



Immigration and the Coronavirus Pandemic

*Key findings from a national survey among 1,004 registered voters
Conducted April 10 to 14, 2020*

Ranking of Voters' Immigration Priorities

TWO Immigration Policy Goals that Should Have Highest Priority

*By Preferred Party
on Immigration*

		Demo- crats	Repub- licans
Treating immigrants fairly and humanely	37%	55%	18%
Making sure immigration laws are enforced	32%	16%	49%
Reducing crime and protecting public safety	30%	22%	37%
Preventing disease and protecting public health	29%	29%	28%
Strengthening the economy	28%	29%	28%
Protecting Americans' jobs	23%	15%	32%
Accepting refugees who face violence and oppression	21%	35%	7%

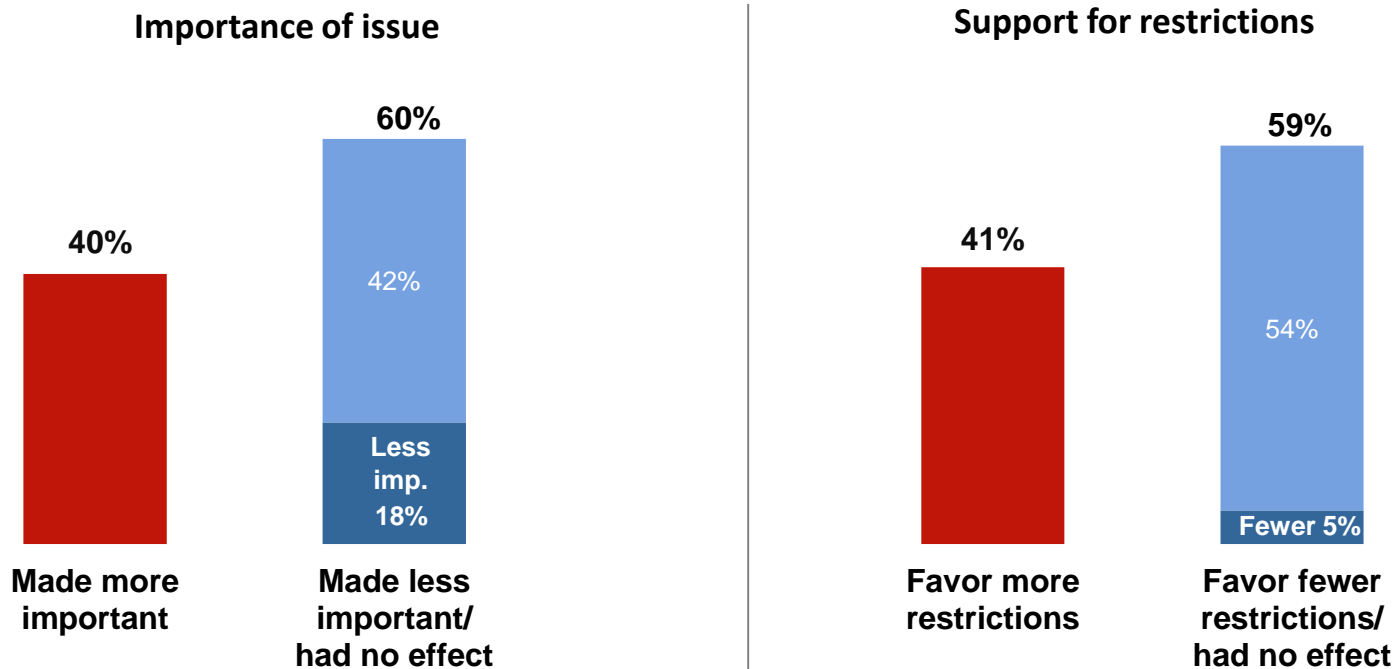
Overview:

How the Pandemic Has Impacted Opinions on Immigration

- Americans are more cautious now about allowing people into the country, wanting to make sure it's safe. They are more open than before to supporting proposals for closing borders or restricting new immigration.
- **BUT** there has been little or no change in perceptions of immigrants already here, including the undocumented. Voters do not blame immigrants for the epidemic, and appreciate that many are helping to combat the virus and provide needed services. **They continue to strongly support DACA and want the program extended.**

