



April 2, 2019

The Honorable Lucille Roybal–Allard
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Yvette Clarke
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswomen Roybal–Allard, Velazquez, and Clarke:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 6, the Dream and Promise Act of 2019, which would provide a pathway to U.S. citizenship for undocumented children who came to the United States due to the action of their parents, also known as “Dreamers.” We appreciate your introduction of this legislation and urge its passage in the House so these individuals can continue to contribute fully in the country they know to be their home.

ACP is the largest medical specialty organization and the second largest physician group in the United States. ACP members include 154,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness.

Although we were pleased that last year a federal court blocked a decision by the Trump Administration to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, this decision by the federal court may not grant DACA recipients permanent legal status in this country. The potential termination of DACA threatens to deny the United States the talents of more than half a million individuals who are making enormous contributions to our country, and will particularly undermine public health and medical education. More specifically, we are concerned about the potential deportation of undocumented medical students, residents, fellows, practicing physicians, and others who came to the United States due to the actions of their parents and have obtained or are eligible for DACA status. Without the protections afforded to them by DACA, these students and physicians would be forced to discontinue their studies or their medical practice and may be deported. We are especially troubled by the plight of these individuals because they are needed in the medical field to treat an increasingly racially and ethnically diverse patient population and have the background to fulfill the cultural, informational, and linguistic needs of patients. That is why we urge Congress to act

immediately to pass this legislation to protect the status of Dreamers to ensure that they are not deported.

The Dream and Promise Act would grant Dreamers conditional permanent resident status for 10 years, and cancel removal proceedings if they:

- Have been continuously physically present in the U.S. for 4 years preceding the date of the enactment of the bill
- Were 17 years or younger on the initial date of entry into the U.S.
- Graduate from high school, obtain a GED or industry recognized credential, or are in a program assisting students in obtaining a high school diploma, GED or equivalent exam, or in an apprenticeship program
- Pass security and law enforcement background checks, pay a reasonable application fee, and register for the Selective Service if required.

In order to gain lawful permanent resident (LPR) status under this bill, Dreamers must:

- Acquire a degree from a U.S. institution of higher education; or complete at least two years in good standing in a bachelor's or higher degree program or in an area career and technical education program at a post-secondary level in the U.S.
- Complete at least two years of military service, and if discharged, received an honorable discharge
- Be employed for periods of time totaling at least three years and at least 75 percent of the time that the person has had employment authorization.

This bill would also grant individuals with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) lawful permanent resident status and cancel removal proceedings if: they have been in the United States for a period of 3 years before this bill's enactment; and were eligible or had TPS on September 25, 2016 or had DED status as of September 28, 2016.

We urge the Congress to approve the Dream and Promise Act to ensure that Dreamers can continue to live, work, and study in this country and begin a pathway to citizenship. We look forward to working with you to move this legislation forward and should you have any questions, please contact Brian Buckley at bbuckley@acponline.org.

Sincerely,



Ana María López, MD, MPH, MACP
President