October 21, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United State Senate
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Majority Leader:

We write to you today to express our concern regarding the Senate Parliamentarian’s memorandum, which dismisses the budgetary impact of providing a pathway to citizenship for eight million people. As you know, the role of the Parliamentarian is an advisory one, and the opinion of the Parliamentarian is not binding.

It is our understanding that according to 2 U.S.C. § 644, the Senate’s Presiding Officer has the ability to issue a binding ruling on a parliamentary point of order. In the reconciliation context, any appeal of the Presiding Officer’s binding ruling would require a supermajority to be sustained. After the ruling, the Senate would be able to consider a reconciliation bill that includes the immigration language that the Parliamentarian advised was in violation of the Byrd Rule. This authority has been invoked previously; therefore, there is precedent of the Presiding Officer disregarding the opinion of the Senate Parliamentarian.

In denying any possible pathway to citizenship or lawful permanent residents (LPRs) status, the Parliamentarian, an un-elected official, is denying the economic impact of such legislation and the tributes that millions of undocumented individuals have paid to this country.

This is a critical moment for our nation’s history, and we strongly urge the Presiding Officer to use their authority to disregard the Senate Parliamentarian’s ruling.

Sincerely,

J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Jesús G. “Chuy” García
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Steven Horsford  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Tony Cardenas  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Norma J. Torres  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Gerald E. Connolly  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Dwight Evans  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Marie Newman  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ro Khanna  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Grace F. Napolitano  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Lloyd Doggett  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Dina Titus  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Rashida Tlaib  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Alan Lowenthal  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Frederica S. Wilson  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Raúl M. Grijalva  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jan Schakowsky  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
Earl Blumenauer  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Barbara Lee  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ted W. Lieu  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jimmy Gomez  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Pramila Jayapal  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

CC: The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
President Pro Tempore