June 3, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  The Honorable Kamala Harris
President of the United States  Vice President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500  Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Majority Leader  Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States Senate  United States House of Representatives
322 Hart Senate Office Building  U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515  Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear President Biden, Vice President Harris, Majority Leader Schumer, and Speaker Pelosi,

We, the undersigned 102 children and youth groups, respectfully request that you prioritize the inclusion of a pathway to citizenship for immigrant youth, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, essential workers, and their families, in the next economic recovery legislation that moves forward via budget reconciliation. As we continue to confront a public health and economic crisis that has claimed more than 500,000 lives and exacerbated deep racial and economic inequities, it is vital that we include long-term protections for immigrant families to secure the health of our nation and to lay the foundation for an equitable recovery.

Over five million children in the United States, the vast majority of whom are U.S. citizens, have a parent who is undocumented or living with precarious status such as DACA or TPS. Undocumented parents have continued to serve in essential roles throughout the pandemic, at great risk to themselves and their families, without access to federal COVID relief and often without access to health care. There is no viable way our country can move forward, prosper, and heal from this pandemic if immigrant families continue to be left behind. Providing parents a pathway to citizenship would enable them to better provide for their children and establish stability for families, free from the fear of separation. The constant toxic stress that children in immigrant families live with every day—unsure if their parents may be detained or deported—has serious consequences for their long-term development. Research also shows that connecting parents to legal status has a positive impact on their children’s wellbeing, including more stable employment opportunities and improved access to health care, nutrition assistance, and income supports that strengthen working families.

An estimated one million children are currently undocumented themselves and millions of young people who entered the country as children--also known as Dreamers--have grown up in the U.S. and face an uncertain future in the country they call home. Providing Dreamers a pathway to citizenship is long overdue and would make it easier for undocumented students to pursue a higher education and achieve their full potential, to the benefit of us all. Of those Dreamers who are beneficiaries of the DACA program, more than 200,000 currently serve our country as essential workers and over a quarter million are parents to U.S. citizen children. A path to citizenship would remove the anxiety DACA beneficiaries and other Dreamers live with every day and allow them to continue to contribute to their communities.

As you continue to work on assembling an economic recovery, jobs and infrastructure package, we strongly urge you to seize the opportunity to include a pathway to citizenship for immigrant youth, DACA recipients, TPS holders, and essential workers, as well as their families, in order to
ensure a robust recovery that is inclusive and equitable for everyone regardless of their immigration status. Immigrants and their children are vital to the future of our country - it is time we honor them.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors
Adorers of the Blood of Christ, US Region
Adrian Dominican Sisters
Alianza Nacional de Campesinas
All Our Kin
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
BUILD Initiative
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for the Study of Social Policy
Children's Defense Fund
Church World Service
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Dominican Sisters of Sparkill
Educare Learning Network
Faith in Public Life Action Fund
Feminist Majority Foundation
First Focus on Children
Franciscan Action Network
Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
Freedom Network USA
Immigration Hub
InterReligious Task Force on Central America and Colombia
Justice for Migrant Women
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
Migrant Clinicians Network
MomsRising
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National Crittenton
National Education Association
National Juvenile Justice Network
National League for Nursing
National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association
National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)
National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights
National Young Farmers Coalition
Oxfam America
Prevention Institute
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur EW
Southern Poverty Law Center
UnidosUS
Union for Reform Judaism
United Migrant Opportunity Services
Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights

**State Organizations**

AAP Colorado
Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE)
Americans for Immigrant Justice
Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Brooklyn Community Bail Fund (BCBF)
Carmelites, Vedruna
Clayton Early Learning
Colorado Children’s Campaign
Conexión Américas
Every Texan
Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Florida Policy Institute
HANA Center
Illinois Action for Children
Latino Policy Forum
Mexican American Unity Council, Inc.
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
NYS American Academy of Pediatrics Chapters 1,2 & 3
Our Children Oregon
PASOs
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA
Sisters of St. Francis
Sisters of the Humility of Mary
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center
The Children's Partnership
Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Voices for Utah Children
Voices for Vermont's Children
Washington State Parent Ambassadors

Local Organizations

Canal Alliance
Casa San Jose
Crossing Borders Dubuque
Dominican Sisters of Houston
Educare Springfield
Hispanic Unity of Florida, Inc.
Human Rights Initiative of North Texas
Interfaith Welcome Coalition - San Antonio
IRC Immigrant Resource Center
La Paz Chattanooga
Lawrence CommunityWorks
Leadership Team, OSF Dubuque, IA
Motivation Motivates
Neighborhood House
Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness
Sisters of St. Joseph of NW PA
Start Early
West Central Initiative
Workers Center of Central New York