



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN®

May 21, 2019

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Human Rights Campaign's more than three million members and supporters nationwide, I write in strong support of H.R. 2820 and H.R. 2821, provisions of the American Dream and Promise Act that the House Judiciary Committee is marking up tomorrow. As the nation's largest organization working on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people, we strongly urge Congress to pass legislation to offer a path to citizenship for Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) holders.

As you know, Dreamers are undocumented young people who immigrated to the United States as minors, who often do not even remember living in any country outside the United States. It is estimated that there are approximately 75,000 Dreamers living in the United States who are LGBTQ. For many of these LGBTQ Dreamers, being deported back to their country of origin would be particularly dangerous because those countries often have higher levels of anti-LGBTQ violence and even laws that criminalize LGBTQ people. It is imperative that Congress find a solution for these Dreamers and for all Dreamers to allow them to stay in this country.

While the previous administration had created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) to provide a legal avenue for Dreamers to stay in the United States, the current Administration has sought to end DACA, and also to strip status from TPS holders and DED holders. Their efforts are creating enormous uncertainty and difficulty for millions of people living in the U.S., and for their families abroad.

Dreamers, TPS and DED holders live in every state in our nation, and in every congressional district. They are our colleagues, our classmates, and our community members. They contribute to our economy and want to be part of our nation. It is crucially important that Congress give them certainty and security to stay here in the U.S. and continue contributing to our nation.

And for those who are LGBTQ the threat of return to their home countries puts them at enormous risk of criminalization, arrest, violence and even, in certain cases, death. In many parts of Central America, for example, transgender women face extremely high rates of violence, while nearly 70 countries around the world continue to have laws that criminalize same-sex relations.

I urge you to support this important legislation and to oppose harmful amendments. Please contact Jeremy Kadden of my staff with any questions or for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Stacy". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Stacy
Government Affairs Director