



## House passes Dream Act

Yesterday, [the House passed a major immigration reform bill that would provide a path to citizenship for the 2.5 million young undocumented migrants known as Dreamers](#). Nine Republicans joined all Democrats in support of the American Dream and Promise Act. Under the bill, the federal government will provide permanent resident status to undocumented immigrants who entered the US as minors and meet certain qualifications, as well as a path for immigrants with Temporary Protected Status (TPS), a designation given to those who come from countries in crisis. The bill faces strong Republican opposition in the Senate, despite the overwhelming support of Americans. The House also passed the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, a reform supported by the Biden Administration that would provide a path to citizenship for migrant farmworkers that grow our food.

+Jim [said](#), "Middle Tennessee is home to one of the most awesome, diverse, immigrant communities in the nation. The Dream and Promise Act allows our neighbors, essential workers, colleagues and friends to fully contribute to our country and keep America strong and united."  
[#HomeIsHere](#)



## House reauthorizes Violence Against Women Act

On Wednesday, [the House voted to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\)](#), which offers protection for women against domestic violence and sexual assault. The bill passed 244-to-172. VAWA was originally authored by then-Senator Joe Biden in 1994. The new bill builds upon previous versions of the VAWA by authorizing funding for grants and other forms of support in an effort to prevent and combat sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking and deliver assistance to victims. VAWA is opposed by a number of Republicans in the Senate.

+Jim has cosponsored VAWA for many years and [said](#), “The Violence Against Women Act maintains lifesaving resources and protections for women. I’m proud to support [#VAWA!](#) “



### **IRS extends tax filing deadline**

[The IRS has postponed the tax filing deadline for individuals from April 15 to May 17](#), giving more people time to file and pay their taxes. Estimated payments for small businesses are still due on April 15. The delay comes as the agency processes millions of stimulus payments approved in the American Rescue Plan (ARP). The deadline extension applies only to federal taxes and does not impact state tax filing deadlines, so you'll still have to check with your state before putting them out of your mind for the next month completely.

+ Jim joined more than 100 members in asking the Treasury Department and IRS to [extend the federal tax filing deadline](#).



### **Incidents of anti-Asian racism soar**

For more than a year, [Asian Americans have faced an alarming increase in incidents of racist attacks and harassment](#). The current wave of racism is tied to the COVID-19 pandemic and is another example of a history of racism and discrimination against Asian Americans. President Biden has strongly condemned anti-Asian racism and [will meet with Asian-American leaders](#)

[during a trip to Atlanta today](#). His visit comes on the heels of domestic terror attacks that left 8 people, including six Asian women, dead in Georgia.

+Jim [said](#), "The increased violence towards the Asian-American community, especially Asian-American women, is heartbreaking. I stand in solidarity and mourn with the Asian community after the deaths of the individuals killed in yesterday's attack." [#StopAsianHate](#)

+Jim is a co-sponsor of the [Hate Crimes Commission Act of 2021](#) and the [COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act](#).



### **Administration meets vaccination goal**

President Biden promised to provide 100 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccines in the first 100 days of his Administration. Today, [he announced that the U.S. had met his goal just 58 days into his Administration](#). He promised to unveil a new vaccination target next week. Given the rate of vaccinations and supply levels of the three already authorized vaccines, the U.S. is now in a position to help supply [4 million doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to Mexico and Canada](#). The AstraZeneca vaccine is undergoing clinical trials and has not yet been authorized for use in the U.S., so the portion of unused stockpiled doses will be shared with those countries during this time. AstraZeneca has been approved by the World Health Organization, EU, Canada, and Mexico.

### **CDC updates guidance on schools**

[The CDC has updated its physical distancing guidelines for schools from 6 feet to 3 feet](#). Health officials have referred to a study published last week that showed no significant difference in rates of COVID-19 at Massachusetts public schools that had implemented social distancing rules of more than 3 feet apart compared to those with 6-foot distancing requirements. Masking is still an important component of in-person learning. [The change is a major step in the reopening of schools across the country](#) that have had to limit the number of students due to space concerns.