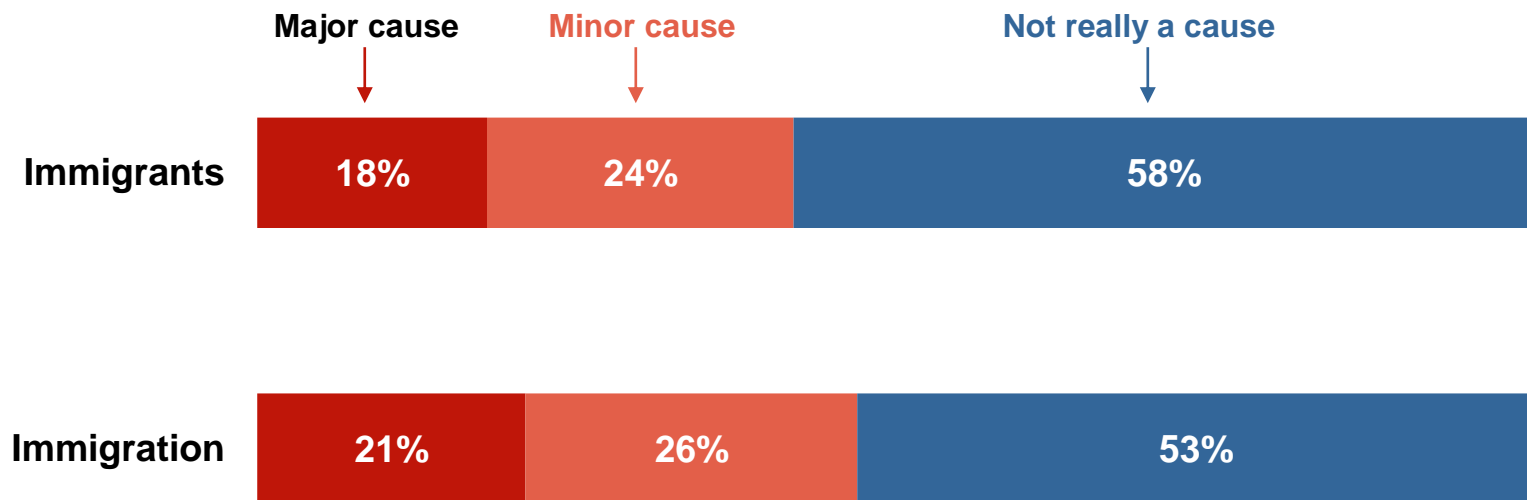
Some favor more immigration restrictions as a result of the pandemic.

