



MEDIA ADVISORY
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TBLC President Justin Yancy on President Biden’s executive order allowing for parole in place for undocumented spouses of U.S. Citizens

AUSTIN – Today the President is authorizing an executive order to protect undocumented spouses of U.S. citizens and provide work authorization that will help support labor market needs. Previous policy allowed for undocumented spouses to apply for lawful permanent residency – a status they already qualify for – but they had to leave the country to do so. As a result of the executive order, undocumented spouses and their children can “parole in place” while applying for residency.

Across the country there are approximately [500,000 undocumented spouses of U.S. citizens](#) that are eligible for this affirmative relief with more than 20 percent in Texas. Recipients will now be protected from deportation and can apply for work authorization, similar to successful programs like military parole in place or DACA. In Texas, these individuals who have spent an average of 22 years in the U.S. will add an estimated \$1.5 billion to the economy and more than \$500 million in tax revenue annually through the actions taken today by the Administration.

“At a time when we have more job postings in Texas than available workers, we must maximize all available resources and today’s executive action will provide a needed boost to our workforce by providing lawful protections and work authorization for long-term undocumented spouses of U.S. citizens,” said Justin Yancy, President of the Texas Business Leadership Council. “I am constantly hearing from Texas business leaders about the need for additional labor and this executive order supports what’s best for Texas employers and the economic health of our state.”

Texas is a thriving state for business, but recent data demonstrates that the labor market is tight. In April, [reports](#) showed that we tripled the U.S. job growth rate, setting records for the most filled jobs and the highest number of employed residents. To sustain our strong economy in Texas, we need to make sure that we keep our labor force growing - and that would not be possible without the contributions of the [3.3 million immigrant workers](#) who call our state home.

The Texas Business Leadership Council is a network of Texas based CEOs and senior business executives who advance a long-term vision of a prosperous Texas in a globally competitive business environment. Justin Yancy serves as President.

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