



CHIRLA
Coalition for Humane
Immigrant Rights

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www.chirla.org

January 7th, 2022

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 write to you as organizations across the country, committed to serving immigrant communities and impacted memberships and implore you to exert your constitutional leadership in this critical moment. **We respectfully urge you, Administration and Leadership, to ensure that permanent residency- a path to citizenship- is reinserted into the Build Back Better Act (BBB) through a registry update.** Our organizations serve undocumented and non-citizen families on a daily basis. We are on the front lines with those who face barriers to programs, systems and opportunities in this country simply because of their immigration status this includes mixed status families, newly arrived immigrants and DACAmented individuals. This has been even more sharply felt through the pandemic.

We are cognizant of the ongoing discussions between the White House and the Senate aimed at securing 50 Senate votes for any final package. **Our position remains clear and steadfast: the inclusion of permanent protections for immigrants across the nation is a moral, economic and political imperative. This has never been more important as we face the challenges of true recovery from the ravages of the COVID 19 pandemic.** Through the COVID-19 pandemic, 74% of undocumented workers (compared to 65% of native born workers) have been employed in

HEADQUARTERS

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STATE OFFICE

1225 8th Street, Suite 240
Sacramento, CA 95814

NATIONAL OFFICE

727 15th Street NW, Suite 1202
Washington, DC 20005

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ORANGE COUNTY • CENTRAL VALLEY

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Immigrant Rights



essential critical infrastructure categories from farming and food, to construction and healthcare.¹ During a time of crisis, undocumented workers have put their lives on the line to support their families and our nation unequivocally facing higher risk of COVID infection and death, all the while facing limited access to healthcare and recovery safety nets and living in fear of deportation.²

We demand that the registry update is reinserted into the bill for one simple reason: permanent protections are what the undocumented community wants and deserves. In a recent poll of 1,314 immigrants who are members of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), an overwhelming 87 percent stated they prefer a path to citizenship to temporary parole in place.³ An update of the Immigration and Nationality Act's Registry date - moving it from 1972 to 2010, would benefit millions of undocumented immigrants who have been in the United States for ten years or longer, including 1.6 million DREAMers, 360,000 TPS recipients, 3.6 million essential workers, and 1 million farm workers. **Simply put, this would allow anyone present before January 1, 2010 to apply for a green card under what is effectively the "statute of limitations" in immigration law.**⁴

We are aware of the Senate Parliamentarian's multiple negative advisory opinions on proposed immigration provisions. However, the Parliamentarian's advice is just that-- advice. As 92 law professors recently explained in a public letter, "for the Senate to reach its own conclusion [...] should not be seen as an 'overruling' of anyone. Rather, it would recognize that elected members of Congress are ultimately responsible for deciding whether to enact legislation."⁵ That is to say, the

¹ Center for Migration Studies. <https://cmsny.org/publications/us-essential-workers/>

² Kaiser Family Foundation.

<https://www.kff.org/report-section/kff-the-undefeated-survey-on-race-and-health-main-findings/#HealthCareSystem>

³ CHIRLA.

<https://www.chirla.org/news-category/most-impacted-by-immigration-legislation-say-path-to-citizenship-is-what-they-need-and-deserve/>

⁴ Please see CHIRLA's explainer,

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12w6nKOUGMnfTMbjRq8R2fyZvzNEvd8y/view?usp=sharing>. As well as the one from the House Judiciary Committee. https://judiciary.house.gov/uploadedfiles/immigration_bbb.pdf.

⁵

<https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/586381-democrats-mull-hardball-tactics-to-leapfrog-parliamentarian-on-immigration>; <https://www.disregardneparl.org/>.





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Immigrant Rights



Parliamentarian is an unelected official, whereas the American people have elected you to one of the most important offices in the country, trusting you to recognize the undeniably massive and non-incidental budgetary impact that legalization would create in the billions of dollars.

