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The Honorable Tom Suozzi
Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, New York
Democratic National Convention
Wednesday, August 21, 2024
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

My father came from Italy as a boy, was the first kid in the neighborhood to go to college, served as a navigator during World War II, came home, and at 28, was elected as the youngest judge in the history of New York State. What a country! The immigrant experience—*E pluribus unum*—out of many one. My family’s experience. Kamala Harris’s experience. The *American* experience. That’s why the polarization on immigration is so painful.

Let’s be clear. Our border is broken. But this year when Democrats and Republicans worked together to finally write new border laws, we were blocked. We all know who sabotaged us. We reject the divisiveness.

My Italian grandfather used to toast new couples. He’d say marriage is hard sometimes, but in the end, “*non-ce sono rose senza spine.*” You can’t have the roses without the thorns. You have to work for it. To be a nation of immigrants is hard sometimes. You have to work for it.

Tonight we celebrate the roses of life. We come together from every state, from every ethnicity, from every race and religion. We come together to celebrate our candidate—Kamala Harris—who knows America is worth it; who knows this nation, built by immigrants, is a rare and beautiful thing; who joyfully accepts the challenge to work across party lines to secure our border, to treat people like human beings, and to move our country forward.

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