



# National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

## MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- Alianza Americas
- American G.I. Forum
- ASPIRA Association
- Avance Inc.
- Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network
- Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute
- Farmworker Justice
- Green Latinos
- Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities
- Hispanic Federation
- Hispanic National Bar Association
- Hispanics in Philanthropy
- Inter-University Program for Latino Research
- Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
- LatinoJustice PRLDEF
- League of United Latin American Citizens
- MANA, A National Latina Organization
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
- Mi Familia Vota
- NALEO Education Fund
- National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives
- National Association of Hispanic Publications
- National Association of Latino Arts and Culture
- National Association of Latino Independent Producers
- National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.
- National Day Laborer Organizing Network
- National Hispana Leadership Institute
- National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
- National Hispanic Council on Aging
- National Hispanic Environmental Council
- National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts
- National Hispanic Media Coalition
- National Hispanic Medical Association
- National Institute for Latino Policy
- National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
- National Latina/o Psychological Association
- Presente.org
- SER Jobs for Progress National
- Southwest Voter Registration Education Project
- U.S.- Mexico Foundation
- UnidosUS
- United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
- United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
- Voto Latino

May 28, 2019

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

### Re: NHLA Support of the Dream Act of 2019, H.R. 2820, and the American Promise Act of 2019, H.R. 2821

Dear Representative:

We write on behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of the leading national Latino nonpartisan civil rights and advocacy organizations, in support of the Dream Act of 2019, H.R. 2820, and the American Promise Act of 2019, H.R. 2821. This legislation provides a pathway to citizenship for “Dreamers,” undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children, and long-term U.S. residents with Temporary Protected Status (TPS). NHLA urges each member to support passage of both of these bills without harmful amendments. Together, these bills will provide necessary relief to Dreamers and those with TPS- this is particularly urgent given the Trump administration’s attempts to end any form of relief for these individuals and to aggressively attack the Latino and immigrant communities with draconian policies. **NHLA will closely monitor this matter for inclusion in future NHLA scorecards evaluating Member support for the Latino community, including select amendments, as this legislation moves to a full vote of the U.S. House of Representatives.**

President Trump’s decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program upended the lives of nearly 800,000 DACA holders, only a third of whom were eligible to renew their DACA status before the arbitrary and insufficient October 5, 2017 deadline. This is a critical issue for the Latino community given that 93.5 percent of DACA holders are Latino. As has always been the case, Congress is responsible for passing a permanent legislative fix for DACA holders.

For the thousands of individuals who have been unable to apply to be new DACA recipients after the program’s rescission, the urgency for Congress to pass legislation is even clearer. They are without protection and work authorization, and each day that passes is simply too long for congressional inaction. In addition, individuals with TPS, many of whom have built their lives in this country for nearly two decades, must face the very real and substantial threat of deportation as the Trump Administration seeks to end these country designations – a move that has only been stalled with the intervention of numerous federal courts.

It is disappointing that an issue that affects so many people has not been given the serious consideration it merits until now. The Latino community deserves and demands that our legislators take this opportunity to denounce dog-whistle tactics

and get to work by engaging in a meaningful and good-faith effort to pass these two bills free from negative amendments that seek to further demonize the Latino and immigrant communities. Congress must not shirk its responsibility here; it must work to protect undocumented young Americans and those who have resided in this country for many years. American families across the country are depending on congressional action.

Please contact NHLA through Andrea Senteno, of MALDEF, at [asenteno@maldef.org](mailto:asenteno@maldef.org), or Laura Esquivel, of Hispanic Federation, at [lesquivel@hispanicfederation.org](mailto:lesquivel@hispanicfederation.org), with any questions regarding this issue. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Saenz  
MALDEF, President and General Counsel  
NHLA Immigration Committee Co-Chair



Jose Calderon  
Hispanic Federation, President  
NHLA Immigration Committee Co-Chair