



new deal
strategies



Tuesday, March 30, 2021

The Honorable Joseph Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to you today as leading progressive organizations fighting for bold and inclusive climate, racial and immigrant justice policies to strongly urge you to include a pathway to citizenship for immigrant youth, Temporary Protective Status holders, and essential workers in your upcoming Build Back Better economic recovery plan.

It has been over three decades since an immigration reform bill was passed into law. As the pandemic has revealed, millions of undocumented immigrants nationwide remain vulnerable to infection and death yet are excluded from federal relief while continuing to work on the frontlines to keep us healthy, fed and safe. With an estimated 5 million undocumented immigrants working as essential workers, it is past time to deliver relief to immigrant communities in the form of citizenship. The longer a pathway to citizenship is delayed, the more our country as a whole continues to suffer.

We applaud your bold leadership which delivered the American Rescue Plan earlier this month and recognize it as an important step towards advancing racial and economic equity across the nation. However, the continued exclusion of our undocumented neighbors, friends and families from federal aid leaves the most vulnerable and disproportionately impacted communities outside the recovery effort. A pathway to citizenship is inextricably linked to advancing racial justice and ensuring America's economic recovery.

As we have seen in recent weeks, Republicans in the Senate are doubling-down on their overused, alarmist, and racist narrative of migrants arriving at the southern border. At the same time, we cannot overlook that not a single Republican supported the ARP. Republicans aren't interested in solutions. They are interested in chaos and political theater. Their intransigence will inevitably prevent other popular bills like the DREAM Act, SECURE Act, Farm Workforce Modernization Act, and Citizenship for Essential Workers Act from becoming law. Democrats cannot fall for this trap. Under your leadership, your administration can truly Build Back Better by securing citizenship for millions of immigrants in your upcoming infrastructure plan which would generate more jobs, increase wages, lift families out of poverty, and ultimately secure the meaningful change the American people elected you to achieve. This is your moment to lead and deliver.

Sincerely,

Battle Born Collective, Justice Democrats, New Deal Strategies, Sunrise Movement, and United We Dream.