



Fair Immigration Reform Movement “FIRM”
Submitted to the House Judiciary Committee
Committee Markup: H.R. 2820, the “Dream Act of 2019”; H.R. 2821, the “American Promise Act of 2019”; and H.R. 549, the “Venezuela TPS Act of 2019”

Hearing Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2019, 10:00am

The Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM) writes in support of immigrant youth, TPS and DED recipients and commends the House Judiciary Committee for conducting a markup of bills that provide a pathway to citizenship for these populations. The markup of the DREAM Act of 2019 and the American Promise Act of 2019 represents a step forward in the larger fight for permanent protections for those who are undocumented in this country.

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 are and have been leaders in the fights for comprehensive immigration reform for nearly two decades. Similarly, organizations within 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.

The Dream Act of 2019 and the American Promise Act of 2019 are permanent legislative solutions that would provide relief for an estimated 2.1 million individuals¹. For immigrant youth this includes those who currently have DACA, those who did not qualify due to age, and who for the first time would be eligible for protections. For TPS recipients, this includes people who currently have TPS as well as those who were never able to apply for relief originally.

Immigrant youth with DACA and TPS holders have both faced an onslaught of attacks from this administration. 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.

As the committee enters into markup, we ask committee Members to reject any additional harmful amendments that would further criminalize our communities. We are specifically concerned with language related to stereotypes of immigrants as criminals and gang affiliation, as immigrant communities and communities of color are regularly over-policed and subject to racial profiling. We hope that as the bill moves through committee and to the floor, no additional or dangerous amendments are accepted.

This markup is a step forward in creating the America we all want, one where families can be united and free. 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. FIRM will continue to push for permanent policy solutions for all families. These bills are a necessary first step to providing families with the reassurance that they can be together and free in this country.

¹ Nicole Prchal Svajlenka, The Dream and Promise Act Could Put 2.1 Million Dreamers on Pathway to Citizenship (March 26, 2019),