

Statement of the New York Immigration Coalition

Submitted to the House Judiciary Committee Hearing on “Protecting Dreamers and TPS Recipients”

March 6, 2019

Contact:

Anu Joshi

Senior Director of Immigrant Rights Policy

ajoshi@nyic.org; 212.627.227 x242

The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization for more than 200 groups in New York State. We envision a New York state that is stronger because all people are welcome, treated fairly, and given the chance to pursue their dreams. We represent the collective interests of New York's diverse immigrant communities and organizations and devise solutions to advance them; advocate for laws, policies, and programs that lead to justice and opportunity for all immigrant groups; and build the power of immigrants and the organizations that serve them to ensure their sustainability, to improve people's lives, and to strengthen our state.

Over the past two years, the Trump administration has terminated the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which has provided protection from deportation and work authorization to more than 820,000 participants, and triggered the expiration of Temporary Protect Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for more than 300,000 people--99 percent of current recipients. New York is home to at least 53,000 TPS and DED recipients and 40,000 DACA recipients, representing dozens of home countries and in every Congressional district.¹

TPS, DED and DACA programs have allowed people to work legally in the United States, contribute to the American economy and society, and be protected from deportation. They must regularly check in with the government, go through extensive background checks and pay a fee. TPS, DED and DACA holders work hard to support themselves and their families and don't qualify for public benefits. These individuals have become our neighbors, our friends, our employees, our co-workers, and our fellow parishioners.

These individuals have had families, bought homes, entered the workforce or school and become ingrained members of New York's rich and diverse community. According to the Center for American Progress, and only taking into account TPS recipients from El Salvador, Honduras and Haiti, New York stands to lose at least \$1.5 billion from the state GDP annually, and over 20,000 U.S. citizen New York children will lose at least one parent if TPS and DED

¹ Jill H. Wilson, Temporary Protected Status: Overview and Current Issues, Congressional Research Service (Oct 10, 2018), <https://fas.org/sqp/crs/homesecc/RS20844.pdf>.

recipients are not protected.² This does not include the tens of thousands of Nepali, Liberian, Yemeni and other TPS and DED holders who live in New York. Additionally, there are at least 115,000 DREAM Act-eligible individuals in the workforce in New York, who would add a projected \$1.75 billion to the state GDP annually over ten years.³

NYIC urges Congress to act immediately to put TPS, DED, DACA recipients, and immigrants who were brought here as youth on a road to permanent residence.

² CAP Immigration Team, TPS Holders in New York, Center for American Progress (Oct 17, 2017), https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2017/10/01084955/101717_TPSFactsheet-NY1.pdf.

³ Ryan D. Edwards, Francesc Ortega, and Philip E. Wolgin, The State-by-State Economic Benefits of Passing the Dream Act (Oct 26, 2017), <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2017/10/26/441298/the-state-by-state-economic-benefits-of-passing-the-dream-act/>.