Impact of Current Coronavirus Pandemic on my View of Immigration



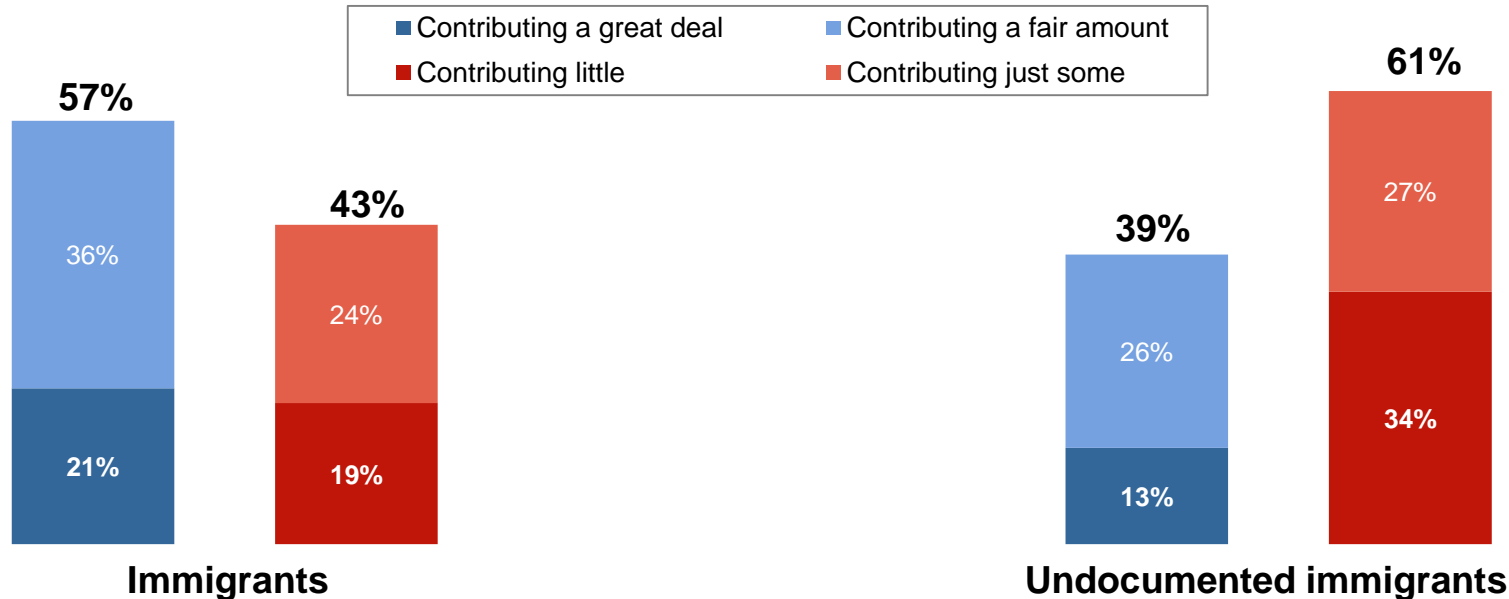
Voters do not blame immigrants for the pandemic.

Immigrants/Immigration as Cause of the Coronavirus Outbreak in the United States



Voters say immigrants contribute to response to the pandemic, but are less aware of contributions from the undocumented.

How much are [immigrants/undocumented immigrants] contributing in terms of providing medical care to people with the coronavirus, maintaining public services like sanitation, and keeping grocery stores and other essential businesses open?



Few want undocumented immigrants to leave, or feel that they take jobs from American citizens.

Attitudes toward Undocumented Immigrants Currently Living in the U.S.

There should be a way for them to stay in the country legally, if certain requirements are met.  68%

They should not be allowed to stay in the country legally.  32%

Undocumented immigrants mostly fill jobs American citizens don't want.  67%

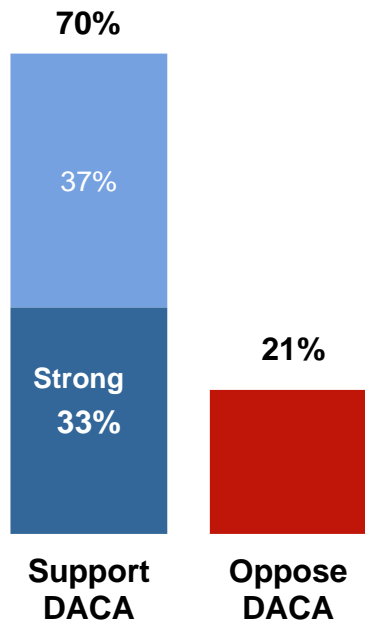
Undocumented immigrants mostly fill jobs that American citizens would like.  33%