Many of our organizations representing impacted memberships—mobilized and engaged Black, Brown and AAPI voters in 2020, all with the help of *documented AND undocumented* community members who worked to turn out voters in key battleground states. Your campaign ran on the promise of delivering a pathway to citizenship within the first 100 days. With Democratic control of the White House, Senate, and House of Representatives, we now have the unique opportunity to deliver on a policy that over 70% of Americans strongly support.⁶

You, through your constitutional role as the President, and Presiding Officer, and Leaders of Congress and the Senate, have the power and responsibility to clear the path for registry to be successfully reinserted in Build Back Better. While we appreciate the action you have taken thus far, we reiterate that a large majority of our members deeply believe anything less than a pathway to citizenship is unacceptable. This is an opportunity that Democrats cannot allow an unelected Parliamentarian to derail.

Sincerely,

1. Adelanto Visitation & Advocacy Network, CA
2. Adhikaar, NY
3. Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, National
4. Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE), CA
5. African Communities Together, National
6. American Friends Service Committee, National

⁶ America's Voice.

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



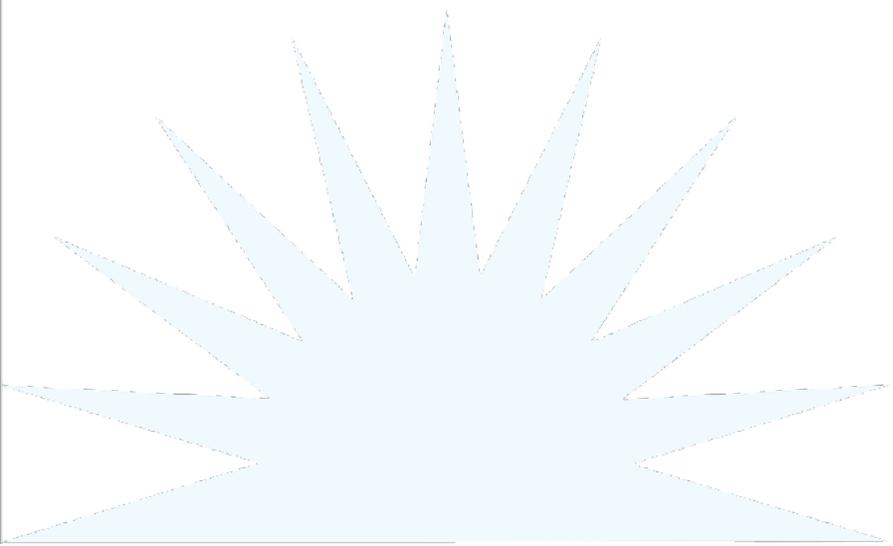


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7. Asamblea de Derechos Civiles, MN
8. Asian Americans Advancing Justice- Los Angeles, CA
9. Austin Region Justice for Our Neighbors, TX
10. Bay Area Coalition for Citizenship and Economic Rights, CA
11. Battle Born Progress, NV
12. Bend the Arc, Temple Isaiah, CA
13. California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF), CA
14. Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church, CO
15. CASA, National
16. Casa de Esperanza, NJ
17. Center for Faith, Justice, and Reconciliation, VA
18. Center for Popular Democracy, National
19. Central American Resource Center (CARECEN-LA), CA
20. Central American Refugee Center- New York (CARECEN - NY), NY
21. Centro Comunitario CEUS, NJ
22. Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice- Los Angeles (CLUE-LA), CA
23. Christ Our Light Church, NJ
24. Church Women United in New York State, NY
25. Church World Service, National

