

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–1304

April 17, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Ur M. Jaddou
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
20 Massachusetts Avenue NW.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear President Biden, Secretary Mayorkas, and Director Jaddou:

Thank you for your efforts to hold exploitative employers accountable and expedite access to work authorization for hundreds of thousands of migrants in the United States. We are writing to you today to address our constituents' concerns regarding the lack of work permit availability for long-term immigrant communities in the U.S. Specifically, we urge your administration to utilize its statutory authority to establish three new work permit programs for the following groups:

1. Undocumented spouses and immediate family of U.S. citizens.
2. "Dreamers" who, though ineligible for DACA due to age, significantly contribute to the U.S. economy.
3. Long-term workers who have contributed and paid taxes for years but have been denied a path to legal status.

As representatives of vibrant immigrant communities across the nation, we appreciate your recent efforts to provide work permits for newly arrived immigrants. We hope you will consider our recommendations to continue supporting these deserving immigrant communities.

For decades, many long-term undocumented individuals have worked and paid taxes without the security of a lawful U.S. work permit. These individuals have not only contributed to our economy but have also raised children, many of whom are now tax-paying citizens.

We commend your use of executive authority to expand work permit access for recent arrivals from various countries.^{1,2} However, we believe it's time to extend this dignity to America's longer-term immigrant communities, who have waited for relief for decades.

¹ Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. §§ 1101-1504, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-66/pdf/STATUTE-66-Pg163.pdf>; see also "Immigration Parole: Policy Brief." FWD.U.S, www.fwd.us/news/immigration-parole/.

Implementing such a policy would benefit workers nationwide. Legal work permits would further shield immigrants from exploitation and enable them to seek jobs that match their skills, thereby fostering better working conditions. Additionally, granting work permits to long-term immigrant workers could increase annual tax revenue by an estimated \$13.8 billion, according to the American Immigration Council.³

We respectfully urge your administration to consider the following actions to initiate the establishment of work permits for long-term immigrants:

1. Update the military parole-in-place program for spouses and parents of military personnel to include all U.S. Citizens and their mixed-status families.
2. Establish a work permit program dedicated to providing work permits to the 600,000 eligible "Dreamers" under 18 years old who do not qualify for DACA.
3. Establish a work permit for long-term workers, critical to building our economy, under the "significant public benefit" provision of the President's administrative parole authority.

These actions represent significant strides toward bolstering the U.S. economy and supporting immigrant communities that have long contributed to our society. Long-term undocumented immigrants are valued members of our communities, embodying the modern "American Dream" through their dedication as workers, taxpayers, consumers, and entrepreneurs.

We respectfully request that your administration utilize its broad statutory authority on immigration matters to restore the human dignity of these immigrant communities by granting them access to meaningful work permit programs.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter. We anticipate your response, which we request be sent to each office no later than May 4th, 2024.

Sincerely,



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



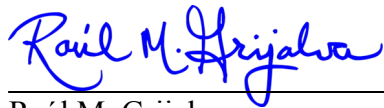
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

² Moslimani, Mohamad. "How Temporary Protected Status Has Expanded under the Biden Administration." Pew Research Center, Pew Research Center, 29 Mar. 2024, www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/03/29/how-temporary-protected-status-has-expanded-under-the-biden-administration/

³ "Adding up the Billions in Tax Dollars Paid by Undocumented Immigrants." *American Immigration Council*, 12 Aug. 2017, www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/adding-billions-tax-dollars-paid-undocumented-immigrants



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Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Darren Soto
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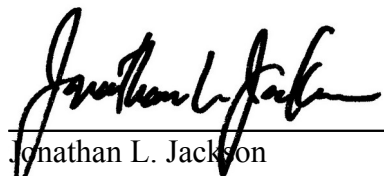
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4. State Representative Consuelo Hernandez Tucson, Arizona
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10. Commissioner, Marta Loachamin, Boulder County, Colorado
11. Council Member Sarah Parady, Denver, Colorado
12. State Senator Julie Gonzales, Colorado
13. Council Member Jamie Torres, Denver, Colorado
14. School Board Director, Xochitl Gaytan, Denver, Colorado
15. State Representative Manny Rutinel, Commerce City, Colorado
16. State Senator Robert Rodriguez Denver, Colorado
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39. City Council Member Mike Rodriguez Chicago, Illinois

40. State Representative Norma Hernandez Illinois
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64. Community Leader Cristal Galvan Fort Worth, Texas
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77. Mayor Pro Tem Robert Rizo Kyle, Texas
78. State Representative Angela Romero Salt Lake City/West Valley City, Utah
79. State Senator Luz Escamilla Salt Lake City, Utah

ORGANIZATION ENDORSEMENTS:

1. Ruben Alvarez, Chief Executive Officer, Latino Leaders Network Phoenix, Arizona
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9. Michelle Centeno, Hispanic Heritage Ambassadors DFW, Grand Prairie, Texas
10. Pablo DeJesus, Executive Director, Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice, Washington D.C.
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