Policy Brief:
CBO Scoring of Immigration Provisions in the Build Back Better Act

November 19, 2021

On November 18, 2021, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its analysis of the immigration provisions of the Build Back Better Act, which passed the House on November 19, 2021. Below is a brief summary and analysis of the CBO findings:

- CBO estimates 6.5 million foreign nationals would receive parole.
  - This is lower than previous estimates stating 7.1 million.
- Once granted parole, CBO estimates about 3 million foreign nationals would subsequently gain Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) status as immediate relatives of U.S. citizens; 2 million of these would not receive LPR status under current law, while 1 million would receive it earlier than they would have otherwise.
  - While this is stated in the CBO report, there are some concerns about whether the subsequent creation of LPRs will be an issue for the parliamentarian, who seems reluctant to approve provisions that create LPRs.
- The immigration provisions alone will increase revenues by approximately $32 billion and the deficit by $111 billion from 2022-2031. This deficit is not necessarily a bad thing, as it demonstrates that the provision is directly related to the budget for Byrd rule purposes and it is only a small part of the BBBA itself.
  - The BBBA as a whole, while expected to increase the deficit, is scored within a margin of the uncertainty inherent to CBO's analysis. Analysis of the CBO's scoring of the BBBA highlights that many people think that how the CBO handled the Treasury Department revenues in particular are a dramatic underestimate to the tune of $200 billion, with the former Treasury secretary describing it as "is conservative to the point of implausibility."