



Fair Immigration Reform Movement “FIRM”

Submitted to the House Judiciary Committee

Committee Hearing: Protecting Dreamers and TPS Recipients

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2019

10:00am

The Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM) writes in support of immigrant youth and TPS recipients and commends the House Judiciary Committee for holding the hearing, **Protecting Dreamers and TPS Recipients**.

FIRM, a project of Community Change is the largest national immigrant grassroots coalition, led by 44 member organizations across 32 states. The organizations in the FIRM network have been leaders in the fights for comprehensive immigration reform over the course of several Congressional sessions. Similarly, organizations in FIRM have been directly impacted by the anti-immigrant actions of this administration, including the termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) protections and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program. We applaud this committee’s prioritization of these important protections and commitment to highlighting the need for permanent policy solutions. We look forward to a continued push for these provisions as we fight to protect families throughout our communities

In 2017, early in his presidency, President Trump took actions to terminate the DACA program. Trump’s actions significantly crippled the program and put individuals in danger of deportation as their protections and work authorization expired without a clear path forward. However, the courts ruled against these actions, determining that the President did not have the authority to leave 800,000 young undocumented people without protection.

The administration continued its attack on protections by cancelling TPS protections for more than 300,000 people who fled their native countries due to earthquakes, hurricanes, civil war and other disasters. In some cases, impacted individuals had been living and working in the country for decades under the protections and were suddenly faced with the impossible choice of returning to unknown conditions in their home country or living a life in their new home country, but without the guarantee of family unity and security.

Although court injunctions have made it possible for many DACA and TPS holders to renew their temporary status, the court decisions are limited and do not cover the entire population of individuals

who need protection and could benefit from these specific benefits. Living life from one court decision to the next is not sustainable. Our communities and families need and deserve permanent protections.

We support this committee's commitment to bring attention to those affected by this administration's termination of TPS, DED and DACA. This hearing is a step forward in creating the America we all want. FIRM stands committed to fighting for relief for DREAMers and TPS and DED recipients as part of our long-term commitment to winning policy solutions for the entire undocumented population in our country. We believe this hearing, and the focus on DREAM, DED and TPS is the first step in the work to acknowledge the harm done to immigrant communities and publicly call for permanent legislative solutions.

We hope to see a continued focus on moving away from attacking immigrant families to conversations that focus on creating just, accessible and needed permanent policy solutions that will strengthen families and our communities as a whole. FIRM will continue to push for permanent policy solutions for all families. These solutions are necessary and a first step to providing families with the reassurance that they can be together and free in this country.