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STATEMENT FROM UCLA LATINO POLICY AND POLITICS INITIATIVE ON THE RELEASE OF A LATINO AGENDA FROM THE BIDEN CAMPAIGN

"Latinos are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, fueling the economy as essential workers and paying the price with their health and finances. As the data makes it clear that Latinos are facing devastating impacts during this moment of crisis, we need our leaders to understand that economic recovery is only possible if the specific needs of Latinos and other underserved communities are immediately addressed.

The UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative has been calling for a Latino agenda from presidential candidates, national political parties and state and local governments that fully embraces the critical role that Latinos play in the economy and expands their potential for success. Economic mobility is a top concern for Latinos, as is access to health care and quality education. Biden's plan recognizes that Latinos are not a monolith and that immigration is one of many other concerns.

A successful Latino agenda understands that every issue is a Latino issue. Criminal justice reform, housing, climate change and voting rights are also priority issues that require a Latino lens.

Now more than ever we need a blueprint on how communities of color will recover from the current crisis and how they will be successfully integrated into the nation's future. America's recovery is inextricably linked with the economic and financial health of the Latino community and other communities that have been historically underserved. It's time that we focus on their needs and include them in the conversation."

In July, UCLA LPPI convened 80 multi-generational leaders from across California to develop a policy framework for a Latino agenda to provide a template for leaders across the nation as they plan for an economic recovery. The comprehensive policy agenda can be <u>found here.</u>