



February 26, 2021

## **Congresswoman Gwen Moore's Statement on COVID-19 Relief Bill and Immigration**

Thank you all for the opportunity to speak today. While I cannot be there in person, please know that I am with you in spirit and actively working in Washington to help ensure that the needs of all our communities are being met, in COVID relief and in other legislation that this Congress will consider.

COVID-19 doesn't care about your immigration status. It takes no note of your citizenship. It is an equal opportunity predator which unfortunately has proved effective at destroying countless lives, having killed over 500,000 in our country, including over 6300 right here in Wisconsin.

Too many essential workers don't make a living wage. They don't have paid leave so they don't really have a choice when it comes to whether to go to work.

The minimum wage increase in the House bill will help provide a much needed pay raise for some of the most essential but underpaid workers. CBO estimates it would provide a raise for 17 million workers and lift almost a million people out of poverty!

I am pleased that the COVID relief package moving through Congress includes provisions to allow more immigrant families to receive stimulus checks. This legislation will ensure mixed status families will qualify to receive payments for each family member with a Social Security Number.

I supported efforts to provide stimulus payments to ITIN holders for example which was not included. I would like for this bill to include the requirement from last year's HEROES Act to require OSHA to issue a protective standard for workplaces that would protect all workers, including our most essential. But the rules of Reconciliation prevented that provision and many others.

Hopefully by early March, I expect the House to start work on moving President Biden's immigration legislation to address many of the challenges facing our immigration system.

- That bill would create a path to citizenship (legalization) for the 11 million undocumented individuals in the United States including an expedited path for DACA and TPS recipients, expands family-based and employment-based immigration, and provides other critical reforms to the immigration system, among many other changes.
- He has also moved to make clear that vaccination sites are not also deportation sites, so that folks can go get vaccines without fear of deportation.

I stand with you all. We must pass the most inclusive COVID-19 package that we can. I support that legislation and those efforts and will vote for them when it comes before the House.