

March 4, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

As labor organizations representing millions of workers in the U.S., we urge you to renew Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designations and pass legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives as soon as possible. Congress should act no later than the first 100 days of the 116th Congress to provide permanent protection and a path to citizenship for Dreamers and individuals with TPS or Deferred Enforced Departure (DED).

As you know, there are large numbers of TPS holders and Dreamers in the United States. Many of these individuals are valued members of our unions and our labor community. They work in construction, restaurants and food service, meatpacking and food processing, childcare, grocery stores, schools, and many other industries in which we represent workers. They are homeowners, and parents to over hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizen children.

Deportation of TPS holders and Dreamers, who are experienced and have an expertise in their jobs, would be devastating to the U.S. economy, as well as harmful to our organizations. While courts have recently acted to protect TPS holders and Dreamers, those protections are only temporary. We must pass legislation to provide permanent protections to these valued workers.

When TPS holders and Dreamers are at risk, all workers are more vulnerable to employer abuses. However, when workers, including TPS holders and Dreamers, have legal status and rights, all workplaces benefit from higher wages, safer workplaces, and the right and ability to form and join a union.

Last year, bills to provide permanent protection and a path to citizenship for TPS holders and Dreamers had the support of a majority of the Members of the House of Representatives. On behalf of the undersigned unions, we call on the House of Representatives to act immediately to enact such legislation to save these valued members of our labor organizations and the general community.

Please contact Danielle LeClair at dleclair@liuna.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO
American Federation of Musicians

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American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Federation of Teachers
Asia Pacific American Labor Alliance
A. Philip Randolph Institute
Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers' International Union
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists
Communication Workers of America
Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO
Guild of Italian American Actors
International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
International Association of Machinists
International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Crafts
International Union of Operating Engineers
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
Ironworkers International Union
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
Laborers International Union of North America
National Education Association
Office and Professional Employees International Union
Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists
Service Employees International Union
Stage Directors and Choreographers Society
UNITE HERE
United Autoworkers
United Food and Commercial Workers
United Mine Workers of America
United Steelworkers
Writers Guild of America, East

cc: All Members, U.S. House of Representatives