



NEW YORK STATE BLACK, PUERTO RICAN, HISPANIC, AND ASIAN LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING • ROOM 442-A, ALBANY, NY 12248
(518) 455-5347 • BPHACAUCUS@NYASSEMBLY.GOV

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August 2, 2021

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

We the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, Asian Legislative Caucus, and the Task Force on New Americans, representing sixty-eight NYS legislators, write today to urge you to use your collective power and majorities to ensure that in the upcoming budget reconciliation process Congress prioritize a pathway for immigrant families, including DREAMers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, farm workers and essential workers, to earn citizenship. New York is home to one of the largest and most diverse immigrant populations. We see firsthand the devastating effects federal inaction has had on our immigrant communities. As State Legislators, we understand the complexity of the legislative process; however, the federal government must make a good-faith effort to finally take decisive action and provide a pathway to citizenship for our communities.

During the darkest days of the pandemic and beyond, immigrants have gone out at significant personal risk to themselves and their families, to perform jobs that were essential to the functioning of our country. They faced the brunt of the pandemic and its economic fallout with very little protection due to the prior Administration's cruel and reckless immigration policies. Non-Citizens and their mixed-status families have had to rely on local and state governments and community-based organizations for assistance, which has caused many of their needs to often go unmet.

Immigrants have long contributed to this nation. Extending permanent status to DREAMers (including DACA recipients) and TPS holders, as well as their families, is of paramount importance, not only to the nearly million people who rely upon those protections every day to live and work lawfully in this country, but also to their U.S.-citizen children. Furthermore, immigrants have always been essential to this nation, not just during the pandemic. For over 30 years, Congress has failed to take action on adjusting the status of millions of immigrants. Taking the necessary steps to provide a real path to citizenship will protect millions of families, children, and essential workers who live, work, study, and worship in our communities. The time is now to give these families the protection they need to live with dignity and respect. We cannot continue to make promises and instead allow a broken system to perpetuate injustice.

Sincerely,

Hon. Michaelle Solages
Chair, Black, Puerto Rican,
Hispanic, and Asian Legislati
Caucus

Hon. Catalina Cuz
Chair, Taskforce on New
Americans

Hon. Leroy Comrie
Deputy Majority Leader for
State/Federal Relations