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## **Statement for the Record**

### **U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary**

#### **Markup on H.R. 2820, the “Dream Act of 2019”; H.R. 2821, the “American Promise Act of 2019”**

**May 22, 2019**

African Communities Together (ACT) welcomes the passing of H.R. 2820, the Dream Act of 2019 and H.R. 2821, the American Promise Act of 2019 (collectively the “Dream and Promise Act”) out of the House Judiciary Committee. We are pleased that this vital piece of legislation successfully made it out of Committee without any amendments that would serve to weaken the bill or limit overall protections.

ACT expresses particular gratitude to members of the Committee for squarely rejecting an amendment that would have excluded TPS holders from several countries, including Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone from permanent protection under this bill. Notwithstanding their more recent designation, many Guinean, Liberian, and Sierra Leonean TPS holders have lived in the U.S. for many years and fairness demands that they be treated no differently than the other TPS holders.

ACT is, however, disappointed to see that the markup text does not include two useful sections from the original bill. First, the language clarifying that TPS holders are “inspected and admitted” for purposes of adjustment of status has been removed. Second, the language requiring a report explaining any TPS termination does not appear in the markup text. We believe that these provisions strengthened the protections provided in the bill. We are nonetheless pleased to see the Dream and Promise Act proceed to the next important step in the legislative process: a House floor vote.

Despite living from deadline to deadline, over decades for some, TPS and DED holders have managed to thrive and create vibrant lives in their communities. The Dream and Promise Act will give these immigrants the access to full integration that permanent legal status provides.

We urge all House members to support the Dream and Promise Act by rejecting any and all anti-immigrant Motions to Recommit that are introduced on the floor and voting YES on this historic bill.

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African Communities Together (ACT) is an organization of African immigrants fighting for civil rights, opportunity, and a better life for our families here in the U.S. and worldwide. ACT empowers African immigrants to integrate socially, get ahead economically, and engage civically by connecting African immigrants to critical services, helping Africans develop as leaders, and organizing our communities on the issues that matter.