

April 3, 2019

Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned organizations join together to ask you to co-sponsor the Agricultural Worker Program Act of 2019. This bill provides a one-time opportunity for experienced agricultural workers to apply for legal status if they show consistent employment in U.S. agriculture and meet other criteria. This bill is a bridge until broader reform can be enacted and will provide desperately needed legal status for farmworkers to stabilize the agricultural economy.

The legislation reflects the farmworker legalization program found in the comprehensive immigration reform package of 2013. The legislation does not include changes to the H-2A program.

During a time when President Trump has declared open season on immigrants and the Justice Department has put its power behind the deportation machinery, we need to take bold steps to protect farmworkers. As experienced in agricultural communities across the U.S., the impact of President Trump's immigration enforcement in agriculture is dire. Farmworkers make easy enforcement targets, resulting not only in increased fear and vulnerability for farmworkers but also in disruptions to agricultural production.

This bill sends a clear signal that there are leaders in Congress ready to engage constructively on immigration and to move beyond policy by soundbite. The Agricultural Worker Program Act of 2019 would help ensure a stable, legal workforce in agriculture, to the benefit of farmworkers, employers, consumers and the national interest. We encourage you to sponsor this legislation and join this important effort to protect those who put food on our tables and without whom our agricultural system would be laid to waste.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.  
Alabama State Association of Cooperatives  
Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, Inc.  
Alliance of Baptists  
American Federation of Government Employees Local 3354  
American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC)  
ASPIRA Association  
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)  
California Human Development  
CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates  
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities  
CASA del Llano, Inc.  
CASA of Oregon

CATA - The Farmworker Support Committee/El Comite de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agricolas  
Center for Employment Training  
Central Valley Opportunity Center  
Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc.  
Church Women United--NC Chapter  
Church Women United--Raleigh/Wake (NC)  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights - CHIRLA  
Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations  
Columbia Legal Services  
Coming Clean  
Community Food and Justice Coalition  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute  
CRLA Foundaton  
Cumberland Presbyterian Church  
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries  
Earthjustice  
Ecumenical Poverty Initiative  
The Episcopal Church  
FarmDrop.us  
Farm Worker Ministry Northwest  
Farmworker Advocacy Network  
Farmworker Association of Florida  
Farmworker Justice  
Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project -FLAP-  
Federation of Southern Cooperatives/ Land Assistance Fund  
Food Empowerment Project  
Freedom Network USA  
Frenchtown Heritage Hub  
Friends of the Earth  
Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition  
GreenLatinos  
HEAL Trafficking  
Health Outreach Partners  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)  
Hispanic Federation  
Human Agenda  
iEat Green, LLC  
Illinois Migrant Council  
Immigrant Worker Project - Centro San Jose  
Indivisible East Bay  
Indivisible Marin  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility  
Interfaith Solidarity Network San Fernando Valley  
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future  
Justice at Work (Pennsylvania)  
Justice for Migrant Women  
Justice in Motion

Kentucky Equal Justice Center  
Kids for College  
Korean Resource Center  
La Cooperativa Campesina de California  
La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)  
Legal Aid Justice Center  
Legal Aid Society of MFS  
LiveWell Colorado  
Madison Area Technical College  
MAFO, Inc.  
MALDEF  
MANA, A National Latina Organization  
Maryland Wineries Association  
Michigan Immigrant Rights Center  
Michigan Migrant Legal Aid  
Migrant Clinicians Network  
Missions Ministry Team, Cumberland Presbyterian Denomination  
The Monkey Wrench Brigade  
Multicultural Efforts to end Sexual Assault (MESA)  
MultiCultural Outreach Program  
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives (NAHFE)  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Council of Churches  
National Farm Worker Ministry  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)  
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association  
National Latinx Psychological Association  
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
National Partnership for New Americans  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
National Women's Law Center  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers Land Loss Prevention Project  
North Carolina Council of Churches  
North Carolina Justice Center  
Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group  
Northwest Forest Worker Center  
Occupy Bergen County  
Ohio Immigrant Alliance  
Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project, Inc.  
Operation Access  
Oxfam America  
Pesticide Action Network  
Preble Street  
Proteus Inc.  
Public Justice Center

Puente de la Costa Sur  
Regeneration International  
Roots of Change  
Rural & Migrant Ministry, Inc  
Rural Advancement Fund  
Rural Advancement Fund of the National Sharecroppers Fund  
Rural Coalition  
Rural Development Leadership Network  
SER Corporation of Kansas  
SER Jobs for Progress National Inc.  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Slow Food North Shore  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
St. Luke's Health Window  
Student Action with Farmworkers  
Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville  
Telamon Corporation  
Texas/Mexico Border Coalition  
The Rinehart Clinic & Pharmacy  
Toxic Free North Carolina  
Transformations CDC  
UnidosUS  
United Farm Workers  
United Farm Workers Foundation  
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ)  
United Migrant Opportunity Services/UMOS  
Verite  
Wayne Action for Racial Equality  
WeCount!  
WholeCrops  
Worker Justice Center of NY  
World Farmers  
Yes We Can Workers Families