SUPPORT FOR CONTINUING DACA

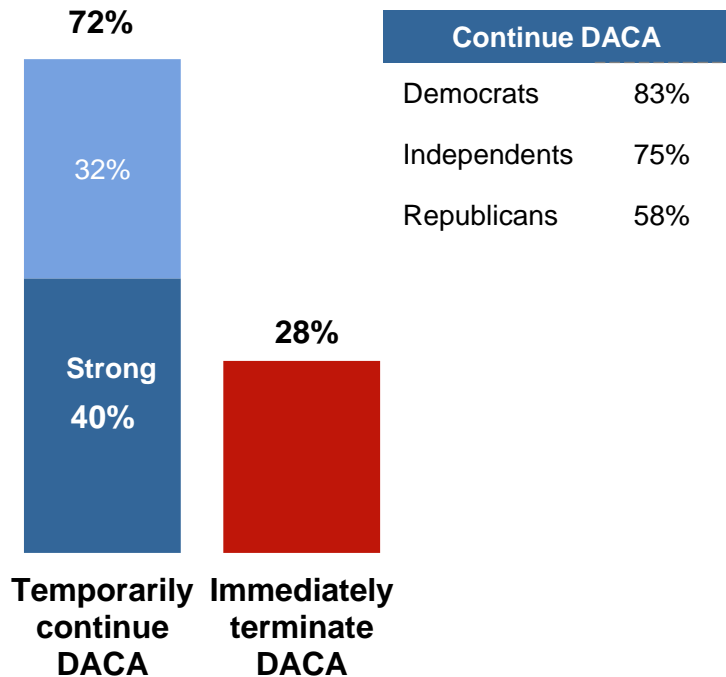
Strong Support for Continuing DACA

Support for DACA Program*



*Description prior to question:
 “Since 2012, there has been a government program to temporarily allow some undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children, also known as Dreamers, to remain in the United States without being deported if they met certain conditions, including having no criminal record and either being a student, being in the military, or having earned a high school degree. This program is also known as the DACA program.”

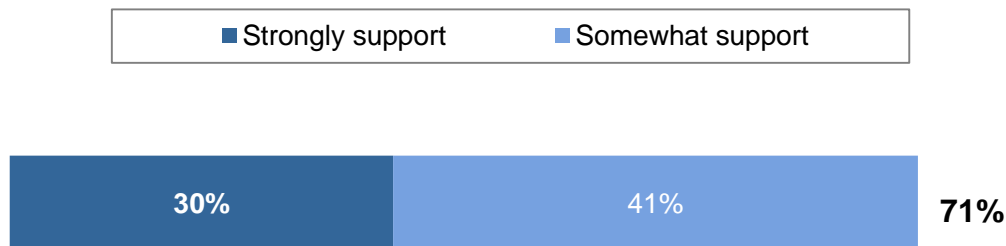
Preference if SCOTUS Rules in Trump’s Favor



Support for Extending DACA and TPS Work Permits

Support for Immigration Policies Favored by Democrats in Congress

Extend current work permits for people with TPS, a program only for immigrants already here who have been allowed to stay and work temporarily in the United States because they come from countries that are severely affected by violent conflict or natural disasters



Extend current work permits for people with DACA, a program that gives temporary authorization to stay and work in the United States to undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and meet certain conditions



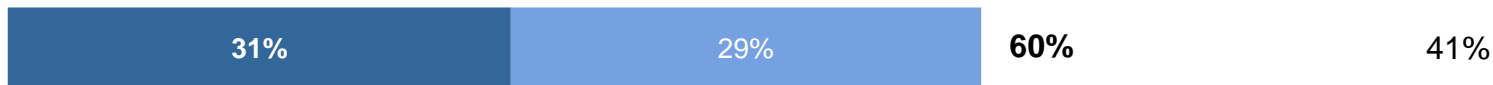
Top DACA Messages

Proportions saying each is a convincing statement for continuing the DACA program:

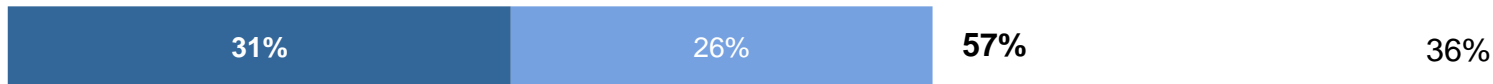
■ Extremely convincing ■ Very convincing

Top Two Choices

As the coronavirus spreads in the United States, 29,000 DACA recipients are stepping up to the plate to help keep Americans safe by working as nurses, doctors, and healthcare providers across the nation.



During times of crisis, we should all support each other as Americans. DACA recipients are Americans in virtually every way, except on paper—they pay taxes, were educated in American schools and universities, and have lived here since the age of seven on average. Now more than ever we should support our fellow Americans, not deport them.

