

# **COALITION** *for the* **AMERICAN DREAM**

June 15, 2021

Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Members of the Committee:

We appreciate the Committee holding this important hearing: “H.R.6, American Dream and Promise Act of 2021.”

The Coalition for the American Dream is comprised of more than 100 of the nation’s top businesses and trade associations representing every major sector of the economy and millions of U.S. workers. As a Coalition, we stand ready to support ongoing legislative efforts to permanently resolve the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)/Dreamer issue.

Our Coalition has long supported a permanent solution for DACA recipients and Dreamers. When the House of Representatives passed H.R. 6 earlier this year, we sent a letter to Leaders Schumer and McConnell urging both political parties to work together to pass the bipartisan legislation in the immediate weeks following. That was many weeks ago and hundreds of thousands of Dreamers still live in legal jeopardy.

Poll after poll has shown that overwhelming majorities of Americans in both political parties support DACA recipients and other Dreamers. They are critical members of our workforce, industries, and communities. They are vital to our nation’s strength and economic vitality. They are our neighbors, friends, and coworkers who have lived in the United States for decades and still await the opportunity to fully participate in our economy and society.

According to the latest estimates of FWD.us: “Passing the American Dream and Promise Act would have significant economic benefits, allowing immigrants who secure citizenship under the bill to increase their annual individual earnings by as much as 80%. We also estimate that this would allow them to contribute an additional \$46 billion annually to the economy beyond their current contribution, and an additional \$10 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenue, beyond what they already pay. This commonsense policy is long overdue.”

Today is an important day, as it marks the ninth anniversary of the creation of DACA, a program whose recipients are Americans in every sense of the word, save one. And we call on you today to fix that injustice and make DACA the permanent law of the land. No more two year renewals, no more back and forth with the political winds. We call on you as a committee and as Senators to pass a permanent legislative solution for DACA recipients and Dreamers. We call on you to finally make DACA the permanent law of the land.