### **Confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, vaccinations in Tennessee**

Yesterday, the [Tennessee Department of Health](#) reported 661 new cases, bringing the total to 796,624 confirmed cases. More than 11,681 people have died, including at least 23 people Wednesday. There are approximately 661 people currently hospitalized with the virus statewide. There have been 7,034,782 tests statewide, more than 7,869 since the day before, with a 6.80% positivity rate. As of today in [Davidson County](#), there have been 92,607 confirmed cases and 852 deaths.

As of March 18, [2,075,483 vaccinations have been administered in Tennessee](#) - about 20% of have received their first and 10% are fully vaccinated. There have been [3,074,370 doses delivered to the state](#), more than 200,000 this week.

The federal government has delivered more than 154 million doses of vaccine and 118 million shots have been given nationwide. Approximately 23% of Americans have received at least one dose and 12.6% of Americans are fully vaccinated. [Tennessee remains one of the lowest ranked states for vaccine roll-out.](#)

### Vaccine eligibility in Tennessee

[The state is expected to announce today that all counties can move through vaccination phases as supply allows.](#) This is a departure from previous practice. Until now, the state dictated vaccine eligibility for 89 of the 95 counties and the larger 6 counties moved in coordination. Most of Tennessee is vaccinating people in phases 1a, 1b, 1c, and people 65 years and older. However, counties in West Tennessee have all said they are moving to phase 2a and people over 55 years of age. Additionally, there are [reports that Shelby County will ask to open vaccinations to all residents.](#)

*Davidson, Dickson, and Cheatham are currently vaccinating phase 1a, 1b, 1c, and all people over 65 years of age. To register for a COVID-19 vaccination and book an appointment at your county health department, visit [Vaccinate.tn.gov](#) or [covid19.nashville.gov](#) (615-862-7777). There are also hundreds of vaccination locations throughout the community via [VaccineFinder.org](#).*



### Senate confirms more members of Biden's cabinet; Biden nominates Nelson for NASA

The Senate has confirmed three more of President Biden's cabinet nominees. Those confirmed include:

- [Xavier Becerra to lead the Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\).](#) Becerra, the first Latino Secretary of HHS, is the former Attorney General of California and a former member of Congress.
- [William J. Burns as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency \(CIA\).](#) He is one of the country's most experienced diplomats who retired from the Foreign Service in 2014 after a three-decade career. Burns will take over at a moment of heightened tension between the United States and Russia, where Burns once served as the U.S. ambassador. He was approved by voice vote.
- [Katherine Tai as the U.S. Trade Representative.](#) She makes history as the first Asian American and first woman of color to hold the position. Tai previously [served as Democratic trade counsel](#) for the House Ways and Means Committee and under the Obama administration as the U.S. Trade Representative's head of China trade enforcement. She was approved 98-0.

President Biden also nominated [former Florida Senator Bill Nelson as the next NASA Administrator](#). Nelson flew to space on the space shuttle in 1986 and was a staunch advocate for NASA's space programs during his time in Congress.



### **SBA disaster relief briefing**

The Small Business Administration (SBA) will hold a briefing on Monday, March 22, at 5:30 to provide information on relief programs for small businesses impacted by the downtown explosion in December.

You can register [here](#).

A promotional banner for a webinar. On the left, a dark blue rounded rectangle contains the text "Webinar: Small Business Recovery and Resilience" in white. Below this is the SBA logo and the text "U.S. Small Business Administration". On the right, a photograph shows a smiling man in a striped apron standing in a doorway. A sign in the window reads "OPEN" and "OPENING HOURS MON-FRI 8am-3pm SAT-SUN 8am-4pm".

**Webinar:**  
**Small Business  
Recovery and  
Resilience**

**SBA** U.S. Small Business  
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OR D.C.**

Summer Session I:  
May 18 - June 25, 2021

Summer Session II:  
July 6 - August 13, 2021

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Deadline to Submit Application:  
Monday, April 12, 2021