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NCJW Statement to the US House Judiciary Committee, pertaining to its markup of HR 2820, the “Dream Act of 2019” and HR 2821, the “American Promise Act of 2019.”

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The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) urges your support for a pathway to citizenship for millions of community members as outlined in the Dream Act of 2019 and the American Promise Act of 2019 during their markups.

It is long past due that Dreamers, recipients of Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and holders of Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) have an opportunity for permanent protection.

NCJW is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. As Jews, we know what it is like to be expelled from our homes and seek shelter and opportunity in foreign lands. The *Torah* teaches us to welcome the stranger, for once we were strangers in the land of Egypt. Protecting Dreamers, TPS recipients, and DED holders is not simply an issue of politics, but ultimately one of morality.

President Trump’s cruel decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and strip status from nearly every individual with TPS and all of those with DED, is part of the administration’s ongoing hostility toward immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. These individuals — totaling over 2 million people — are embedded in our communities. The average TPS holder has lived in the United States for 22 years and the average DACA recipient came at age six. They own homes and businesses, attend school, worship in our congregations, and are vital to the economic strength of our nation.

As you consider amendments to these bills, we urge you not to use these individuals as bargaining chips to pay for escalating detention, deportation, and border militarization. We also urge you to remember that families are the cornerstones of our communities. Protecting some immigrants at the expense of their families is cruel and antithetical to both our nation’s values and our Jewish values.

Everyone deserves to live in safety and security, regardless of their immigration status. **Congress must provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, TPS recipients, and DED holders by passing the Dream Act and the American Promise Act.**