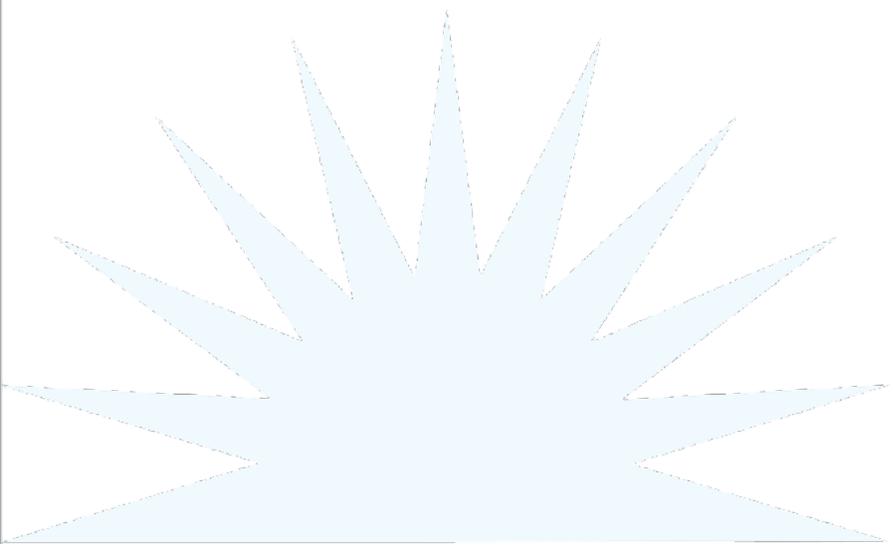




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26. The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), CA
27. Committee of Interns and Residents - SEIU, National
28. Communities United for Status and Protection (CUSP), National
29. Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc. (CAB), CA
30. Community Asylum Seekers Project, VT
31. Community Without Borders, MI
32. Council on American Islamic Relations of California (CAIR-CA), CA
33. Council of Mexican Federations (COFEM), CA
34. Dominican Sisters Ministry of Presence, KS
35. Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, National
36. East Lansing Network, MI
37. Essex County Community Organization, MA
38. Faith in New York, NY
39. Faith in Action Bay Area, CA
40. Faith in Action Nevada, NV
41. Faith in New Jersey, NJ
42. Faith In New York, NY
43. Faith in Public Life, MN
44. Faith in the Valley, CA



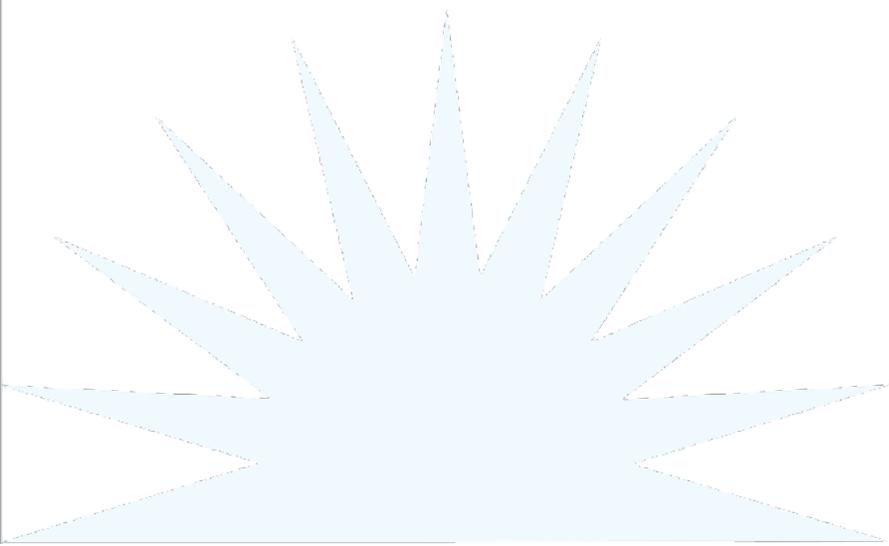


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45. Family Farm Defenders, WI
46. Farmworker Association of Florida, FL
47. Freedom Network USA, National
48. Fuerzas Unidas, CA
49. Gamaliel, National
50. Gamaliel Metro Chicago, IL
51. Granite State Organizing Project, NH
52. Grupo Amor, FL
53. Guadalupe Presbyterian Church USA, AZ
54. Haitian Bridge Alliance, CA
55. HANA Center, IL
56. HIAS Pennsylvania, PA
57. Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters (USA-JPIC), IL
58. Hope Border Institute, TX
59. Human Agenda, CA
60. Human Rights Initiative of North Texas, TX
61. Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, IL
62. Immigration Services and Legal Advocacy (ISLA), LA
63. Immigrant Hope Gainesville, FL

