



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



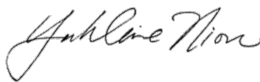
Jessica Ramos
State Senator, 13th SD



Harvey Epstein
Member of Assembly, 74th AD



Andrew Gounardes
State Senator, 22nd SD



Yuh-Line Niou
Member of Assembly, 65th AD



Carmen De La Rosa
Member of Assembly, 72nd AD

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
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/



Kenny Burgos
Member of Assembly, 85th AD



Marcela Mitaynes
Member of Assembly, 51st AD



Harry Bronson
Member of Assembly, 138th AD



Patricia Fahy
Member of Assembly, 109th AD



Robert Jackson
State Senator, 31st SD



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Dan Quart
Member of Assembly, 73rd AD



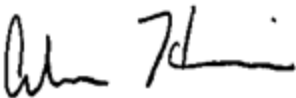
Khaleel Anderson
Member of Assembly, 31st AD



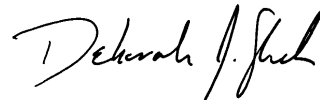
Brad Hoylman
State Senator, 27th SD



Karines Reyes
Member of Assembly, 87th AD



Andrew Hevesi
Member of Assembly, 28th AD



Deborah Glick
Member of Assembly, 66th AD



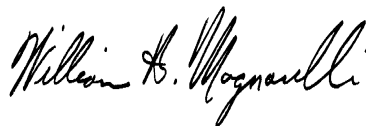
Richard Gottfried
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Michael Gianaris
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Steve Englebright
Member of Assembly, 4th AD



William B. Magnarelli
Member of Assembly, 129th AD



Jabari Brisport
State Senator, 25th SD



Latoya Joyner
Member of Assembly, 77th AD



Emily Gallagher
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Robert C. Carroll
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Ron Kim
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Linda B. Rosenthal
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Amanda Septimo
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Patrick B. Burke
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John Liu
State Senator, 11th SD



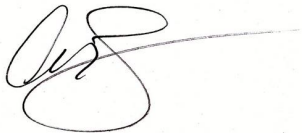
Gustavo Rivera
State Senator, 33rd SD



Chantel Jackson
Member of Assembly, 79th AD



Latrice Walker
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Al Taylor
Member of Assembly, 71st AD



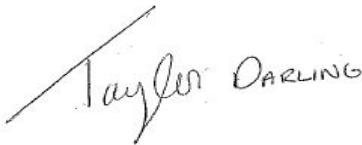
Anna Kelles
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Samra Brouk
State Senator, 55th SD



Demond Meeks
Member of Assembly, 137th AD



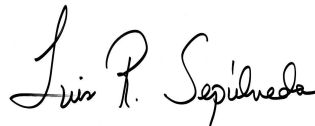
Taylor Darling
Member of Assembly, 18th AD



Sarah Clark
Member of Assembly, 136th AD



Julia Salazar
State Senator, 18th SD



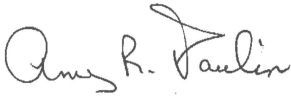
Luis Sepulveda
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Jose Serrano Jr
State Senator, 29th SD



Jo Anne Simon
Member of Assembly, 52nd AD



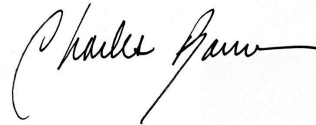
Amy Paulin
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Leroy Comrie
State Senator, 14th SD



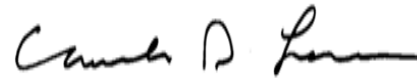
Maritza Davila
Member of Assembly, 53rd AD



Charles Barron
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Mathylde Frontus
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Charles Lavine
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Steve Otis
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State Senator, 6th SD



Carlos Menchaca
NYC Council Member



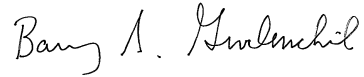
Carlina Rivera
NYC Council Member



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NYC Council Member



Barry S. Grodenchik
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Eric Dinowitz
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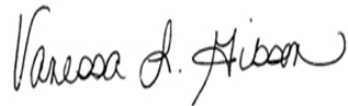
Selvena N. Brooks Powers
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Darma V. Diaz
NYC Council Member



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Vanessa Gibson
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