Overview of Federal level legislation updates

**Inflation Reduction Act**

Signed into law August 16, 2022. $369 billion into clean energy/climate investments. We know this is less than what was proposed, very pared down Build Back Better plan first introduced in 2021 by Biden Administration. There are provisions such as allowing for oil gas production / exploration on federal lands which is problematic. La lucha sigue.

[For the act by the numbers](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/15/by-the-numbers-the-inflation-reduction-act/), can reference White House page here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/15/by-the-numbers-the-inflation-reduction-act/>

Environmental justice fact sheet: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/17/fact-sheet-inflation-reduction-act-advances-environmental-justice/>

By state: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/17/state-fact-sheets-how-the-inflation-reduction-act-lowers-energy-costs-create-jobs-and-tackles-climate-change-across-america/>

One pager from Senate democracts: <https://www.democrats.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/inflation_reduction_act_one_page_summary.pdf>

**Afghan Adjustment Act HR** (H.R. 8685/S.4787) “AAA”

A bipartisan bill that was introduced in the House on August 9. It ensures Afghans who were brought to safety by the U.S. military may apply for lasting protection to stay in the U.S. long-term.

Bill highlights: the issue is that Afghans were evacuated to safety (and thousands more remain), they immediately face some legal limbo. AAA allows for certain Afghan evacuees to apply for permanent status after 1-2 years of being paroled into the United States. This bill is modeled after similar adjustment acts that came following military actions, including Cuba/rise of Castro, Vietnam, and in Iraq.

[Bill explainer and highlights](https://www.lirs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Afghan-Adjustment-Act-Bill-Explainer-2022.pdf)

* There is a huge backlog of cases. This bill would lessen the burden of the SIV process and USRAP
* Prevents loss of jobs / being deported to 3rd country while app. Statuses are pending
* Well-established precedent
* Most parole expires in August 2023
* 76,000 Afghans evacuated by US military; first processed on US military bases abroad

Coalition leads: Evacuate Our Allies Coalition; USCCB has provided organizational endorsement of this bill.

* [Evacuate Our Allies Coalition](https://www.evacuateourallies.org/home) Virtual Congressional Advocacy Days, Sept. 6-8; sign up here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJ8NjMedQt0xf9Rg1MSktVnskiJj_u68RE5-Z2Icr1M4FTRg/viewform>
* Encouraging people to contact their congressperson: votervoice link: <https://www.votervoice.net/LIRS/campaigns/89654/respond>
* Recording of LIRS webinar on “One Year Later”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yeOTvi5jcQ0>

**Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929 – HR 8433**

* Introduced Wed. July 29 (Rep. Lofgren (CA-19), Rep. Torres (CA-35), Rep. Meng (NY-06), Rep. Correa (CA-34), Rep. Espaillat (NY-13), and Rep. Garcia (IL-04))
* To unlock a path to permanent residence that doesn’t require a *new* law, but a change to the registry; immigration reform includes updating current law. Registry means green cards can be granted
* Cutoff date has been updated 4 times; last updated under Reagan in 1986; currently requires immigrant must have lived in US since 1/1/1972 to qualify date listed as 1972; update could help 8 million people who are undocumented
* A simple tool to bring a broader, more just and orderly path to citizenship – not dependent on the courts

**Campaign: “Unlock Permanent Residence Through Registry” / Abran las puertas con el Registro**

* Unlock residency, virtual lobby days Wed. Aug 24-Wed. Aug 31: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1F0TGa5VoRWQlqhyzDGvuNSIf4Spv4TSfm2SVgkWObVk/edit?usp=sharing>
* Campaign is focused in the House, only on democrats for now – more moderate democrats need to co-sponsor; currently have 54 co-sponsors <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/8433/cosponsors?r=6&s=1>
* Toolkit available here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gjLqXU-WezP8EXkk2tLSstaaiV_KR3FP3XlrHuMNoZ4/edit>
* Lobby and Policy Training
	+ Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at 9am PT/ 12pm ET [zoom link here](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486519626?pwd=MUR6SU5YQU5BU2p6dy9IWWNVdDBLUT09)
	+ The training will be in English with simultaneous Spanish translation. It will be recorded.

**UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Under the auspices of ECOSOC**

* Met in July; chance for countries to report on progress being made on 2030 sustainable development goals (SDGs)Always 8 days
* 5 SDGs that were focused on: education, gender, ocean, biodiversity (forests), partnerships; 190+ speakers; almost 300 side events; key focus of voluntary national reviews, 44 countries presented them
* JCoR had good representation
* Overview – webinar available here: <https://youtu.be/h7vb9-vwqkg>