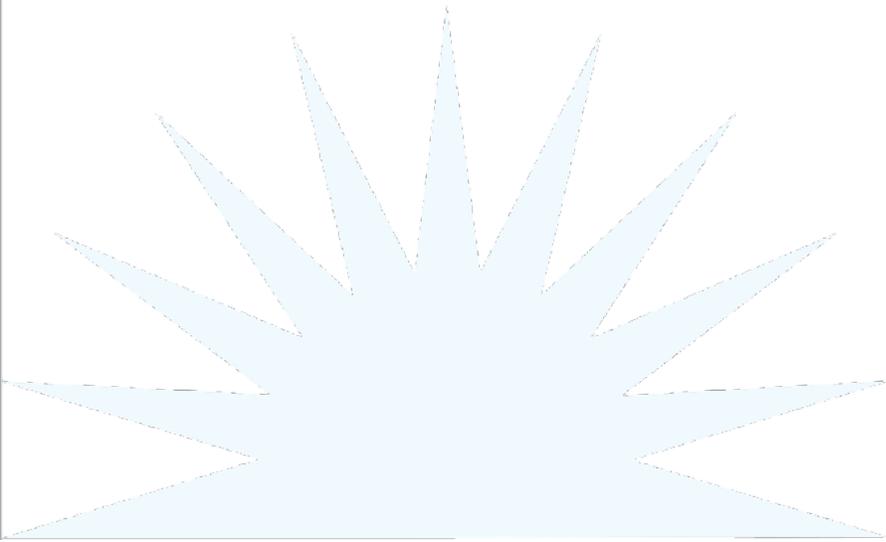




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Immigrant Rights



64. Immigrant Justice Corps, National
65. Immigrants Are Los Angeles Coalition Campaign, CA
66. Immigration Ministry at Mission Basilica San Juan Capistrano, CA
67. Inclusive Action for the City (Los Angeles), CA
68. Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice, CA
69. Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants, IL
70. Interfaith Justice Collaborative of South Orange County, CA
71. Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, CA
72. International Rescue Committee, National
73. Jewish Coalition Assisting Refugees and Immigrants - Los Angeles (JCARI-LA), CA
74. Just Neighbors Ministry, National
75. Justice For Our Neighbors - North Central Texas, TX
76. LA Voice, CA
77. Leadership Conference of Women Religious, National
78. Long Island Immigration Clinic, Sisters of St. Joseph, Brentwood, NY
79. Madison Mennonite Church, WI
80. Massachusetts Communities Action Network (MCAN), MA
81. Make the Road Nevada, NV
82. Make the Road New York , NY

