

Summary of President Biden's Keynote at the National Governors Association 2021 Winter Meeting

Introduction

On February 25, 2021, President Joe Biden gave the keynote address at the National Governors Association's (NGA) 2021 Winter Meeting. Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York introduced the President, commending President Biden for his close collaboration with states in managing the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighting some of his early achievements. Governor Cuomo also thanked the President for prioritizing financial relief for states, and urged him to support continued investment in modernizing states' infrastructure. President Biden gave his remarks following the Governor's introduction.

President Biden's Keynote

President Biden began his keynote by discussing the ongoing disaster declarations in Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. He mentioned he would be visiting Texas the following day to help address the electricity outage crisis and work with governors in those states to address the needs of Americans still suffering from the power disruptions caused by the recent winter storms.

President Biden's keynote focused primarily on the ongoing efforts of his administration to work with states to address the COVID-19 crisis. The President mourned the tremendous death toll of the COVID-19 pandemic and urged states and governors to "end the divisive politics" so that they can work together to end the pandemic.

President Biden also highlighted his accomplishments and goals for addressing the COVID-19 crisis. He explained how his administration used the Defense Production Act to speed the production of vaccine manufacturing equipment, and how his administration secured additional vaccine doses to help meet vaccination targets. He also mentioned his executive order that enables retired nurses and doctors to give shots as a way to boost the number of providers administering vaccines.

President Biden argued that these efforts effectively sped up the vaccination process, resulting in more than 50 million shots given in the first 37 days of his presidency, corresponding with a significant decrease in the number of COVID-19 deaths among seniors. Going forward, President Biden said his administration would aim to vaccinate 300 million Americans by the end of July. President Biden also said that he hoped his administration would soon oversee the rapid distribution of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine as soon as it is approved.

Finally, President Biden also discussed his goals for economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic is over. He described some of the hardships faced by unemployed Americans and struggling small business owners, and urged governors to express their support for the American Rescue Plan, which he argued would create millions of jobs. He concluded his speech by thanking those who are supporting his plan, and urged governors to give their ongoing support.

More information about the NGA 2021 Winter Meeting can be found here on the [NGA website](#).

