

THE LEGISLATURE STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY

October 05, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer U.S Senate Majority Leader United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer,

We, the undersigned, write to you as New York State legislators to strongly urge you to ensure that the U.S Congress includes a path to citizenship for millions of undocumented residents in our nation in the federal budget reconciliation package. For years, our nation has demanded undocumented residents toil without legal status, as they pay taxes, contribute to our communities and economy, and endure the most burdensome socioeconomic and health outcomes. We cannot wait any longer.

We were encouraged by your leadership in pushing for the passage of a budget resolution in August that included immigration reform, but the job is not done. A broad path to citizenship for DACA and TPS recipients, essential workers, and farm workers must be in the final bill. Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, we have benefited from the dedicated public service of undocumented residents who have worked as essential workers in various sectors. Currently, it is estimated that nearly 3 in 4 undocumented individuals in the workforce—an estimated 5 million—are essential workers¹. These neighbors delivered our food, stocked our supermarkets, and cleaned our transit systems. Additionally, per a New American Economy analysis, households headed by undocumented immigrants in the United States paid an estimated \$18.9 billion in federal taxes and \$11.7 billion in combined state and local taxes in 2019.² It was not without struggle. As a high number of undocumented residents continue to work as essential workers they remain susceptible to contracting and dying from the coronavirus even as they lack adequate healthcare coverage.

These residents are our neighbors. In 2017 it was found that unauthorized immigrant adults had lived in the U.S. for a median of 15.1 years.³ Many of our undocumented neighbors consider this

¹ Nicole Prchal Svajlenka, "Protecting Undocumented Workers on the Pandemic's Front Lines: Immigrants Are Essential to America's Recovery" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2020), available at

https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/reports/2020/12/02/493307/protecting-undocumented-workers-pandemics-front-lines/. 2 New American Economy analysis of 2019 ACS microdata using IPUMS. New American Economy, "Map the Impact," at section "Taxes and Spending Power," accessed September 17, 2021, https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/locations/.

³ José Iván Rodríguez Sánchez, Ph.D (July 2021) Left on the Table: The Unrealized Economic Potential of the Undocumented Population"

nation to be their home and they deserve to continue to do so. That is why inaction is not an option. Immigration reform is also already popular across the nation. A new poll found that 70% of likely voters overall support creating an earned path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children, people who are contributing and working here legally due to war or natural disaster in their home countries, and farmworkers and other essential workers.⁴ The public is on our side. Now we just need the political will to ensure that this occurs.

Despite the opinion by the Senate Parliamentarian, an unelected official, recommending that a path to citizenship be removed from the reconciliation package, we know there is a strong precedent for its inclusion. You can and must bypass her recommendation. Congress must move forward with passing this critical measure in the reconciliation package, and we need your leadership to help get us there.

Creating a pathway to citizenship for millions of undocumented residents of this nation will be a historic achievement. But we need your unrelenting leadership. We are counting on you. Almost one million undocumented immigrants in New York State are depending on you so they can finally and truly say that they are here to stay.

Respectfully,

Jessica González-Rojas

Member of Assembly, 34th AD

Harvey Epstein

Member of Assembly, 74th AD

Anhline Mion

Yuh-Line Niou

Member of Assembly, 65th AD

Jessica Ramos State Senator, 13th SD

Andrew Gounardes State Senator, 22nd SD

Car De Ja Rom

Carmen De La Rosa

Member of Assembly, 72nd AD

https://americasvoice.org/press_releases/new-poll-by-70-24-americans-support-a-path-to-citizenship-for-dreamers-tps-holders-farm-workers-and-essential-workers/

⁴ New Poll: By 70 - 24%, Americans Support a Path to Citizenship for Dreamers, TPS Holders, Farm Workers and Essential Workers AV Press Releases on July 28 & Releases

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Kenny Burgos Member of Assembly, 85th AD

Harry B. Browson

Harry Bronson Member of Assembly, 138th AD



Robert Jackson State Senator, 31st SD



Dan Quart Member of Assembly, 73rd AD



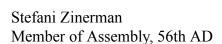
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Andrew Hevesi Member of Assembly, 28th AD

Marcelo Whitayner

Marcela Mitaynes Member of Assembly, 51st AD

Patricia Fahy Member of Assembly, 109th AD



Khaleel Anderson Member of Assembly, 31st AD

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Karines Reyes

Member of Assembly, 87th AD

Deborah Glick Member of Assembly, 66th AD

Deheroh J. Jul



Richard Gottfried Member of Assembly, 75th AD

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Steve Englebright Member of Assembly, 4th AD

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Member of Assembly, 129th AD

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Taylor Darling Member of Assembly, 18th AD

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Demond Meeks Member of Assembly, 137th AD

Sarah Clark

Member of Assembly, 136th AD

Luis Sepulveda

State Senator, 32nd SD

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Jon Senans

Jose Serrano Jr State Senator, 29th SD



Amy Paulin Member of Assembly, 88th AD



Maritza Davila Member of Assembly, 53rd AD



Mathylde Frontus Member of Assembly, 46th AD

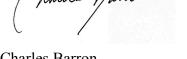
Timothy Kennedy State Senator, 63rd SD

Rebecca Seawright Member of Assembly, 76th AD

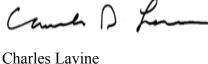


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