

Statement of the New York Immigration Coalition

Submitted to the House Judiciary Committee Markup on the Dream Act, H.R. 2820, and
the American Promise Act, H.R. 2821

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The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization for more than 200 groups in New York State. We represent the collective interests of New York's diverse immigrant communities and organizations and devise solutions to advance them; advocate for laws, policies, and programs that lead to justice and opportunity for all immigrant groups; and build the power of immigrants and the organizations that serve them to ensure their sustainability, to improve people's lives, and to strengthen our state.

New York is home to at least 53,000 TPS and DED recipients representing dozens of home countries across the state.¹ The Center for American Progress estimates that over 142,800 individuals would be eligible under the Dream Act provisions--community members who have on average been living in the United States since they were 10 years old.²

The Dream Act of 2019 and the American Promise Act of 2019 are important first steps in moving our country forward to build an immigration system that honors the contributions of people who have built their lives here, and providing a orderly, humane and just approach to give permanence and security to our community members. All New Yorkers - and our members of Congress - should support this important legislation, and hopefully New York can resume its rightful place as America's gateway of hopes and dreams.

The NYIC believes that all people--regardless of conviction record or citizenship status--deserve dignity and human rights. We do not believe that carve-outs of people with conviction records or allegations of conduct relating to gang membership are just or necessary, especially given the policing-to-deportation pipeline that disproportionately targets immigrants of color. In New York especially, we have seen firsthand the devastating impacts of alleged gang affiliations, especially when local law enforcement works hand in hand with

¹ Jill H. Wilson, Temporary Protected Status: Overview and Current Issues, Congressional Research Service (Oct 10, 2018), <https://fas.org/sqp/crs/homesec/RS20844.pdf>.

² Nicole Prchal Svajlenka, The Dream and Promise Act Could Put 2.1 Million Dreamers on Pathway to Citizenship (March 26, 2019), <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2019/03/26/467762/dream-promise-act-put-2-1-million-dreamers-pathway-citizenship/>

immigration enforcement.³ We urge committee member to reject any additional criminal or conduct bars to either bill.

³ Swept Up in the Sweep: The Impact of Gang Allegations on Immigrant New Yorkers, New York Immigration Coalition and the Immigrant and Non-Citizen Rights Clinic (INRC) at the CUNY School of Law (May 2018), <http://www.thenyic.org/sweptup>.