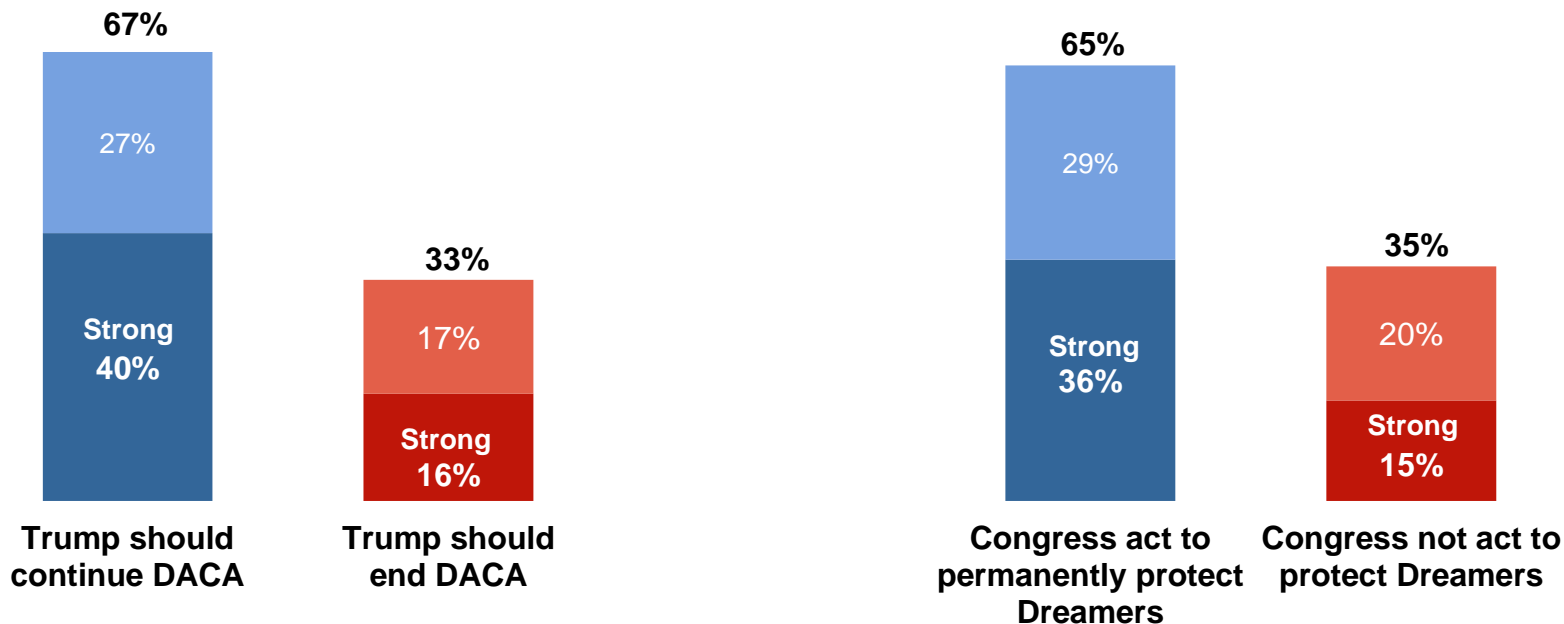


At a time when most of us are staying home and avoiding contact with people, over 200,000 DACA recipients are helping keep the country running and risking their health daily to restock grocery shelves, disinfect hospital rooms, deliver food, and perform other essential services.



After voters hear debate, support for extending DACA continues.

Preference if SCOTUS Rules in Trump's Favor on Ending DACA

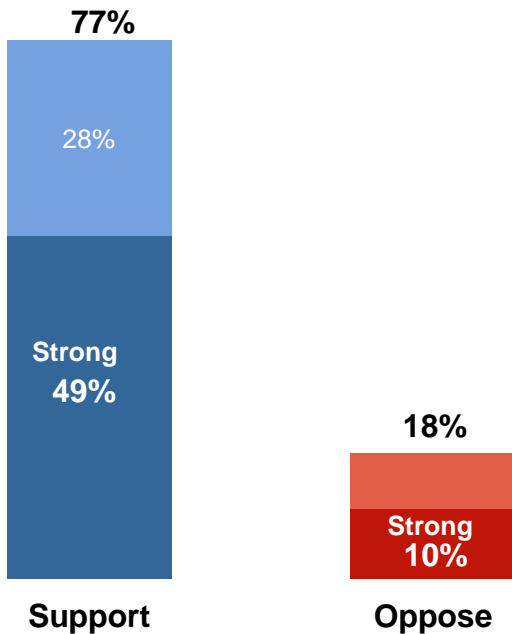




IMMIGRATION POLICIES DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Strong Support for Free Coronavirus Testing and Treatment

