equality as well. We must ensure that we build the infrastructure for the next century but also make it accessible to all regardless of economic status.

The last year has been a pivotal time for immigrant communities in the U.S. as they have played an essential role in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic as frontline workers and contributed to the economic recovery process in the U.S. 55% of immigrant workers are employed in essential jobs and represent 17% of the total U.S. workforce. 69% of undocumented immigrants, who have been excluded from nearly every single piece of economic relief, were essential workers throughout the pandemic. These essential jobs were the lifeblood that kept the U.S. economy running during the pandemic and remain a vital part of the U.S. economy.
Overall, immigrant workers contributed nearly $500 billion in taxes in 2019, which includes the $30.6 billion in taxes that undocumented workers pay. Immigrant households contribute hundreds of billions of dollars in federal income, state, and local taxes nationwide and hold a tremendous amount of spending power. In 2019, immigrant workers paid $492.4 billion in taxes, at the same time TPS holders paid $2.5 billions in taxes and another $6.2 billion by DACA holders in 2019, meaning immigrant workers have an even greater role in the U.S. economy. However, undocumented workers are still excluded from the same economic benefits other taxpayers receive.

The IRS has set up a process for undocumented immigrants to pay taxes through ITIN and TIN identification numbers, which is what allows them to pay $30.6 billion in taxes. Despite the U.S. government being aware of the massive economic contributions, undocumented workers make to the U.S. economy and their role in the fight against the pandemic both in taxes paid and labor, undocumented immigrants were purposefully excluded from nearly every COVID-19 economic relief package.

To achieve the goal of state of the art infrastructure and to end COVID-19 we must invest every taxpayer's dollars wisely. Americans from all walks of life can and must speak up telling Congress and the Biden administration where they want their contributions to go: End all funding for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) or funding the militarization of foreign countries. Instead they should invest in communities.

To get the justice that immigrant workers deserve, we call on Congress and President Biden to enact these policies:

- Extend and expand unemployment benefits. Unemployment benefits are the lifeline that will ensure that fewer families find themselves hungry and homeless. These benefits must also be maintained during the pandemic and extended to all immigrants, both documented and undocumented.
- Thousands of people have been unable to continue to pay for their health insurance. Stimulus legislation must make healthcare available to all, including undocumented immigrants. To keep everyone safe, we must ensure that immigration enforcement does not take place in hospitals and that the public charge rule is suspended. Ending the pandemic depends on making public health truly public: healthcare for all.
- The process of deporting migrants under Title 42 must be ended.
- Mixed status families were excluded and punished from the CARES Act, future legislation needs to include all families, regardless of status.
- COVID testing, vaccines, and medical care services need to be expanded and free in lower-income areas, where COVID is disproportionately taking a toll on communities that have less means to handle the financial burden.
The militarization of immigration enforcement in the U.S. needs to end. Beyond ending detention, ICE needs to stop wasting taxpayer dollars to continue funding its detention operations. For example, ICE currently spends $1.34 million per day to pay for empty beds in detention centers.

Here are some actions you can take today to get tax justice for migrants:

1- CALL CONGRESS, use this sample message

- Call your Congressional representatives using this link to call your Senator or Representative. Use this message:

   Hello my name is __________ I am calling my (SENATOR / REPRESENTATIVE) to ask her/him to use my tax dollars wisely. Undocumented immigrants pay tens of billions of dollars in taxes and have been left out of nearly COVID economic relief package. I demand that we invest our tax dollars in programs that benefit communities, not in policing and militarization. The families that have suffered the most in the Pandemic continue to be neglected. We need healthcare, education, housing, and worker protections. No more spending on family separations, deportations, and detention. Now is the time to do the right thing and value and protect our immigrant neighbors.

2- CALL PRESIDENT BIDEN AND VP HARRIS use this phone number and sample message

   Comments: 202-456-1111

   Hello my name is __________ I am calling to ask President Biden and Vicepresidente Harris to review their fiscal year 2022 budget plan, they have an opportunity to demonstrate their administration’s commitment to rebuild the U.S. infrastructure, protecting immigrants, win the fight against COVID and investing in the safety, dignity and humanity of all immigrants by cutting funding to ICE and CBP.

3- TWEET AND SHARE IN FACEBOOK join us on Wednesday April 15 between 1pm to 3pm EST

   - .@SenSchumer @SpeakerPelosi undocumented workers pay more than $30 billion in taxes every year. It’s time they join every taxpaying American in receiving economic relief and medical care. #TaxDay2021
   - .@POTUS @VP ICE needs to stop wasting taxpayer dollars to continue funding its inhumane detention operations. ICE currently spends $1.34 million per day to pay for
empty beds in detention centers while millions of Americans suffer from the economic toll of the pandemic. #TaxDay2021

- .@SenSchumer @SpeakerPelosi in 2019 immigrant workers paid $492.4 billion in taxes, TPS holders $2.5 billions and Dreamers $6.2 billion. Congress must legislate to provide permanent protection for these communities now! [https://bit.ly/3g4tpI9](https://bit.ly/3g4tpI9)
- .@SenSchumer @SpeakerPelosi millions of people remain unemployed through no fault of their own, many migrants among them. Immigrant workers, including undocumented workers, pay half a trillion dollars in taxes annually. Demand Congress extend and expand unemployment benefits for all immigrants #TaxDay2021
- .@POTUS @VP we ask you to end the unjust deportations under Title 42! There is no “right” way for immigrants to come to the U.S. when everyone is deported, we must invest in the right to due process not expelling asylum seekers. #TaxDay2021
- .@POTUS @VP We ask that your infrastructure plan move us to the next century but also creates accessibility to all regardless of economic status and class. Ending the pandemic depends on making public health truly public: healthcare for all. #TaxDay2021

4- DONATE to a local community organization that fights for immigrant rights, you can support Alianza Americas via this link [https://www.alianzaamericas.org/donate/?lang=en](https://www.alianzaamericas.org/donate/?lang=en) or find one of our organizational members [https://www.alianzaamericas.org/miembros-de-alianza-americas/](https://www.alianzaamericas.org/miembros-de-alianza-americas/)

5- USE THIS TOOLKIT to organize community conversations to raise awareness and get people committed to meet with their elected officials to use our tax contributions to improve the infrastructure in your community and across the country.

6- SHARE IN SOCIAL MEDIA these graphics to educate others about immigrants’ tax contributions, including DACA and TPS recipients.