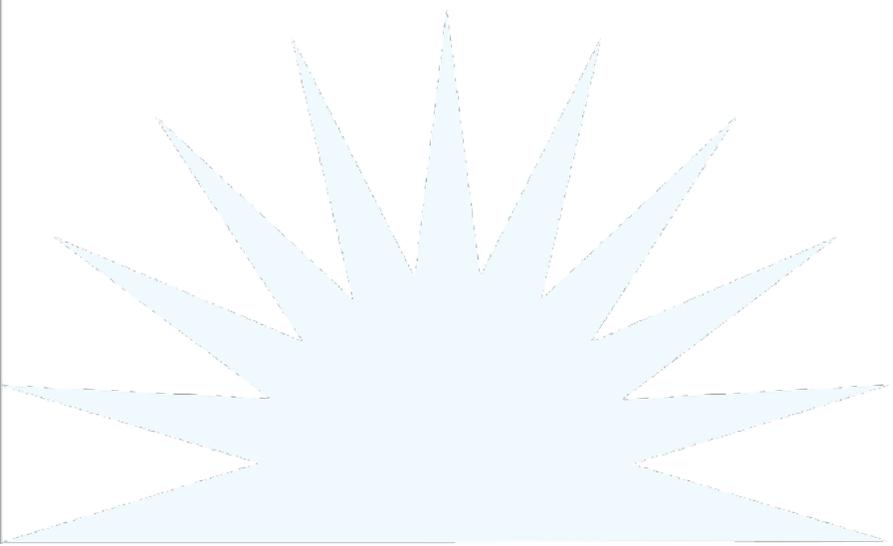




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Immigrant Rights



83. Metropolitan Congregations United, MO
84. MinKwon Center, NY
85. Missouri Faith Voices, MO
86. National Justice for Our Neighbors, National
87. National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, National
88. National Partnership for New Americans, National
89. New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice, NJ
90. New Mexico Communities in Faith and Action, NM
91. New York Annual Conference Board of Church and Society, NY
92. New York Immigration Coalition, NY
93. New York Justice for Our Neighbors, Inc., NY
94. One LA-IAF, CA
95. Orange County Congregation Community Organization, CA
96. OneAmerica, WA
97. Peace and Social Justice Committee Woodridge of Christ the Servant Catholic Church, IL
98. PICO California, CA
99. People Acting in Community Together (PACT), CA,
100. Philadelphia Network Immigration Committee, PA
101. Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California, CA

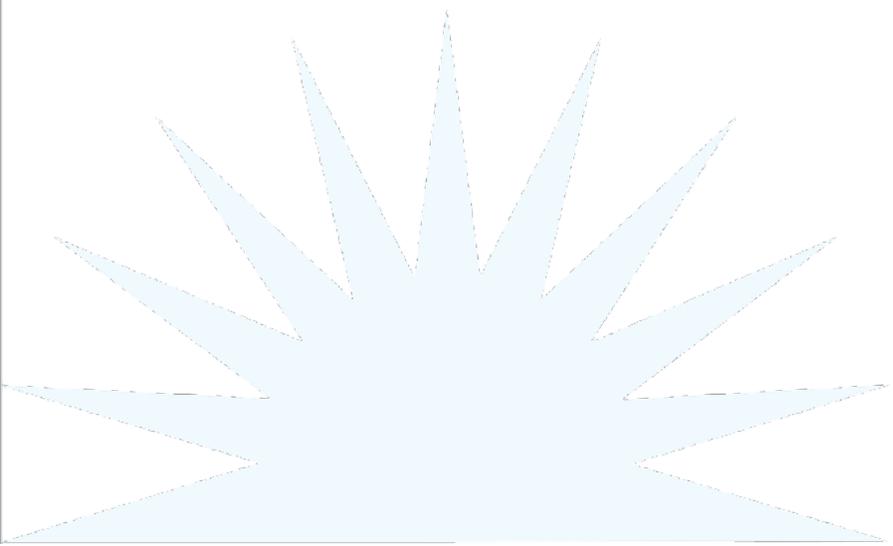




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102. Plymouth Congregational Church, MN
103. Poder Latinx, National
104. Presbytery of San Francisco, CA
105. Progressive Leadership Alliance Of Nevada, NV
106. Promesa Boyle Heights, CA
107. Rocketship Public Schools, CA
108. SALVA, CA
109. Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc, National
110. San Bernardino Community Service Center, CA
111. Santa Clara County Wage Theft Coalition, CA
112. Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 2015- Los Angeles, CA
113. Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants, IL
114. Sister of the Good shepherd, NY
115. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team, National
116. Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, NY
117. Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg, IN
118. Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, CA
119. Sravasti Abbey, WA
120. St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church, National





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121. Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition, TN
122. Tikkun Olam Chavurah, PA
123. TODEC Legal Center, CA
124. TransLatin@ Coalition in Los Angeles, CA
125. UCLA Labor Center, CA
126. Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice, DC
127. United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 4123, CA
128. Villa Maria House of Prayer, CA
129. Voces de la Frontera, WI
130. Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center, NJ
131. Women for American Values and Ethics (WAVE), CA
132. Workers Defense, TX

CC:

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
Chair, Congressional Hispanic Caucus
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Aguilar
Vice Chair, Democratic Caucus
109 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515





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The Honorable Pramila Jayapal
Chair, Progressive Caucus
2346 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
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