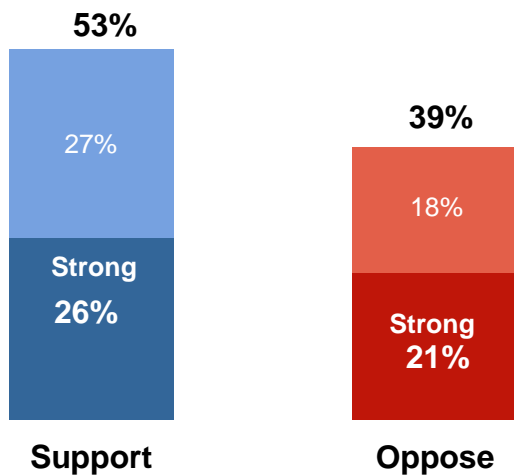
Guarantee free coronavirus testing and treatment to all uninsured people, regardless of immigration status



	Support	Oppose
Democrats	85%	9%
Independents	80%	17%
Republicans	64%	30%
Biden voters	85%	9%
Trump voters	66%	28%
Northeast	83%	14%
South	74%	21%
Midwest	71%	19%
West	78%	17%

Majority Supports Unemployment Coverage for Undocumented Immigrants

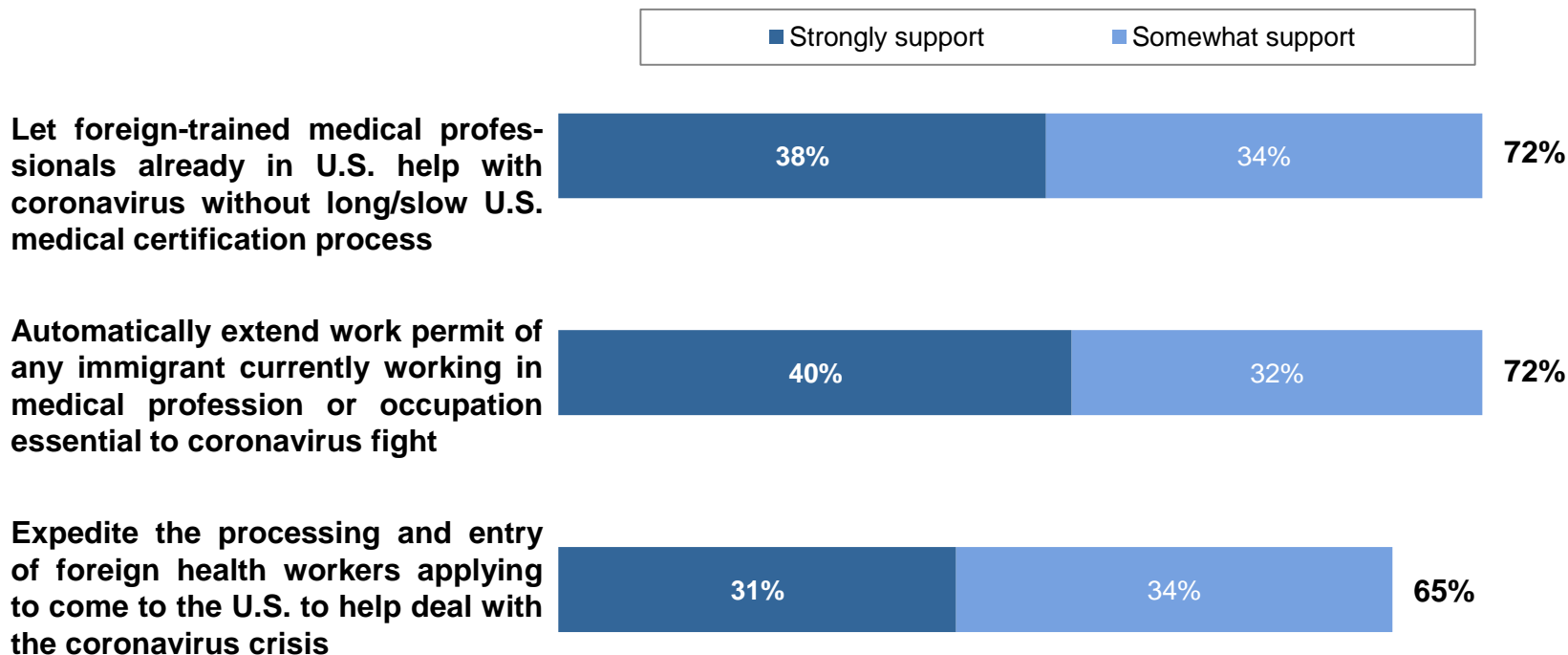
Make all workers who pay taxes eligible for emergency federal unemployment insurance, including undocumented immigrant workers



