

The Latin America Working Group (LAWG) supports

The American Dream and Promise Act, H.R. 6

March 18, 2021

The Latin America Working Group urges all members of Congress to support the American Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6) which would provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) beneficiaries. These are members of our communities who have strengthened our society and economy. The time to recognize their contributions and their identity as permanent members of our communities is now. The provisions in H.R. 6 would allow them a path forward to citizenship and the ability to live and work with dignity and without fear of deportation.

Under the *Ramos v. Nielsen* and *Bhattarai v. Nielsen* [lawsuits](#), the protection for TPS beneficiaries from Haiti, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua has been extended to October 4, 2021. This expiration date is just six months away. TPS beneficiaries cannot live their lives with uncertainty and fear awaiting the next expiration date of their protections. Congress must act immediately to grant them permanent protections and a pathway to protection urgently. There is no alternative. Conditions in the Central American countries and Haiti to which TPS beneficiaries would be returned to if their status expires represent ongoing situations of insecurity, danger and poverty, which have been exacerbated by the current pandemic. Moreover, those who have legal status through TPS are contributing a flow of remittances to their home countries which, if cut off, would make the situation in those countries even more unstable.

Dreamers, DED and TPS beneficiaries are essential to this country. They are essential workers, many on the [frontlines during the pandemic](#) and study, run businesses and are homeowners.

LAWG has long advocated for support for H.R. 6. With our support and that of many other organizations, H.R. 6 passed the House of Representatives during the 116th Congress with bipartisan support. We urge bipartisan support for H.R. 6 now during the 117th Congress and for members of Congress to pass this bill swiftly as a first step in reforming our immigration system towards one that is more humane, fair, and just. The United States must be a country that lives up to its values of recognizing immigrants as an essential part of our society.