



March 18, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the 3,069 county governments we represent, we are writing in support of the American Dream and Promise Act of 2021 (H.R. 6). This bill takes a critical and much-needed step in allowing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients and individuals holding Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to continue to reside and work legally in the United States.

Given the central role of county governments in ensuring the health and safety of all members of local communities, county leaders are important stakeholders in discussions related to federal immigration policies. Immigrants largely come to America seeking opportunity, and immigrant labor and expertise is vital to local economies and industries in most states across the country. Counties have an interest in ensuring that our employers and industries of all types can hire and retain a qualified and legal workforce that meets our needs and helps to strengthen local economies.

Both DACA and TPS recipients have been able to fill gaps in local industries, performing essential work during the COVID-19 pandemic to help keep up with consumer demand for new homes. Yet, their ability to contribute to our economic recovery is at risk. Therefore, counties call upon Congress and the President to enact H.R. 6 or similar legislation that, without imposing costs on counties, would allow certain undocumented immigrants who entered the country as children and/or for humanitarian reasons to attain legal status if they pass background checks, and fulfill the necessary education and criminal record requirements.

As counties continue to serve on the frontlines of this public health crisis and subsequent economic downturn, it is vital that they have all of the resources at their disposal to aid our recovery as a nation. This valuable pathway to legal residency will help boost our economy in the coming years by allowing these individuals to contribute their skills and expertise to local economies and maintain a sufficient workforce.

We ask that you work to pass the American Dream and Promise Act of 2021 and help strengthen our nation's immigration system and workforce. Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Chase  
Executive Director  
National Association of Counties



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Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the 3,069 county governments we represent, we are writing in support of the bipartisan Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021 (H.R. 1603). This bill would help address our nation's labor crisis that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic by preserving, expanding and improving on the processes and resources aimed at helping counties bolster our local agricultural economies.

Our nation's food system has been severely impacted, from production to consumption, by the ongoing public health crisis and subsequent economic downturn. County governments across the country also face many challenges to provide non-congregate, quality affordable housing options for rural families and farm laborers. Unfortunately, federal regulations oftentimes are inflexible and too restrictive to address the unique needs of our rural communities. Much of our nation's existing farm labor housing has also aged past its useful life with severe physical deficiencies, including inadequate heating, plumbing and space.

Additionally, we are encouraged by efforts in this bill to modernize and simplify the H-2A visa process and ensure that a reliable and capable workforce is available for the nation's farmers and ranchers. This bill would provide stability and consistency in our farm labor force and create a realistic path for migrant and seasonal farm workers to contribute to our recovering national economy.

We ask that you join us in supporting the swift passage of the Farm Work Modernization Act and help strengthen our nation's local agricultural economies in a bipartisan way. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Chase  
Executive Director  
National Association of Counties