



CHIRLA

Coalition for Humane
Immigrant Rights

March 6, 2019

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Mary Gay Scanlon
Vice Chair, House Judiciary Committee

CC: California Congressional Delegation

Dear Chairman Nadler, and Vice Chair Scanlon,

On behalf of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), the largest statewide immigrant rights organization in California, I write express our support for immigrant youth and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) beneficiaries, and to commend the House Judiciary Committee for bringing forth the ***Protecting Dreamers and TPS Recipients hearing***.

Founded in 1986, CHIRLA avidly advocates for just and humane policies that positively affect our immigrant community. We serve as a California leading organization with national impact, and to this end, we have been engaged in previous fights related to comprehensive immigration reform, and DREAM Act fights. Our state is composed of diverse immigrant families, and through education, organizing and advocacy, our members act as agents of social change and hope to achieve a just society fully inclusive of immigrants, and a true participatory democracy. Additionally, CHIRLA hosts two youth branches, the California DREAM Network (CDN) and WISE UP! Both youth arms aim to organize immigrant youth and youth allies at high school and college levels to advocate for undocumented immigrant youth, TPS beneficiaries, and undocumented immigrants.

Since his candidacy, President Trump has targeted, criminalized, and vilified our immigrant communities, both documented and undocumented. In 2017, President Trump decided to terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. This termination then jeopardized the future of 790,000 Dreamers. Though various lawsuits emerged, some resulting in small wins for dreamers, the program that now remains intact is impaired and does not allow new applicants to apply. Currently, DACA can potentially head on to the Supreme Court for a hearing and the program's future is unknown, thereby leaving our immigrant youth at a standstill without a clear pathway forward fearing a possible deportation and the inability to work in our country.

If this were not enough, President Trump then decided to attack the TPS community of an estimated 300,000 individuals by cancelling protections for TPS beneficiaries. It should be noted that many TPS beneficiaries fled their native countries because of ongoing conflicts or natural disasters, which was irrelevant to President Trump. His decision to cancel TPS seems to stem from racism, and has no regard for the communities that he would be placing in danger if deported back to their native country.

Our state of California is home to an estimated 223,000 DACA recipients, which is more than one-fourth of the national level.¹ In Sacramento County, there are an estimated 17,000 DACA recipients², while in the Los Angeles County, there is an estimated 1.3 million DACA eligible recipients.³ Our state is also home to 55,000 TPS beneficiaries⁴, many of which are from El Salvador. All this to show that our state has immensely benefitted from their exceptional contributions to our state, our economy and our country. On the flip side, if our immigrant youth and TPS community loses protections, our state will suffer excessively. Immigrant youth and TPS beneficiaries are our neighbors, our friends, our family members, coworkers, students, and community leaders. We know that there is widespread support in California and in the nation to protect our immigrant communities.

Instead of proposing viable solutions, the administration has stopped at nothing to ensure that it can detain and deport our communities in an expeditious manner. This administration has hijacked our current legal immigration systems, separated children from their parents and caged children. It is clear that President Trump will continue to seek ways to undermine our community.

We commend and support the efforts led forth by the House Judiciary Committee to raise awareness of those directly impacted by this administration's termination of DACA, TPS, and DED. We urge the Committee and our Representatives to continue to focus on productive conversations, and on humane and viable policy solutions that aim to provide all of our undocumented immigrant communities with relief so that we all can live free, without fear of deportation.

Sincerely,



Angelica Salas
Executive Director

¹ <https://www.ppic.org/blog/californians-and-daca/>

² <https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/article213492254.html>

³ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca-profiles>

⁴ https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2017/10/19125817/101717_TPSFactsheet-CA.pdf