

March 5, 2019

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
U.S. House of Representatives
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0519

Dear Congresswoman Lofgren:

On behalf of our three million members and the 50 million students they serve, we would like to submit for the record the following comments in connection with the March 6 hearing, "[Protecting Dreamers and TPS Recipients.](#)"

For far too long, participants in Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), people with Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and Dreamers — people brought to this country as children — have been living with fear and uncertainty. They deserve better. To give it to them, we support legislation that is:

- Broad and inclusive, encompassing DACA and TPS recipients, as well as Dreamers
- Provides multiple pathways to citizenship
- True to America's values and history as a nation of immigrants, which means not arbitrarily helping some at the expense of others

Dreamers, DACA recipients, and TPS holders are our friends and neighbors. They are people like Areli Zárate, a teacher in Austin, Texas, who came to the United States at the age of eight with her family. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin and, thanks to DACA, was able to become a high school teacher. Educators like her are working in public schools, colleges, and universities all across our nation, inspiring the next generation of Americans.

At this juncture, only Congress can provide the bipartisan leadership necessary to create a permanent pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, DACA recipients, and TPS holders. We stand ready to work with you to achieve that goal and thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association