

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 10, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Schumer:

As members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we write to reiterate our strong support for including a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, essential immigrant workers, farm workers, and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders in the final version of the Build Back Better reconciliation bill.

Undocumented immigrants have been crucial in combatting the Covid-19 pandemic in the United States. Whether on the front lines of fighting the disease as medical professionals or on the front lines of maintaining our food supply as farm workers, these professionals have contributed to the stability of the United States and will continue to be critical to any successful economic recovery. In fact, an estimated 5.2 million undocumented immigrants are considered essential workers¹, of which nearly one million are Dreamers under the 2019 American Dream and Promise Act.²

Providing a pathway to citizenship will have a significant economic impact. Economic scholars estimate that providing a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, TPS holders, farm workers, and other essential workers will boost U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by \$1.5 trillion over 10 years³. Other estimates suggest that during the same 10-year period additional benefits include wage increases for all workers, the creation of over 400,000 new jobs⁴, and billions of dollars in additional tax revenue.⁵

The pandemic has exacerbated deep racial, gender, and economic inequities, so it is imperative that we take this opportunity to ease those divides and begin working towards an equitable recovery. Including broad language that provides a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, essential immigrant workers, farm workers, and TPS holders will begin to do just that. We urge you to ensure that this language is included in the final text of the reconciliation bill.

¹*Protecting Undocumented Workers on the Pandemic's Front Lines*, CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS (December 2, 2020) <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/reports/2020/12/02/493307/protecting-undocumented-workers-pandemics-front-lines/>

² *FWD.us Estimates Show Immigrant Essential Workers are Crucial to America's COVID-19 Recovery*, FWD.US (December 16, 2020) <https://www.fwd.us/news/immigrant-essential-workers/>


³ *Citizenship for Undocumented Immigrants Would Boost U.S. Economic Growth*, CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS (June 14, 2021) <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/reports/2021/06/14/500433/citizenship-undocumented-immigrants-boost-u-s-economic-growth/>

⁴ *See id.*

⁵ *Pathways to Citizenship for Undocumented Immigrants*, FWD.US (June 14, 2021) <https://www.fwd.us/news/pathway-to-citizenship/>

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Sincerely,



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



Cori Bush
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515



Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress




Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



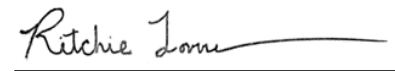
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

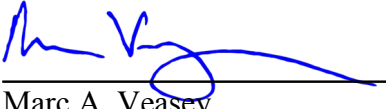


David Scott
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

/s/

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress