

June 3, 2021

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

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

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
United States House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol  
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