



## COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

1825 K Street, NW · Suite 411 · Washington, DC 20006 · 202.223.2532 · Fax 202.223.2538 · [www.chn.org](http://www.chn.org)

August 10, 2021

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Coalition on Human Needs, I wish to convey our strong support for providing legal status and a pathway to citizenship for immigrants who are essential workers, including farmworkers, who have entered the U.S. as children (known as the Dreamers), and who are here having fled disastrous conditions in their home countries. We urge you to vote for the budget resolution for FY 2022 now before you, which includes reconciliation instructions to the Judiciary Committee, allowing \$107 billion over 10 years for expenditures related to providing these immigrants legal status. We also urge you to vote against amendments that would limit or deny legal status and a pathway to citizenship to these immigrants, that would ratchet up anti-immigrant enforcement to draconian levels, that would attempt to deny immigrants their legal rights to seek admission to this country, or that would restrict or deny access to benefits for which immigrants or their family members are eligible.

The [Coalition on Human Needs](#) is made up of organizations representing human service providers, faith groups, policy experts, labor, civil rights and other advocates seeking federal investments and policies to help lift people in our nation out of poverty and to increase economic opportunity and security for people with low incomes. The budget and the legislation that will emerge through its reconciliation instructions is an important vehicle for strengthening the economy and developing shared prosperity. Providing a path to citizenship for these essential community members is a singularly effective means of propelling economic growth, estimated at adding \$1 trillion to our economy, and adding 3.22 million new jobs.

In 2005, immigration reforms were included in a budget reconciliation bill. That precedent, recognizing the costs and gains to the federal budget by allowing immigrants to participate to the fullest, is relevant today.


One in five essential workers in the U.S. today is an immigrant. Their work has always made a major contribution to our communities, but during the pandemic, millions of immigrants risked their lives producing and distributing our food, providing health care, caring for children, the aging, and people with disabilities, and serving as frontline workers. We know how important their contributions are, just as we know it is a moral imperative to at long last provide the pathway to citizenship to these fellow Americans.

Public support for citizenship for these immigrants is strong. An [NPR/Ipsos poll](#) in May showed 71 percent supported citizenship for farmworkers and other essential workers; 70 percent support for citizenship for those who came to the U.S. to escape natural disasters or violence in their home countries; and 66 percent support for citizenship for the Dreamers. Many immigrants are the parents of citizen children. When they gain the legal status they have earned, parents will be better able to provide opportunities for their children.

The Coalition on Human Needs is one of the lead groups sponsoring a week of action titled “Shared Prosperity: With Immigrants We Rise.” Immigrants will advance when their legal status is assured, and their progress will help us all to rise. As part of our week of action, we have been encouraging individuals nationwide to contact their Senators and Representative; after only a few days, more than 42,000 letters were emailed; thousands more are expected. Your constituents support a pathway to citizenship.

Please vote for the budget resolution before you now, and vote against any amendments that would deny a pathway to citizenship to immigrants or deny qualified immigrants access to health care or other benefits.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Weinstein", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Deborah Weinstein  
Executive Director