U.S. Citizenship Act

President Biden announced the U.S. Citizenship Act on Day One of his administration, announcing it at his inauguration on January 20. On February 18, U.S. Sen. Menendez (D-NJ) and Rep. Sanchez (D-CA) introduced it in Congress, designated H.R. 1177 and S. 348.

The bill would create an earned roadmap to citizenship for all 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States on Jan 1, 2021, allowing them to apply for green cards after five years if they pass background checks and pay taxes, then become citizens in three more years, without fear of deportation.

People with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protective Status (TPS), as well as immigrant farmworkers who meet certain requirements, could apply for green cards immediately.

Immigrants swept up by the Trump deportation machine during the past four years may also return to apply for legalization. After three years, green card holders who pass additional background checks and demonstrate knowledge of English and U.S. government and civics could apply to become citizens.

The bill also aims to modernize our immigration system, prioritizes keeping families together, responsibly manages the border with smart investments, addresses the root causes of migration from Central America, and ensures that the U.S. remains a refuge for those fleeing persecution.

March Immigration Town Halls supporting U.S. Citizenship Act

In March, CHIRLA and its YES to Immigrants campaign partners—Mi Familia Vota, Korean Resource Center, Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective, and Alliance to Defend Im/migrants—hosted several immigration town halls with congressional leaders to uplift the importance of passing the U.S. Citizenship Act.


Click below for the Facebook events:

March 1: Town Hall w/Rep. Mark Takano - Anchored by Mi Familia Vota and IE IYC
March 5: Town Hall w/Rep. Salud Carbajal - Anchored by Alliance to Defend Im/migrants
March 5: Town Hall w/Rep. Jimmy Panetta - Anchored by Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County
March 5: Town Hall w/Rep. Lou Correa - Anchored by Korean Resource Center and Sisters St. Joseph of Orange
March 25: Town Hall w/Rep. Josh Harder - Anchored by Mi Familia Vota