	Support	Oppose
Northeast	52%	39%
South	50%	43%
Midwest	54%	39%
West	57%	34%
Swing voters	57%	28%

Strong Support for Immigration of Health Professionals

Support for Immigration Policies Favored by Democrats in Congress



Public would oppose denying pandemic aid to sanctuary cities.

Some people have proposed that we require cities to cooperate with the enforcement of federal immigration laws as a condition for federal pandemic assistance. Which statement about this do you agree with more?

All American cities should receive pandemic assistance when they need it. We are just **putting American lives at risk if we refuse assistance.**

**All cities should
receive aid**

(agree much more) **39%**

26%

65%

We **should require all cities to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement** as a condition for pandemic assistance because they are otherwise risking the health of Americans by not detaining and removing people who are illegally in the United States.

**Require
compliance to
receive aid**

(agree much more)
18%

17%

35%

Rating of Pro-Immigration Messages

Proportions who strongly agree with each statement about immigration issues*

63%

We need to know who is coming in and out of our country, but we do not need to separate families or put children in cages. We can keep our communities safe and secure, and **treat immigrants fairly and humanely**.

60%

This is a **time for Americans to come together, not a time for politicians to stir up fear** of immigrants and divide Americans for political benefit.

51%

We should **focus on keeping Americans safe, not wasting our tax dollars on rounding up and deporting law-abiding immigrants** who have lived in our country for many years, obey our laws, and have strong community ties.

46%

Many of the men and women on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic—**EMTs, police officers, nurses, nursing home employees**—are immigrants. We should not restrict immigration when so many **immigrants are risking their lives to help us get through this crisis**.

40%

Many of the men and women who are providing vital services during the coronavirus pandemic—**janitorial staff, grocery store workers, delivery workers**—are immigrants. We should not restrict immigration when so many **immigrants are risking their lives to help us get through this crisis**.

*8-to-10 ratings on 0-to-10 scale, 10 = completely agree

Key Message Takeaways

- When possible, focus the debate on *immigrants* already here more than *immigration*.
- Highlight strong contributions of DACA recipients in fighting the coronavirus and providing essential services during the crisis. It's wrong to deport those committed to America and making a contribution.
- BUT, these contributions are not necessarily seen as justification for additional future immigration.
- Strongest messages highlight benefits of our policies for America—especially safety and health—more than compassion for refugees or immigrants.

Strong Language to Use

- *We can keep our communities safe and secure **AND** treat immigrants fairly and humanely.*
- *Hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants **are on the frontlines of the pandemic**—EMTs, police officers, nurses, nursing home employees—risking their lives to help us get through this crisis.*
- *Immigrants who work hard to build a future for their family also contribute to our families and make our nation stronger.*
- *We should guarantee free coronavirus testing and treatment for all people who need it, including immigrants, because that **protects us all**.*
- *This is a **time for Americans to come together**, not a time for politicians to stir up fear of immigrants and divide Americans for political benefit.*



Immigration and the Coronavirus Pandemic

*Key findings from a national survey among 1,004 registered voters
Conducted April 10 to 14, 2020*