Citizenship for Our Neighbors, Families, and Communities

The posterity of the United States rests on the strength and sacrifices of immigrants who contribute to America – their home. Instead of experiencing full inclusion, millions of immigrants are relegated to a life in the shadows and are vulnerable to imminent separation from their families, traumatic and prolonged detention, or a forcible return to life-threatening situations. This must end.

For decades, Congress has negotiated protections for undocumented communities. Over the last year, lawmakers have made profound steps towards a pathway to citizenship, while falling short of enacting permanent legislation.

Creating solutions for undocumented immigrants is an economic and moral imperative. This nation cannot afford further delay.

Now is the time to establish a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) holders, essential workers, and farmworkers.

» A thriving America needs undocumented immigrants. During a pandemic that has exacerbated economic and health inequities, more than 5 million undocumented essential workers stepped up to the frontlines and made personal sacrifices to care for Americans and maintain our economy.

» Over a ten-year period, citizenship for undocumented immigrants is projected to benefit the U.S.’s gross domestic product (GDP) by at least $1.7 trillion, create more than 400,000 new jobs, and increase wages for workers by $700.

» The American public wants protections for undocumented communities, with 75% of voters across party lines in favor of lasting protections.

» Provisions of a pathway to citizenship legislation have broad support from the majority of Congress and the White House, 1,200 faith leaders, and 140 of the nation’s top businesses.

The 117th session of Congress must enact a pathway to citizenship.

Contact:
Anika Forrest
Legislative Manager,
Migration Policy Program,
aforrest@fcnl.org

January 2022