

Message Guidance for Progressive Allies
July 2021

CITIZENSHIP ADVANCES OUR QUEST FOR ECONOMIC AND RACIAL JUSTICE

- Reality: 11 million people live, work, and raise families in the U.S. who have no path to citizenship, legal status or full legal rights. This undermines democracy and our commitment to a government of the people, by the people and for the people.
- At a time when democracy and voting are under attack, we must prove that democracy works and that America is at her best when we expand citizenship and who is included versus who remains excluded.
- If our commitment to democracy, racial healing, justice and equality is real, we cannot deny citizenship to millions.
- As long as immigrant workers live in limbo and are not able to live up to their fullest potential because of lack of immigration status there is no economic justice.
- When 11 million people are living as second class citizens there is no racial justice.
- When immigrants are thrown into the immigration detention to prison pipeline there can be no justice.
- Democracy works better when we are all treated equally and when everyone is able to participate in our civic life fully.

ESSENTIAL WORKERS ARE ESSENTIAL TO OUR ECONOMY

- Immigrant workers [are essential workers](#), it is time our country values their work, sacrifices, and contributions by providing a path to citizenship.
- **5 million strong.** More than [5 million](#) undocumented immigrants have made immeasurable sacrifices risking their lives as “essential workers” during the worst public health crisis in our lifetime. In fact, more than [two-thirds](#) of all undocumented immigrant workers serve in frontline jobs in essential industries - healthcare, home care, transportation, agriculture, food production, construction and other industries.
- **Boosts GDP for all.** According to noted scholars writing for the Center for American Progress, providing a pathway to citizenship for Immigrant youth, TPS holders, farm workers and other essential workers would boost GDP by a cumulative total of [\\$1.5 trillion over 10 years](#).
- **Creates new jobs for all.** Similarly, including citizenship in the package would, over a period of 10 years, [create over 400,000 new jobs](#).
- **Raise wages for all.** For undocumented workers, inclusion in the human infrastructure package would mean a 31% increase in wages over 10 years. All other workers would see an [increase in](#)

[wages by \\$600](#). Everyone deserves to have a living wage and raising wages is a popular demand from everyone.

- **Level playing field for all.** When undocumented immigrants gain permanent status, it helps to create just system for all workers and decent employers. As immigrant and U.S.-born workers stand together to demand better wages and working conditions, it rewards upstanding employers who pay fair wages, and undercuts unscrupulous employers who exploit undocumented workers.
- **Local growth.** A [report by FWD.us](#) finds that “many states stand to increase their GDP by several billion dollars if undocumented immigrants were provided a pathway to citizenship. Similarly, most Congressional districts would stand to grow their economies by hundreds of millions of dollars.” The report estimates that undocumented immigrants would contribute an added \$149 billion of spending power each year to the U.S. economy if they were U.S. citizens. According to [New American Economy](#), immigrants keep America moving forward by allowing an influx of tax dollars, totaling approximately \$500 billion annually.

THERE IS A PATH TO CITIZENSHIP

- To Build Back Better we have to make sure everyone is included, particularly those traditionally left behind. Along with jobs, care, and climate; citizenship for immigrant workers and families is an integral part of the recovery package that Congress must enact this year.
- The anti-DACA court ruling adds a new layer of urgency to the need for congressional action. Republicans and the judges sympathetic to Republicans are determined to eliminate DACA, so we need a permanent solution, not just for every Dreamer, but for farmworkers, TPS holders and essential workers, as quickly as possible this year. Now is the time.
- The human infrastructure reconciliation package includes a pathway to citizenship for immigrant workers and their families. The relentless organizing of the pro-immigrant movement and their allies over the years has made this possible. The leadership of champions in the House and Senate has made this possible. The support of the President has made this possible. Now is the time. This is the year.
- Strong precedent. The Senate has included immigration reform in reconciliation before. In [2005](#), the Republican-controlled Senate overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan reconciliation bill that dramatically increased the number of immigrant green cards. The budget reconciliation process has been used multiple times throughout history for major legislation including health care reform and tax legislation.
- **Americans want results this year.** [The majority of Americans, including independents and Republicans, want citizenship for immigrants.](#) The majority of Americans want to turn the page on Donald Trump’s (and Stephen Miller’s) cruelty, chaos and family destruction. In particular, the multiracial, multiethnic and multigenerational majority that elected Democrats want them to be bold, to go big and deliver results. Legalization is long overdue. Americans, including immigrants who are American in all but paperwork, can’t wait.

- **Immigrant families, coworkers and communities cannot wait.** Immigrants and their loved ones - families including undocumented immigrants, DACA recipients, TPS holders, farm workers, other essential workers and U.S. citizens - have been suffering the consequences of Congressional inaction and the injustice of our immigration system for decades. Immigrants are impatient for justice, they deserve to breathe free and live their lives without the threat of deportation and being separated from their families.